

MDLALO'S MOTION FOR TRAINS



UMDLALO WANELISEKILE NGULOLIWE

UMdlalo Mpengesi, oneminyaka engama 41, ngumsebenzi ohlala eMfuleni osebenzisa uloliwe ukusuka eNolungile ukuya eKapa mihla le. Uhambo lwakhe luqala ekuseni ngecala emveni kwentsimbi yesihlanu, athi chu ukuya kwisitishi iNolungile. Ukusuka apho, uthatha uloliwe ka 06:15, ngethemba lokufika emsebenzini ngo 07:30am.

Lotata wabantwana ababini ubhatala iR175 ngenyanga kwitikiti lakhe likaloliwe. Usatsho ukuba uloliwe yeyona ndlela engcono yokuhamba kwaye nethembekileyo kuye. "Ndihamba ngololiwe kuba uyafikeleleka."

UMdlalo uthi ukuhamba ngetaxi kumbiza iR35 ngosuku, efikelela ku R980 ngenyanga xa uyibalayo. Le intlobo iphinda-iphindene kahlanu xa uyithelekisa naleyo ayibhatala xa ehamba ngololiwe.

This week we sat down with Mdlalo Mpengesi, who travels from Nolungile Station to Cape Town. He shares why travelling by train is his first and only, choice. **Mandisa Nduli**

Mdlalo Mpengesi, 41, is a handyman from Mfuleni who travels from Nolungile to Cape Town everyday. His journey begins at 5.30am when he takes a 30-minute walk to Nolungile Station. From there, he takes the 6.15am train, and hopes to arrive at work by 7.30am.

A TIGHT SQUEEZE

The father of two pays R175 a month for his train ticket. He insists that the train is still the most convenient mode of transportation for him.

"I like the train because it is cheap." Mdlalo says that a daily return taxi trip from home to work would cost him R35; an astonishing R980 a month. This is five times more than what he pays for the train.

Moreover, Mdlalo says the convenience of not having to carry cash on his journey home everyday is safer. "There are always robbers around. They will rob you while you are walking, and the people walking in front of you won't even know what's going on," he explains.

As a loyal commuter, Mdlalo's biggest concern is the overcrowding on trains, "Sometimes you stand with one foot in and the other one hanging out."

MAKING ENDS MEET

Metrorail's train service plays a significant role in Mdlalo's life. So much so he cannot imagine what he would do without the train.

"If there is no train there will be a big problem," he adds. The growing notion from some quarters that the train service should be discontinued altogether, would have a domino effect on Mdlalo's finances.

"I am a father of a boy and a girl. They live with their mother in Delft, and I pay for their groceries and clothes. I see them on weekends."

With his responsibilities Mdlalo agrees that he would not be able to afford these expenses if he had to change his mode of transportation.

RAIL IS BEST

Although train delays and cancellations impact the lives of the commuters, the train still remains the most sustainable form of transportation for the working class. The affordability, along with the safety of not having to carry cash, is one of the reasons people like Mdlalo continue to stay loyal to the train.

OPERATIONS

WHY YOU SHOULD STAY ON TRACK

Avoid the pinch in your pocket, reduce global warming and traffic jams, and boost the country's economy by staying on the railways. **Jaye-Dee Jansen**

Metrorail trains form the core of Western Cape breadwinners' daily commute via public transport. While the train service is faced with challenges, it is one of the most sustainable ways of getting around when looking at affordability, environmental impact, economic growth and reducing traffic congestion.

POCKET FRIENDLY

Although the petrol price has dropped recently, travelling via rail is still the most affordable mode of transport. For example, a monthly ticket from Bellville to Cape Town Station costs R150 per person, and a weekly ticket for the same trip costs R50; whereas you'd spend almost R800 for return taxi trips each month, or close to R500 per week to fill your car tank.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

While you're saving money by staying on the rail, you're also helping the Western Cape economy grow. Rail effectively connects most of the country's labour and business. Without labour there's no business and without businesses, there's no economy.

REDUCING TRAFFIC

"Compare railway lines with freeways, which use vast amounts of land for multiple lanes and interchanges. It becomes clear that investing in rail systems is the best way to go for a sustainable public transport system," says Janine Myburgh, president of the Cape Chamber of Commerce.

