

OPENING

**Mr Ravi Naidoo
DBSA**

Good morning. My name is Ravi Naidoo and I'm the Group Executive for Development Planning at DBSA. Welcome to DBSA, Vulindlela Academy: this is the venue where we regularly host knowledge sharing events, and this year the Bank will host smaller and focused transport roundtables and training in support of Transport month activities.

The Bank views these roundtables as an important forum for discussing and agreeing upon key steps to achieve developmental improvements for the country and region. We believe as DBSA we have a convening power which allows us to bring together both government, and other key actors, to jointly tackle development challenges. And the purpose of this event is to do just that.

Thanking partners

I would like to start by thanking our partners and the supporters of this event: the Department of Transport, SALGA, SA Cities Network, UNDP/GEF, PRASA, Human Settlements and the Department of Public Enterprises. All of these institutions have a critical role in the both the debate and the implementation of an integrated infrastructure agenda. And we hope to continue to work with and deepen our partnerships with them. We are very pleased they were willing to come on board and support us as each brings an important perspective and knowledge on the area.

Content of the roundtable sessions- the purpose

This event - scheduled over the next 2 days - will allow us to focus on how we look at transforming the way we deliver the major infrastructure programmes of the state in transport. This calls for better planning methods and approaches, and innovations in technologies. It also requires us to think about how we make choices.

The programme for the transport roundtables and training was collated after a series of discussions with the senior government officials, municipalities and professional transport experts. The objectives stated in the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Transport (DOT) were also used to inform the agenda for the roundtables. Some of the objectives discussed were:

- to hold two roundtables on the funding and financing of Urban Transport. One roundtable on the learning experiences of the Bus Rapid Systems took place at the DBSA in April 2012 and was attended by almost 150 participants from mainly six municipalities. There is one more roundtable left and the plan is to host this work session during October 2012;
- to induct and build the capacity of municipalities and provinces in strategic network bus planning. This decision was a direct outcome of the April 2012 roundtable. This request will be met with the training session that will take place on 3 October 2012.
- and to devise a framework that will allow the Minister of Transport to make pronouncements on.

Rationale

Integrated transport networks are vital to South Africa's economic growth and prosperity. These networks are regarded as the only viable option for sustainable, equitable and uncongested mobility. Integrated transport serves as a tool to bring down the overall costs of doing business if networks such as rail and ports are integrated.

Government and state enterprises are expected to allocate R262 billion over the next three years to fund transport and logistics infrastructure. Roughly R25 billion will be spent on new roads and infrastructure, and R18 billion is earmarked to be spent on maintenance. In 2014/15, an additional R4 billion will be allocated to the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa to begin purchasing 233 coaches. In the current financial year about 8bn will be spent on new rail rolling stock for the movement of goods. A number of challenges need to be addressed to ensure integrated networks including:

- Fragmented responsibility at institutional level
- The high cost of transport logistics
- Fragmented planning of ports and hinterland connectivity
- City development and urban mobility
- The integration and alignment of land use and transport planning processes are currently inadequate. This is due in part to a spatial mismatch between the urban peripheral housing locations and the more central city locations of key activities.

DBSA government's key partner in infrastructure delivery

DBSA is government's key partner in the accelerated delivery of infrastructure around the country, and we see our role as not only finance, but development planning, capacity development, and, in certain instances, programme management support.

It is in this context that we understand the important role we need to play in the delivery of appropriate, sustainable infrastructure.

For this reason our conference over the next 3 days will draw on global and local expertise, including case studies and the breakaways will focus on certain priority areas such as the funding of integrated transport.

Conference Line-up – opening session

We are delighted to start this conference with Dr Cameron Gordon from University of Canberra, Prof Mulley from University of Sydney Business School and Mr Jack van der Merwe from the Gauteng Province Roads and Transport.

See the programme for further details. We look forward to your participation in ensuring that we meet the objectives of this conference.