**Address by (MP) Cde Nokuzola Tolashe on the Budget Vote Debate for the Transport Department**

9 July 2019

Honorable Chairperson
Ministers,
Deputy Ministers
Honorable Mmebers
Ladies and Genltemen

It humbles me to participate in this debate at this time, where our people especially in rural areas are finding difficul56 to access public transport and some of them are still dying in fatal accidents. Our history has a footprint that the south Africa public transport was never a priority, however, we must appreciate the brave decision taken by the democratic government to put public transport at the centre of economic development of our country.

In reference to what the President has alluded to in the 2019 June SONA, that “We must improve the affordability, safety and integration of commuter transport for low-income households.” We strongly agree with the President as most South Africans who use public transport are the poor and the working class.

The ANC manifesto is very clear on public transport that it must be accessible to all and in particular the marginalized, furthermore the ANC will invest in rail infrastructure to ensure it is safe, reliable and integrated with other modes of public transport. Rail must be the backbone of our public transport system. We will be working with the taxi industry transform the industry by supporting initiatives that will ensure it is safe, clean and provides a quality service.

We will Support driver training and ensure industry players participate in the broader transportation agenda. We will modernize the public transport permits to prevent corruption and ssupport the roll-out of Bus Rapid Transport systems in other cities such as Buffalo City and Polokwane. We will Invest in public transport infrastructure and support the integration of various modes of transport through a single ticketing system.

On Administration

The department of Transport is working very hard to implement the Auditor general’s report and working together with the committee it shall greater heights, However, we need to accelerate the transformation regarding gender equity. We find ourselves having a department with a majority of men in a country where there are millions of capable women.

The Department of Transport and its administration is a sole responsibility of the national government and shall remain like that, there is not a single province that will run the administration the of the department in isolation especially with the wishes of the western cape government, that want to run Metrorail independently.

The problem that this administration should deal with is that of consultants, the department is spending a lot of money using consultants and most of the work is never done. Every now and then trains are burnt, wires and electric copper are stolen yet the is security personnel hired by Metrorail. It is high time that the department of Transport, Police and State Security meet and discuss to pave a way forward on how to deal with this animal that is destroying our rail system.

Our busses are torched whenever there are taxi strikes, this will come to an end if all the responsible stake holders meet up and pave a way forward, indeed we must grow south Africa together.

The ANC support this budget.