

## Speech notes by Hon. Marshall Von Buchenroder on Vote No. 10 – Transport

1. Out-dated Organogram
2. Scholar Transport Enrichment
3. Establishment of a 24hr Traffic Law Enforcement

Hon Speaker Hon Premier Hon MEC's Hon Members Officials, guests and staff to the Legislature

I greet you all here today.

It is indeed a great honour and privilege to stand before you and adopt the budget of the Department of Transport for 2016/17 of which I am associated with.

Hon Speaker, it is gratifying to report that the department continues to sustain an unqualified audit report.

Hon Speaker, a famous preacher once said: "Never say that whatever you have is a problem, BUT rather say, whatever you have is a challenge, for a challenge has a solution".

Hon Speaker, allow me to highlight but a few challenges within the Department of Transport. The organogram was last reviewed in 2006. Yes, it is a 10 year old organogram and this speaks volumes. Times are changing and so does the human race but the Department of Transport times have not changed; they have not moved on. This begs the question. Are the 148 (One Hundred and Forty Eight) staff members that are currently appointed legal or not?

In the policy speech of the MEC on page 2: "Finalisation of the organogram which will include the road function" is this on-going and will it be a reality? The organogram must be a priority of the department and be finalised as in yesterday. Without an approved organogram the absence of service delivery and accountability is the order of the day.

### Scholar Transport

Scholar Transport remains one of the biggest challenges in the Department of Transport. The current stats is that 114 000 (One hundred and Fourteen Thousand) children are in need to be transported by the department. Yet only 67 191 (Sixty Seven Thousand One Hundred and Ninety One) children will be transported during this financial year. The National Learner Transport Policy is very clear that a pupil

living in access of 5km from a school MUST BENEFIT from the transport system. It is the opposite in this province. More than 46 809 (Forty Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Nine) children are risking their lives on a daily basis by walking long distances, some up to 30km a day. Braving through rivers and bushes. The same 1 737 (One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Seven) schools are benefiting year in and year out. Is this the reason why the department insourced this service? Or did the department have no vision to improve the system with more money and also having to transport more scholars. With the insourcing the department delivers less.

Hon Speaker, this is a clear situation where operators are enriching themselves rather than rendering a service that is needed. Allow me to give you one practical example. In the Cradock area there is one child that's been transported at a cost of more than R300 000 (Three Hundred Thousand Rand) per year. Hon. Speaker, when the department outsourced the scholar transport services to One Future Development 46 Corporative, more children were transported with less money. As opposed to insourcing the service with more money and less learners are transported.

The ANC government is saying that they are a caring government. In my view, they are a care-less government. A picture speaks a thousand words. Hon. Speaker, the late President, Dr Nelson Mandela said: "Education is a powerful weapon that we can use to change the world". The current ANC is not living to the legacy of this icon.

Whilst the Provincial Scholar Transport Plan that are in its developed faze we need to be guarantee that this document will not go straight to file 13 but rather see the implementation of the policy. In order to benefit the scholars and not the operators.

The DA holds the view that the utilisation of existing subsidised public transport operators should be roped in, in order to accommodate more learners in the urban areas of the province that are in need of scholar transport.

#### Traffic Law Enforcement

Hon. Speaker, in the MEC's policy speech she commits her department to "going back to basics". I must ask as to how this will be possible if we only have a 6hour shift system. Our Traffic Law Enforcement Officers only work a 5day week shift from 6am to 2pm and 2pm to 10pm Monday to Friday. Any other work that is done is seen as overtime. The DA holds the view that 91.6% of the R302 845 million (Three Hundred and Two million Eight Hundred and Forty Five Thousand Rand) paid out on compensation of these officers for overtime is not the way to go.

Hon Speaker the motorists of this province as well as other road users are using the road on a 24hr basis 7 days a week and 365 days a year. The national road safety strategy has revealed that weekends which

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include Friday, Saturday and Sunday are the most dangerous days of the week. Yet, in this province we have a standby shift to do traffic law enforcement of the road.

Hon Speaker this province has the responsibility to make all road-users feel safe. The Democratic Alliance therefore implores this House to declare a 24 hour traffic law enforcement in this province. We owe it to the Eastern Cape Province; this is the only province that is not operation on 24 hour traffic law enforcement. Is this a reflective of the value that we put to the lives of our road-users?

Hon Speaker, whilst we noted the establishment of 3 new traffic stations in the province, we need to first get the moral up of our existing traffic law-enforcement. We also noted the 40 trainees that will be joining the department in order to have more visibility on our roads.

Hon. Speaker whilst acknowledging the establishment of two animal impounds we would also ask the department to optimally make use of the six cattle trucks that was purchased in the last financial year. Stray animals are one of the contributing factors of accidents on all the roads in the province. The road rangers must also be visible and effective in monitoring our roads to prevent the loss of lives as well as accidents.

In conclusion, Hon. Speaker having said the above the Democratic Alliance supports the budget.

Thank you.