



**Address by the Sedibeng District Municipality Executive Mayor,
Cllr Mahole Simon Mofokeng on the occasion of the launch of the
Taxi Signaling Device held at the Vaal University of Technology in
Sedibeng, on the 2nd March 2011.**

Programme Director,

Honourable Minister of Transport: Minister Sbu Ndebele;

Executive Mayor: Emfuleni Local Municipality: Cllr. SA Mshudulu;

All MMC's here present;

The Leadership of the Vaal University of Technology;

The Leadership of the Taxi Industry;

Our Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen

I bring you greetings from the Sedibeng District Municipality. It is in the light of the State of the Nation Address presented by the President of the Republic of South Africa, the Honourable Jacob Zuma that this event takes the centre stage. In his address to the Nation, he made it clear that we need to be seen to be creating the much needed jobs in our country.

Our event here signals the way forward of things to come. It is through innovations and technology that we are going to be able to create the jobs which the country needs so much. We cannot expect that all of us are going to be consumers without the attendant need to produce.

I stand here very proud of the work which has been developed, researched and manufactured in the Sedibeng District. The manner in which this device has been developed up to its launch today, paves the way in which the Sedibeng Region should be moving.

Programme Director, I cannot cease to marvel at the talents of the CEO of Tokelo Technologies. Their partnership with the Vaal University of Technology gives us hope of the future we wish to create here in South Africa. The fact that a visionary like Mr Jacky Mofokeng, is able to find the necessary support and infrastructural backing from a renowned Institution of Technology, develop an innovation of this nature, speaks volumes.

The partnership between the University, the community and the Sedibeng could not have come at the most opportune time. The Minister of Finance, Minister Pravin Gordhan hit the nail on the head in placing emphasis on skills development. The launch of this device today is indicative of the thrust which the country needs.

Programme Director, allow me to speak to the industry which moves South Africa, the taxi industry. The taxi industry in South Africa moves over 70% of the commuters daily in our country. Through innovation and vision, they have created jobs where there were none. They have opened our roads and the manner in which South Africa shapes its own economy. It is moving ahead with speed to break new grounds.

It is as a result of this vision that today the taxi industry is the proud owner of the Bus Rapid Transport System currently operating in Joburg. Despite teething problems, our BRT model is far advanced and efficient than the models in Brazil and Bogota. This innovation will be replicated throughout the major cities in the country. Sedibeng District Municipality will be looking at this model when it becomes a city soon.

It is in the light of the above, that I call on the taxi industry to embrace this new Electronic Signaling Device to be launched here today. This will assist in making our roads much safer.

We will no longer have the problem of a taxi driver giving hand signals for his destination whilst changing lanes. The device will provide the necessary destination while the driver concentrates on safe driving.

I do know for a fact that the taxi industry here in Sedibeng will embrace this change. I know this because the leadership and the history of this industry in the Region is known for its vision. Under the leadership of

the late Tutu Molefe and Oupa Hlomuka, Sedibeng Region was and still remains the safest place to have a taxi business.

We have not been affected by the senseless killings attributed to taxi violence. If you were to read the newspapers in the last five years until now, one would believe that there were no taxis in Sedibeng. We have you the Regional Taxi Leadership to thank for making our District a very safe place to travel by taxi in.

In conclusion, allow me to remind all of us here present that it is illegal for any part of your body to be hanging out or extended out of a moving vehicle. This device here today will ensure that as we move towards a world class Gauteng Global City Region, our transport system also indicates a world view of doing things.

I cannot say how proud I am that this device was created here in Sedibeng. My pride in Tokelo Technologies and the Vaal University of Technology knows no bounds.

I Thank You