SAVING OUR PLANET

Train travel is more eco-friendly than travelling by bus, taxi or private vehicle. It is important to note all motorised transport produces hazardous carbon dioxide, one of the greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Since trains are the most energy-efficient carrier of people and goods compared to other modes of transport, it releases the least amount of carbon dioxide. In turn, travelling by train not only saves you money, time in traffic and helps the economy grow, but you are saving the planet in the process!

Safety is our concern

SAFETY CORNER

It is illegal for vehicles to cross railway lines at any time, except at designated level crossings. Look out for trains travelling in both directions.

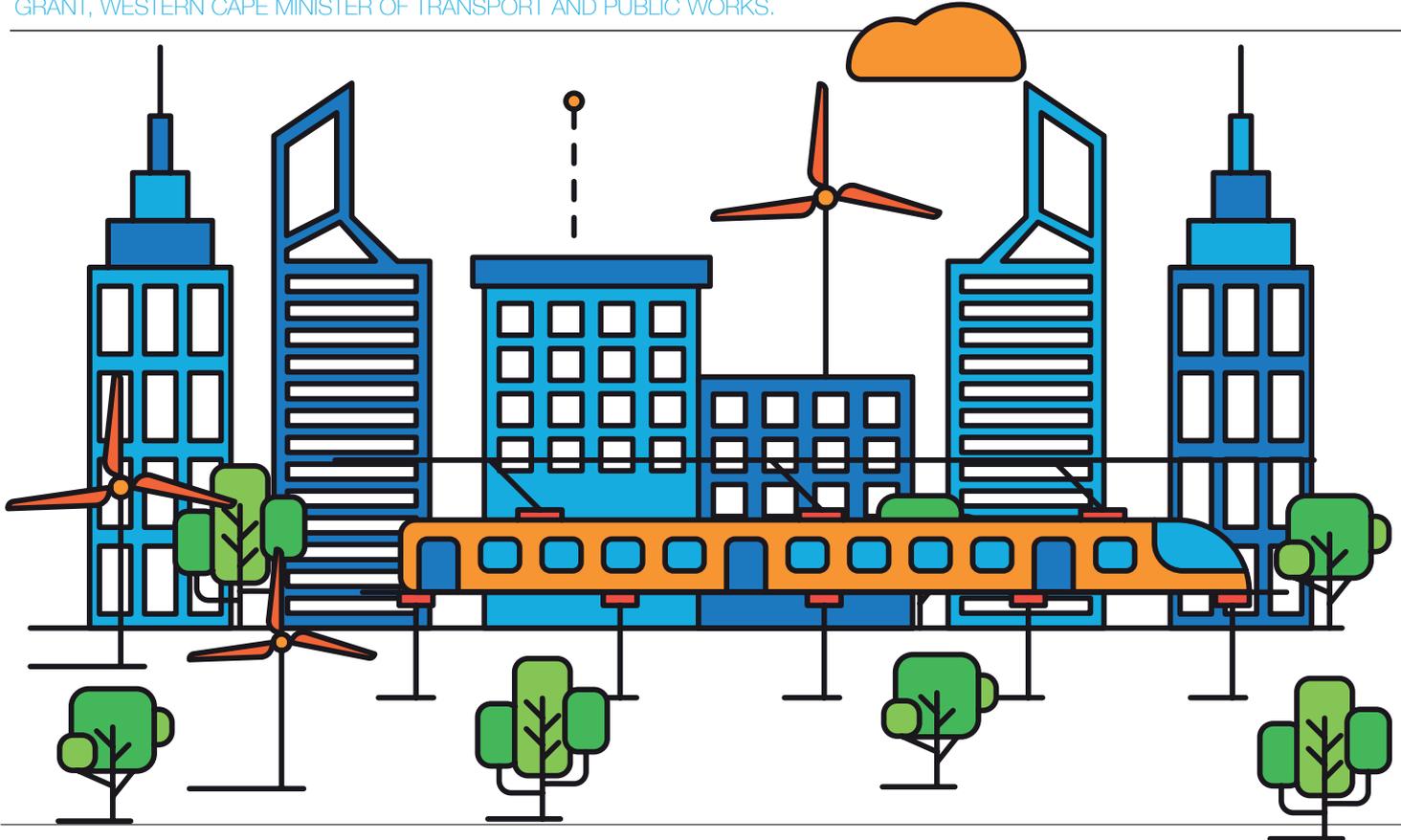
EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Protection services	021 449 4336
Claims office	021 449 2041/3645
Transport info number	0800 65 64 63

