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## Nothing else but service delivery...

**Date:** Thursday, September 02, 2010

A whooping R97million has been set aside to ferry about 25 000 destitute learners to schools. These learners live in far-flung areas sometimes tens of kilometers away from institutions of learning. This historic announcement took place September 2 at Embassy Hall where scholar transportation consortia from across the province gathered to receive their letters of appointment.

Over 162 routes were identified but only 125 allocated to transportation service providers who were advised to undertake this massive task with loyalty and to the best of their abilities. Each service provider was given a five year contract and seven days to either decline or accept the offer.

Re-affirming his abhorrence of “subsidising the undeserving and the privileged in deprivation of the needy and the deserving,” MEC Mahlakeng Mahlakeng reiterated his unwavering stance of stopping the R6million that had been annually landing in the golden plates of South African Airlinks.

“I have taken those millions and redirected them to serve in the transportation of our scholars. I am convinced the money shall be fruitfully utilised to develop the young minds who are the real heirs of our tomorrow,” said Mahlakeng.

The scholar transportation service providers were given a window period of 30 days to prepare and put themselves squarely behind the steering wheels.

“By the 1st of October, it is all systems go,” assured Mahlakeng.

Meanwhile during his address to the appointed service providers and officials present, Mahlakeng vehemently explained his standpoint relating to government employees who for no apparent reason, deliberately hold ransom the speeding up of payment to service providers who had satisfactorily complied and satisfied the requirements.

“Do your work, pay service providers timeously, in seven days as has been proved or at least pay them in not more than thirty days, which is a standing rule. Desist from delaying the payment process. Assist me to do my service delivery programmes,” exhorted Mahlakeng.

He cited an example of a service provider who upon construction of a weigh bridge, put

his house and car as surety, completed the work on time and struggled for over two years receive payment, only to have his house and car auctioned by his creditors, and worst of all, his family disintegrated .

“ Should I catch you in the web of such cruel and sabotaging persons, be rest assured, you shall have rendered yourself jobless. Do the right thing and leave all the suspicions to be handled by me. You are hired to offer services and not to nurture suspicions for want of kick-backs,” warned Mahlakeng.

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