

**Speech by the Premier of the Northern Cape, Sylvia Lucas
at the launch of the new fleet at the Northern Cape Fleet
Management and Trading entity**

Kimberley

8 April 2016

Programme Director

Members of the Executive Council present

Government officials

Distinguished Guests

Members of the media

Ladies and Gentlemen

The Northern Cape Provincial Government has always been a Province that takes pride in serving the people of this Province with a high level of integrity, professionalism and humanity. The replacement of this old fleet with new vehicles therefore does not stand in isolation to these goals we have set for ourselves.

They say next to a man's family his car is his most prized possession and as a Province we take pride in our assets. This new fleet will enable us to increase productivity and accountability as well as exercise greater control over the utilisation of state-owned vehicles.

'N goedversogde voertuig is 'n simbool van vooruitgang en welvaart en met hierdie nuwe vloot voertuie stel ons ook ten toon dat hierdie 'n provinsie van vooruitgang en welvaart is. Dit spreek ook van ons toewyding ten opsigte van dienslewering en profesionalisme aan die mense wat ons met trots dien.

Ons verantwoordelikheid teenoor gemeenskappe is ook nie net beperk tot Kimberley en omgewing nie en dus het ons 'n betroubare vervoer stelsel nodig wat ons in staat stel om dienste ook in die mees vergelëe uithoeke van die Provinsie te kan lewer.

Ladies and Gentlemen, due to the fact these vehicles remain the asset of government and are disposed of at the end of its useful economic lifespan means that there is no loss to Government. This can even be recorded as a saving because the profit from the sale of vehicles is used toward the purchase

of new vehicles. It therefore stands to reason that by reducing the cost of the fleet, more funding will be available to pursue the strategic objectives Departments and allow them to focus on their core business. This reduced cost is a benefit that is indirectly transferred by the Fleet Entity to the User Departments in the form of lower rates charges.

The introduction of the new fleet today heralds the beginning of the second cycle of fleet. All vehicles that have reached the four year lifespan will be replaced with one hundred and ninety eight new vehicles at a cost of forty one million rand that will benefit all twelve user departments.

As I stated earlier, the new fleet will also allow Government a greater sense of control. This is made possible by the fact that the new component of white fleet is fitted with a tracking device which assists in curbing abuse. Further to this, the branding of vehicles and customized number plates makes government owned vehicles easily identifiable.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the most important aspect of this new fleet is really the practical implementation. It enables a Department such as Social Development to send social

workers to the poorest households in places as far as Spoegrivier, and Onseepkans to attend to abused children and other vulnerable groups in this vast and remote province.

Ladies and Gentlemen, these vehicles have exclusively been procured to improve services to all our people. These are working tools acquired to deliver on our respective mandates. They are not for your personal use. It would be grossly irresponsible to use them for any other purpose but to execute your official duties. We will under no circumstances allow misuse and will come down hard on those in violation of this rule. The public also have a civil duty to report misuse of state assets and we call upon our communities to report such instances of abuse. We have registered a toll free hotline number that members of the public can call to report abuse and misuse of vehicles. The hotline number is **086 1222 627** and it is operational between 8h00 and 16h00.

To the users of these vehicles- I implore you to please take care of them as if they were your own. You know the value of a vehicle and what it takes to maintain it and to keep it in running condition. Accounting Officers are also requested to ensure that not only to reduce misuse of state owned vehicles, but to eliminate it all together.

As you use these new vehicles in the execution of your official duties and in service of the Republic of South Africa, always be mindful of the great trust and responsibility placed in you. And as responsible civil servants please always obey the rules of the road- buckle up, do not speed, look out for pedestrians, do not drink and drive, do not talk on your cellular phone or worst still, do not text and drive. Be cautious on the road and arrive alive.

Let us through this new fleet expand our vision to be of service to all our people who deserve only the best. Let us go out there and move this great province and its wonderful people forward.

I thank you