RAILWAY POLICE

Stock Road	021 370 1005
Cape Town	021 443 4325
Bellville	021 941 6800
Retreat	021 710 5129
24-hour operational room	021 443 4309 /10

"IT IS ENCOURAGING THAT THERE IS A BROAD AGREEMENT ABOUT THE NEED TO MOVE TRAFFIC OFF OUR ROADS AND BACK ON TO RAIL, WHICH IS, FOR THE MOST PART A SAFER AND MORE EFFICIENT ALTERNATIVE." – DONALD GRANT, WESTERN CAPE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS.



METRO MATTERS

TRAFFIC CONTROL

Metrorail's train service is an integral link in the city's transport system. Compared to buses and cars, which have limited capacity, trains remain the most viable mode to transport the masses.

TRAIN

On average, one train transports nearly 2 000 commuters.

BUS

A bus transports nearly 75 passengers. At least 25 buses are needed to transport commuters travelling on one train.

MINIBUS TAXI

A minibus taxi transports, on average, 15 passengers. At least 133 minibus taxis will be required to transport commuters on one train.

TIME TRAVEL

- In one hour, 12 trains with six coaches each, can transport 28 800 commuters.
- During the same time, 40 buses carrying 120 people each, will transport 4 800 passengers.
- A three-lane freeway can carry nearly 6 000 cars with an average of 1.5 passengers in one hour.



The platform for modernisation has been created. The future is here.

True to our vision of creating the backbone of public transport, we at PRASA are working tirelessly to improve the whole train travel experience for our people. The construction of modern stations using state-of-the-art architecture, the introduction of swift-operating turnstiles for the ease of passenger flow and the upgrading of security systems are but a few of the many visible changes that we're implementing across 134 of our stations nationwide. This is big change that will take time to complete, but we're proud to say that the platform has been set. Change is happening right now.

PRASA. CHANGE HAS BEGUN. THE FUTURE IS HERE.

TECHNOLOGY

TELECOMS FOR THE FUTURE

Metrorail recently introduced a new telecommunications (telecoms) department at its infrastructure depot in Salt River. We go behind the scenes to learn more about this fascinating department. **Yonga Balfour**



Employees in Metrorail's telecoms department are responsible for the rail operator's telecommunications systems.



What used to be a small unit in Metrorail's facilities department has flourished into a fully fledged telecommunications (telecoms) department that manages several communication systems.

Mario Ligwa, a senior engineering technician in Metrorail's telecoms department, says the department is responsible for train control communications with the train drivers, announcements and more.

"Telecoms was once a small, inconspicuous section but grew as the company's telecommunications demand increased. It was then decided that the department should stand on its own. We handle consumer support information, which consists of information boards, public announcements (PA), radio communication – the walkie-talkies – and system data transmissions," explains Mario.

SKILLED WORKFORCE

Mario adds that the department comprises a team of skilled and dedicated professionals.

Telecommunications and electronics are some of the most important skills required to work in the department.

"Some of the subjects which can be studied at university to work in a telecommunications department include digital systems, electronic communication, radio engineering and microwave engineering. It is advisable to major in either wireless, radio or microwave engineering and mobile network broadband," he explains.

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS

Mario says the sky is the limit for the department, as it is engaging in new projects. "An exciting project we're working on is called Global System Mobile for Railway (GSM-R), which is a new digital network for railway communication. It uses similar features to that of normal cellphone networks (GSM), but additional priority features, such as safety are added for railways. When this is done and dusted, it will be the end of walkie-talkies and other old devices," he concludes.

TELECOMS LANGUAGE

Microwave engineering refers to the basic study of electromagnetics: a combination of electricity and magnetic waves. An example of microwave engineering in practice is Bluetooth on mobile phones and radios. These work without wires and through electromagnetic waves.

