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PASSENGER RAIL AGENCY
OF SOUTH AFRICA

**ADDRESS BY
MR LUCKY MONTANA,
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AFRICA (PRASA)
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW CENTURY CITY STATION**

08 JUNE 2010

Honourable Minister of Transport, Mr. Ndebele

Ladies and gentlemen

The launch of Century City Station and the revitalisation of Cape Town Station will not only add to the fluidity of passenger rail travel, but it brings a new economic age in South Africa that demands that transport, mainly passenger rail, be at the heart of our success as a modern country, bringing South Africa on par with so called first world countries.

The world class Century City Station that you see today is the culmination of a collaborative effort between the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa), City of Cape Town, and the Century City Developer – Rabie Property Group. A total of approximately R70 million has been invested in the Century City Station project. On behalf of the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of approximately R20m made by the Rabie Property Group in developing the Century City Station and the R10m by the City towards the supporting road infrastructure.

The station has been developed to cater for future passenger growth with a capacity to accommodate 20 000 passengers during peak hour operations. In addition to servicing the Century City Development and surrounding residential areas like Kensington and Facticeon, it is also a key transfer station for the northern growth corridor which includes Montague Gardens, Milnerton, Blaauwberg, and Tableview among others. It is envisaged that this will be achieved through the station's integration with road based public transport such as the future BRT services.

Ladies and gentlemen, I proudly stand before you on this occasion celebrating our achievement in passenger rail transportation which remains by far the most cost effective and safest mode of transportation in South Africa. By peak, passenger rail still carry the largest number of passengers compared to any mode of transport. However, the passenger rail agenda has lagged behind, whether in the discussions around financial improvements in transportation, tourism and even urban planning discussions. For a carrier that transports an average 2.2 million people per

day ladies and gentlemen, I think you will agree with me when I say that this must change. With the establishment of PRASA, we are beginning to change all of this for the better.

Municipalities and Metros throughout South Africa must take a leaf from the efforts made by the City of Cape Town in including passenger rail as part of their Urban Development strategy and as an aid in resolving the ever-increasing problem of traffic congestion which undermines the efficiency and productivity of our cities and the broader economy.

Our passengers can enjoy the following world-class facilities:

Features of the Century City Station:

- CCTV cameras installed in concourse and on platform with video monitoring in security office.
- State-of-the-art public address system
- Visible signage to ease passenger movement
- Wider platforms
- Close proximity to Century City Shopping Mall
- Electronic message boards
- Easy access for physically disadvantaged passengers
- New ticket offices

Our first readiness test will be the successful movement of soccer fans during the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup. As you are aware, rail is the backbone of the public transport system for the City and it will continue to

perform this role during the World Cup. In this regard the Century City Station is key, as Century City has been identified as the major park & ride hub for the City, allowing Soccer enthusiasts to park at Century City and take the train into the CBD therefore limiting possible traffic congestion. Prasa encourages soccer fans to make use of the dedicated trains that will be deployed to ensure the seamless movement of supporters from all the park and ride hubs in the City of Cape Town.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the New Century City Station.

I thank you