



a world class African city

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## MEDIA STATEMENT

### For Immediate Release

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### **Reform of informal public transport can improve cities' air quality**

The City of Johannesburg successfully held the C40 Cities Johannesburg Public Transport Network Workshop at the Joburg Zoo in Parktown from 23 to 25 January.

Over three days, transport leaders from Freetown, Nairobi, Lagos, Cape Town, Ekurhuleni, eThekweni, Tshwane, Accra and Johannesburg gathered to discuss ways to reform and transform the informal public transport sector to ultimately reduce carbon emissions.

#### Key learnings:

- The informal public transport stakeholder landscape is layered and complex: early engagement and participatory consultations with the industry are key to securing buy-in and ensuring the successful implementation of transport reforms.
- Inclusive and integrated informal public transport reforms can improve air quality, work conditions, road safety, create green jobs and foster inclusive cities
- Improving informal public transport should be viewed from a system perspective and not focus solely on integrating these services as a last-mile feeder service into BRT.
- The informal public transport is not homogenous: cities should design tailored pathways to reform, which align to broader governmental frameworks and targets
- Reforms should target not just the operators and workers in the conditions but also commuters. Good public transport is about more than just efficient operations and contracting. It's also about the out of vehicle experience, the infrastructure of public transport interchanges, pedestrian and commuter facilities and designing attractive systems for users.
- Initiatives are already underway to green and electrify the informal public transport
- Working with informality requires taking an experimental, adaptive and iterative approach. Despite uncertainty and the lengthy timescales, change is possible
- improving and reforming the informal public transport sector is an important requirement for building truly inclusive and green urban mobility systems

Minibus taxis account for around 72% of the city's total public transport share. Delegates were keen to learn about Joburg's attempts and solutions to operate the BRT along with the taxi industry. They toured several taxi rank facilities including BRT stations.

Johannesburg is committed to transforming the city's public transport system into a people-centred one and recognises that engagement with and improvement of minibus taxi industry operations is a key ingredient for achieving this vision and for reducing inequality and creating good, green jobs.

The challenge is huge, but plans are afoot to make the city of Johannesburg a global model for people-centric and zero-emissions public transport.

**Ends**

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