Radio engineering is a specialised form of electrical engineering. It works with devices that send and receive radio waves, and can also be found on wireless networks.

"TELECOMS WAS ONCE A SMALL, INCONSPICUOUS SECTION BUT GREW AS THE COMPANY'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS DEMAND INCREASED."

– MARIO LIGWA

PROFILE

YONELA AIMS HIGH

Yonela Tyandela, a process worker at Metrorail's rolling stock depot in Salt River, recently graduated as a track master. **Yonga Balfour**



Tell us about yourself and your journey in Metrorail.

I come from Butterworth in the Eastern Cape, and currently live in Strand. I joined Metrorail in November 2013 as a process worker. It has been a wonderful journey.

There's growth in my role, and I look forward to what the future holds for me and Metrorail.

What do you love about your current role?

My job challenges me to work hard, and to think outside the box. I also love that I work with a team that has the best interest of our work at heart.

We discuss the ideal way to go about the challenges of the job, and give it our all.

Tell us about your track master qualification.

I recently completed an 18-month course for rail construction and maintenance. It was tough, but I loved every minute of it. I'm proud of myself.

What does a track master do?

Track masters are responsible for track maintenance and for supervising the team they work with.

What kind of qualities does one need to be a successful track master?

You need to be a hard-working individual, have the ability to interact with people and understand people are different. You also need to be a team player and be firm but calm at the same time.

What's it like being one of only two qualified female track masters in the region?

It's amazing being in what is known as a man's world. It's challenging and members of the opposite sex sometimes undermine your capabilities, meaning you have to work twice as hard to prove yourself.

All of this motivates you to strive to be the best. I guess that's what makes it amazing.

PHOTOGRAPH: SUPPLIED



Your safety matters. Stand behind the yellow line until the train comes to a complete stop.





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Follow @CapeTownTrains on Twitter to receive instant updates.



Visit our blog on capetowntrains.freeblog.site.

COMMUNITY

BE THE CHANGE

On 18 July, Metrorail will be treating a group of pensioners on a special train trip to Fish Hoek, as part of its Mandela Day initiatives. The rail operator will also spend some quality time with and make donations to a day care centre in Durbanville. How will you spend the day?



SHOW SOME RESPECT

We encourage commuters to be courteous and offer their seats to fellow commuters who are elderly, pregnant, disabled or travelling with babies.

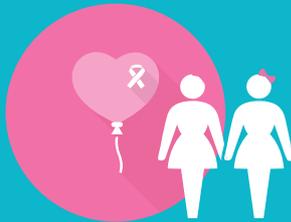


BECOME A DONOR

Become a blood donor and give the gift of life. A single donation can save up to three lives. If you are older than 16 and weigh more than 50kg, go to www.sanbs.org.za or SMS your name and postal code to 31454 to get details of your closest blood bank.

HELP WOMEN

When shopping, buy extra female hygiene products and drop them off at shelters for abused women. You can even add an inspiring, personalised note with it.



BUY THE BIG ISSUE

The Big Issue magazine empowers unemployed or marginalised individuals to work for themselves and earn an income. Support people who want to change their lives by buying a copy for R25.



HELP THE ANIMALS

Animals don't have a voice or a choice. They need our protection. Why not offer your services to organisations dedicated to animal welfare?

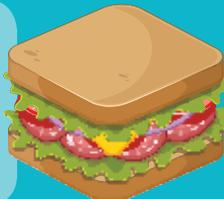


HELP RURAL SCHOOLS

Clean out your bookshelves and get a bag of books ready to deliver to a school that needs extra reading books. Why not round up your friends and family and start your own book drive?

MAKE SOME SANDWICHES

Hand them out to those in need during your lunch hour. You could also buy a few bags of fruit and hand those out. It's always better to give food instead of money.



HELP OUT FOR GOOD HEALTH

Volunteer at a local HIV organisation, hospice or nursing project. Get tested for HIV and encourage your friends and family to do the same.



BECOME AN EDUCATOR

Help out at your local school or mentor a learner or student who is interested in your career path. Alternatively, offer to coach one the school's extramural activities or suggest your own. Give away your old computer.



