

MEDIA RELEASE – 27 JUNE 2013

PRASA, GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS LAUNCH COMMUNITY DRIVEN STATION CLEANING TOWARDS JOB CREATION

The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) together with the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) have today launched the Community based Station Cleaning and Maintenance initiative at Umlazi, Durban in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

The project is the first of three national projects that will be launched in Gauteng and Western Cape aimed at empowering communities living along the Metrorail rail lines and stations with the opportunity to clean and maintain selected Metrorail train stations.

The communities will be empowered as part of formalised Community Cooperatives which will be set up across 111 train stations nationally.

The Cooperatives will be responsible for the overall cleaning and maintenance of train stations at key rail corridors that are currently being upgraded in preparation for the arrival of new rolling stock, with the first train sets scheduled to be delivered in 2015.

“The establishment of the Cooperatives comes as PRASA is in the process of implementing its key Modernisation Programmes in anticipation of the New Rolling Stock. As PRASA, we recognised the need to ensure that our communities living directly next to our rail lines and train stations benefit directly from the positive changes and upgrades to passenger rail services



through direct employment opportunities generated by our Modernisation Programme” said PRASA Group CEO Lucky Montana.

PRASA has invested approximately R 35 million per annum over the next 3 years with approximately 3 616 beneficiaries overall. The beneficiaries will be trained in Cleaning, Health & Safety, electrical and plumbing, Basic Business Management as well as Life Skills.

The training will enable PRASA to enter into contracts with specific Service Level Agreements with individual Corporates to ensure quality service and determine adequate remuneration to members of the Cooperatives. PRASA will also establish banking accounts for those members currently without formal accounts. Each Cooperative will have a three year guaranteed contract with PRASA thereafter the contract will be determined by the performance of each individual Cooperative.

“As PRASA, we are committed to the overall Government mandate set out in the New Growth Plan to be part of creating five million new jobs by 2020. The rail sector is well-placed to identify key job opportunities which are in fact job-drivers to absorb the unemployed and empower the youth. The Cooperatives are designed therefore to be self-governing and self-sustaining where the community themselves will determine their own success through direct partnerships with PRASA” added Mr Montana.

PRASA will partner with the National Department of Transport, The National Department of Public Works through its Expanded Public Works programme (EPWP) the Durban University of Technology and the South African National Civic Organisation (SANCO) to ensure synergy and continuity through the various Government empowerment initiatives driven by the respective organisations.

“The Cooperatives will not function as charities but as part of Government partnerships with communities on the ground. This is part of sustainable service delivery for the betterment of the people of South Africa” concluded Mr Montana.

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