

PROMOTING ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT

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ABSTRACT

Apartheid spacial planning has caused problems that are still visible and therefore the democratic government should have the will to correct this.

Physically challenged, visually impaired, the aged, pregnant women and children are mostly affected when it comes to accessing public transport.

Physically challenged people don't have the same needs and this needs to be publicised because society doesn't know how difficult it is for such people to board public transport, obviously with the exception of the bus rapid transit. The challenge is how do they get to the bus station without hindrance? Mostly the lifts provided at these stations are disfunctional.

Public facilities are not easily accessible to physically challenged and so are most media houses. This is unfair to the poor, who has to be pushed in wheelchairs. There are no taxis that have the capacity to deal with this matter and corrective measures are needed.

Visually impaired are not able to flag down public transport and therefore a tool needs to be developed in a form of concertina type that is visible around the clock and that can be folded and kept in the pocket. Specially designed path ways must also be constructed.

The current minibuses from Asia are not comfortable. The senior citizens don't have designated public transport facilities nor do they enjoy special tariffs. Youth are loaded in unroadworthy vehicles. The transformation of public transport is critical to address the challenges faced by larger communities, who end up spending more than ten percent of their disposable income. The possible solution to the above, is an integrated ticketing system, which will remove cash from taxis and that will deter them from bribes, less stoppages means less carbon footprint and improved behaviour and enhanced safety.