

ITEM C 68/03/15

ANNEXURE A

QUESTIONS FOR THE MAYOR OR HER DELEGATED MAYORAL COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR WRITTEN REPLY IN TERMS OF SECTION 22 OF THE RULES OF ORDER OF THE CITY OF CAPE TOWN

Council meeting 25 March 2015

Councillor Andre Fourie asks:

In view of the continuing strike by bus drivers of the MyCiti bus service that bus commuters got used to and the statement made by the City that 'passengers should consider using alternative transport if possible' particularly in Blaauwberg and the surrounding areas, can the Mayor explain the following:

1. What is the alternative for regular users of this service, and if no alternative service exists, what does the Mayor suggest they should do?
2. Is there any guarantee that the taxi associations and taxi owners who are involved in this service and to whom massive amounts of money are paid, are not deliberately undermining this service in order to benefit the alleged greater number of taxis on the roads and who have either joined in illegally or offering services outside their allocated routes?
3. Is the Mayor satisfied that the payment of R500 million to taxi associations and taxi owners is productive and to the advantage of the ratepayers of the City of Cape Town?
4. Can the Mayor give the assurance that the agreement to have the last 144 taxis phased out, will materialise?
5. Can the Mayor inform the Council how many man-hours are lost as a result of these continuing strikes and what the cost implications for the City of Cape Town's ratepayers are?
6. Does the Mayor not think that loyal MyCiti bus users will lose their faith in the system and will start to think of permanent alternative transport?
7. Would the Mayor consider taking urgent action to ensure MyCiti as a reliable means of transport by appointing reliable unemployed people as backup drivers on a part-time basis to be on standby during emergencies?
8. Is the Mayor prepared to reassure loyal and potential MyCiti commuters with clear undertakings?

**Councillor Andre Fourie
Freedom Front Plus**

REPLY FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR TO QUESTION FROM CLLR A FOURIE FOR COUNCIL MEETING 25 MARCH 2014

1. Transport for Cape Town implemented the standard contingency plan which involves using the other VOC's (vehicle operating companies) to assist services impacted by the strike. Thus, throughout the strike, services have continued on all routes.
 2. There is currently no evidence to suggest this. As indicated, the MyCiTi services operated largely according to the schedule during the strike.
 3. The compensation to taxi owners was funded by public transport grant funding and not by rates. The compensation was productive as it facilitated significant transformation in the public transport sector and created additional scheduled bus operating capacity in our city.
 4. The remaining operators, except one operator with a single operating license, accepted the compensation and signed irrevocable agreements. The operators who accepted the compensation are waiting on the City to roll-out the remaining routes so they can surrender their licenses and vehicles.
 5. The employees on strike are not City employees. The City does not pay the VOC's for missed trips resulting from a strike so there is no cost for the City where scheduled trips are not operated. Furthermore, the VOC's do not pay workers who are on strike.
 6. The City is concerned about the impact that the strike is having on the passengers. However, the City has implemented contingency plans and currently 90% of the services in the affected inner City Area are running. Areas not affected by the strike have 100% of the services running.
 7. We have managed to mitigate against the impact of the strike by deploying back-up drivers who have been trained by the VOC's.
 8. We would like to thank our loyal passengers who have stood by us during the strike and we can assure them that we have done everything in our power to enable the services to return to normal. As indicated, for most MyCiTi passengers the strike had little or no impact and the strike has now come to an end.
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