



## **Media Release**

**For immediate release**

**Date: 24 October 2009**

### **SUSPENSION OF EERSTE FABRIEKE - PIENAARSPOORT METRORAIL SERVICES**

The incidence of criminality and general lawlessness has, in open defiance to the Metrorail ultimatum, continued with frightening regularity this week on the Eerste Fabrieke – Pienaarspoort line effectively making it impossible for Metrorail to continue operations without compromising the safety and security of its staff and commuters.

A risk assessment exercise of the operations as well as the criminal incidents of the past week left Metrorail management, a division of PRASA, with no option but to indefinitely suspend services in the area with effect from Saturday, 24 October 2009.

The Risk Assessment Report also demonstrated capacity problems that conspire against safe delivery of services and the need for urgent intervention in terms of infrastructure investment however these efforts are frustrated by an increasingly violent environment marred with lawlessness on a massive scale.

While we recognize that the area and the population numbers have grown exponentially over the years, infrastructure development has not kept pace with commuter demands. We also recognize that the community relies heavily on commuter rail to access economic and related opportunities as alternative transport is prohibitively costly however commuter and employee safety remains a cornerstone of our operations and a non – negotiable imperative.

We believe this shut down will also allow those responsible for criminal violations an opportunity to reflect on the consequences of their conduct

During the service suspension period, Metrorail will press ahead with the work required to improve and upgrade the network, which will include the building of new stations in Greenview, Pienaarspoort and Panpoort. We will also build a double line in the area between Eerste Fabrieke and Panpoort to ensure speedy transit of traffic.

Metrorail understands the difficulty to some of our commuters that the suspension of services may cause however it remains our view that under the current operating circumstances this is an appropriate course of action

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