HELP THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY

Round up your family and friends to buy a few blankets, then donate them to communities in need. Volunteer at a soup kitchen or donate food parcels or a good pair of shoes to the poor.

CARE FOR OTHERS

Help at a local children's home or orphanage. Stage a friendly game of soccer with children in your neighbourhood. You can also donate educational toys, books or equipment to a shelter or youth centre. Read to someone who can't or visit a local home for the blind or aged.



REMEMBERING MADIBA

On 18 July we celebrate the late Nelson Mandela's birthday and remember his life, legacy and devotion to humanity. Madiba dedicated 67 years of his life to the fight for freedom in South Africa. Mandela Day is a global call to action to emulate his service to society by volunteering for 67 minutes on the day.



Get service updates via SMS



Register for Metrorail's free SMS service to receive updates on train delays and cancellations. You can register immediately by calling the Transport Information Centre on 0800 65 64 63 or complete the form below and submit it at your nearest train station.

Personal details

Name:

.....

Surname:

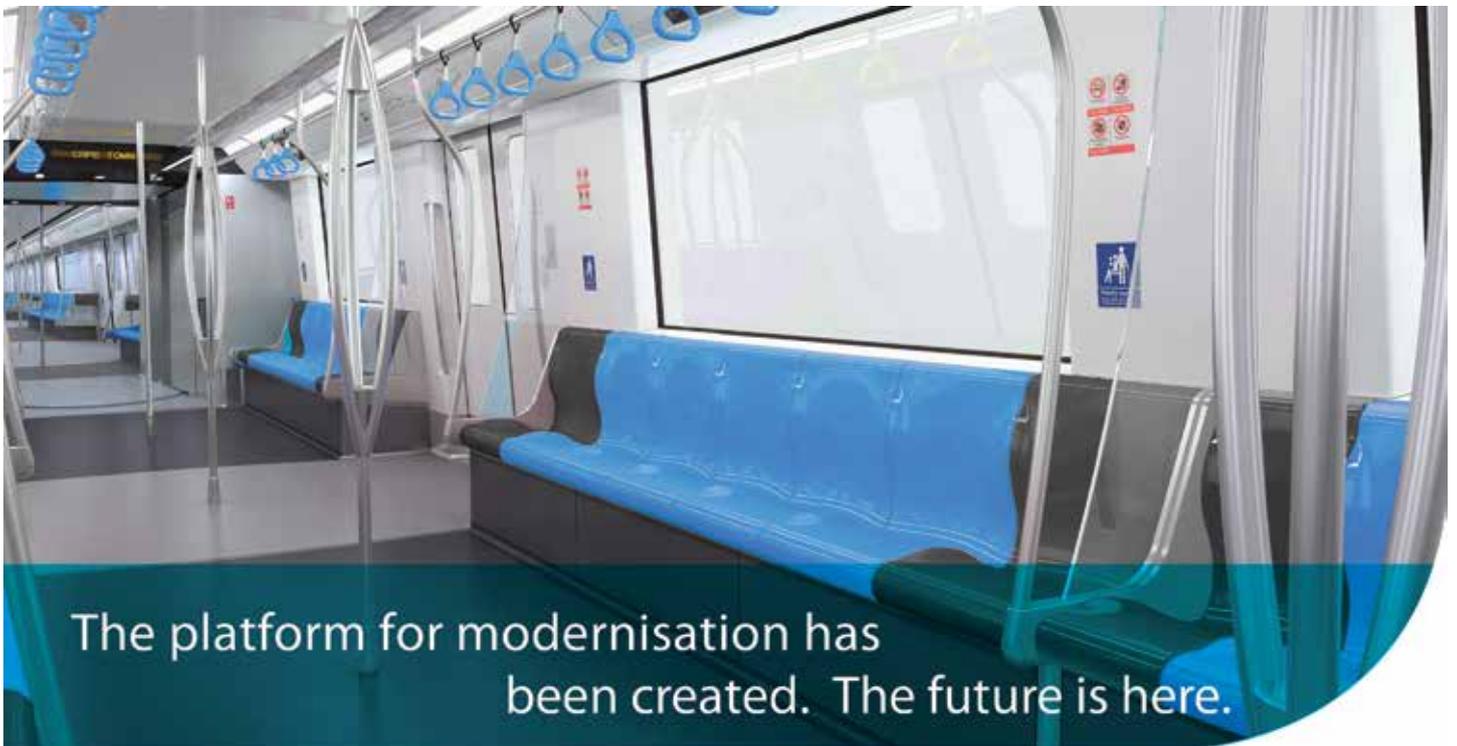
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Cellphone number:

.....

Select the route you travel on and wish to receive updates for.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> | Bellville via Esplanade and Lavistown | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> | Malmesbury via Bellville |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> | Bellville via Monte Vista | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> | Muldersvlei via Stellenbosch |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> | Cape Flats | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> | Southern Suburbs |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> | Kapteinsklip | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> | Strand |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> | Khayelitsha | 10. <input type="checkbox"/> | Wellington via Kraaifontein |
| | | 11. <input type="checkbox"/> | Worcester via Bellville |



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MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 13 TO 19 JULY 2017



SOUTH: CAPE TOWN – SIMON'S TOWN AND CAPE FLATS

13 – 19 July 2017	Cape Town – Maitland – Hazendal	09:00 – 14:00	Maintenance between scheduled train service Train delays of 10 to 15 minutes can be expected.
13 – 19 July 2017	Cape Town – Woodstock	09:00 – 14:00	Maintenance between scheduled train service Train delays of 10 to 15 minutes can be expected.
13 – 19 July 2017	Cape Town – Mowbray	09:00 – 14:00	Maintenance between scheduled train service Train delays of 10 to 15 minutes can be expected.
13 – 19 July 2017	Salt River – Retreat	09:00 – 14:00	Maintenance between scheduled train service Train delays of 10 to 15 minutes can be expected.
13 – 19 July 2017	Plumstead – Wynberg	09:00 – 14:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 25 to 30 minutes can be expected.

PERFORMANCE

AM ON TIME

88.6%

PM ON TIME

93.1%

CANCELLED
(AM + PM)

27.7%



NORTH: CAPE TOWN – MONTE VISTA – BELLVILLE – WELLINGTON – STELLENBOSCH – STRAND

13 – 19 July 2017	Mutual – Vasco	09:00 – 14:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 25 to 30 minutes can be expected.
13 – 19 July 2017	Maitland – Goodwood	08:00 – 18:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 25 to 30 minutes can be expected.
16 July 2017	Eerste River – Faure	09:00 – 18:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 25 to 30 minutes can be expected.

AM ON TIME

70.3%

PM ON TIME

84.1%

CANCELLED
(AM + PM)

18.1%



CENTRAL: CAPE TOWN – KAPTEINSKLIP – KHAYELITSHA – CHRIS HANI – SAREPTA

13 – 19 July 2017	Philippi – Lentegeur	09:00 – 14:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 20 to 25 minutes can be expected.
16 July 2017	Nyanga – Bontheuvel	08:00 – 18:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 20 to 25 minutes can be expected.
16 July 2017	Mandalay – Khayelitsha	08:00 – 18:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 20 to 25 minutes can be expected.
13 – 19 July 2017	Maitland – Kapteinsklip	09:00 – 14:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 20 to 25 minutes can be expected.

AM ON TIME

28.8%

PM ON TIME

35.8%

CANCELLED
(AM + PM)

38.4%

While we try our utmost to do maintenance during off-peak to minimise possible delays, connecting trains may be subjected to delays on all service lines. Your safety is our concern. We apologise for any inconvenience inadvertently caused. Performance reflects week of 28 June to 4 July 2017.

CUSTOMER NOTICE

CHECK OUT OUR BLOG FOR LATEST NEWS

While we await the appointment of a new service provider for the regional website, commuters can access static train timetables, fares, maintenance schedules, electronic copies of MyLine, contact information and latest news and information regarding the service on our blog <http://capetowntrains.freeblog.site/>. Commuters can also register for the SMS service by completing the web form on the "Timetables" page.

In case you missed it

Here are the contact details for Metrorail's customer service area managers in your areas.

AREA IKAPA
Herschel Smith
078 142 5033 / hesmith@metrorail.co.za

AREA SOUTH
Wendy Mnisi
078 326 2643 / wkmnisi@metrorail.co.za

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