



PRASA GCEO VISITS AREA CENTRAL



ON THIS PAGE: Cromet Molepo inspects the damages caused by vandals and cable thieves between Bontheuvel and Netreg stations.



Last week, Cromet Molepo, PRASA's acting group chief executive officer, visited several Area Central stations that have been targeted by vandals. **Sinobom Ngubombi and Zimkitha Ngcunguwe**

Cromet Molepo, PRASA's acting group chief executive officer, Richard Walker, Metrorail's regional manager and PRASA officials were joined by Donald Grant, Western Cape MEC of transport and public works; media and other stakeholders on a site visit to Langa, Bontheuvel and Netreg stations last Thursday.

Bontheuvel is one of the most severely targeted areas by vandals in Area Central. The deliberate destruction of rail infrastructure has a hard-hitting impact on the provision of a reliable and safe train service and on state resources.

"Vandalism has a huge impact on resources that could have been used elsewhere to improve the service, but due to perpetual vandalism

and destruction of assets, resources are spent on repairs and replacement of damaged infrastructure" explains Cromet.

"Automated signalling systems, which are vital in providing safe and smooth rail operations, are affected. Telecom lines, CCTV cameras, information boards and underground cabling are also targeted by vandals looking to make a quick buck," he says.

ACTION PLAN

Plans are in place to secure the rail reserve from criminals so that paying commuters can receive the reliable and safe service they are entitled to. A wall is being built from Langa to Philippi stations to curb vandalism and keep criminals out of the rail reserve.

"We are seeking assistance from major role players and law enforcement agencies to assist us in safeguarding our assets. While we remain committed to continuing to modernise our ageing infrastructure, our efforts have been hampered by rampant crime and destruction of rail assets. All those caught in the acts of crime will have to face the full extent of the law."

RECLAIMING OUR RAILWAY

The public is encouraged to report any crimes or suspicious activity to any of the numbers on page 2. Individuals providing this information are guaranteed full anonymity. There is a standing reward of up to R25 000 is payable for any information leading to a conviction.

UMPHATHI OMKHULU WAKWA PRASA UTYELELE IAREA CENTRAL

uCromet Molepo, olibambela lomphathi oyintloko kwaPrasa, noRichard Walker, umphathi wengingqi kwaMetrorail eNtshona Koloni, kunye nabanye abasemagunyeni kwaPrasa, baye bahlangana noDonald Grant, umphathiswa wezothutho nemisebenzi yoluntu eNtshona Koloni, kutyelelo lwabo kwizitishi zakwaLanga, Bontheuvel nase Netreg, kulwesine odlulileyo.

iBontheuvel yenye yezitishi ejongwe kakhulu zizikrelemnqa eziqhekezayo kwi Area Central. Ukumoshwa kwezixhobo zoololiwe inemiphumela emibi kwaye neezindleko ekuziseni kweenkonzo zikaloliwe. "Ukumoshwa koololiwe kubangela ukuba imali ebekumele isetyenziswa ekuphuhliseni iinkonzo iphele isetyenziswa ekulingisweni koko kumoshiweyo," utsho uCromet.

Abahlali bayakhuthazwa ukuba mabeze ngaphambili xa bebona izenzo ezibugwenxa, inombolo ongayitsalela iku page 2. Imfihlelo ngobuwena ikhona kwaye asoze sichaze ukuba ngubani oxelileyo. Kukho imali engange R25 000 onokuyifumana ukuba unokuthi uze nolwazi malunga nezizenzo.

OPERATIONS

PLAN YOUR NEXT TRAIN TRIP

Metrorail continues to implement speed restrictions, temporary route and platform deviations, and manual authorisations to minimise the impact of the vulnerable rail system and ensure commuter safety. **Alicia English**

Richard Walker, regional manager of Metrorail, has advised commuters to brace themselves for longer commuting times in 2018.

"Due to the obsolescence of the infrastructure and trains being beyond their design life, in-service failures are a reality and incessant vandalism severely hampers the provision of stable services," explains Richard. "We are committed to complying with rail safety requirements to ensure that trains operate as safely and reliably as possible under the current circumstances."

Richard adds that while these alternative measures will ensure service continuity, these will regrettably extend the average travel times during weekday peak hours.

Prioritising safety

Several rail modernisation projects in the region are nearing completion. Until such time as the maintenance, repairs and specialised interventions start to improve services, commuters and their employers are advised to adjust their travel patterns and expectations.

Richard recommends commuters practise safe and responsible commuting: "We understand that commuters are anxious to get to their destinations on time, but please refrain from drastic actions like travelling between/on top of trains, hanging on to parts of the trains, or sitting in or hanging out of open windows, which can lead to injury or death."



EXTENDED TRAVEL TIMES

Let's take a look at the new average extended travel times in Areas North, South and Central.

AREA NORTH

- Muldersvlei to Cape Town **120 minutes**
- Wellington to Cape Town **130 minutes**
- Strand to Cape Town **120 minutes**
- Kraaifontein to Cape Town **75 minutes**
- Bellville to Cape Town via Monte Vista **55 minutes**

AREA SOUTH

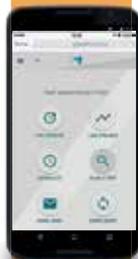
- Simon's Town to Cape Town **95 minutes**
- Retreat to Cape Town **70 minutes**

AREA CENTRAL

- Chris Hani to Cape Town **115 minutes**
- Kapteinsklop to Cape Town **100 minutes**
- Bellville to Cape Town via Lavistown **95 minutes**

Stay connected

Access real-time service information on the GoMetro app, follow Metrorail's social media channels and subscribe to receive text alerts. Contact the City of Cape Town's Traffic Information Call Centre on 0800 65 64 63 (toll-free) to find out about any last-minute changes that may extend the length of the average trip.



Safety is our concern

SAFETY CORNER

If you think you are being followed, go to a public space or the nearest security officer or police station.

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

METRO MATTERS

CENTRAL TRAINS REMAIN SUSPENDED

The central line remains closed for the third consecutive week as Metrorail's technical recovery teams continue with repairs, testing and safety checks before services can be reinstated. *Alicia English*

Commuters travelling from Khayelitsha, Kapteinsklop and Bishop Lavis have been advised to continue using alternative transport.

No single, return or weekly tickets will be on sale. Monthly ticket holders may use Golden Arrow Bus Services during off-peak hours, which fall between 8.30am and 4pm, and again after 6.30pm.

Area Central services are most affected due to the high rate of vandalism in the Bonteheuwel-Netreg-Nyanga areas.

Surrounding communities are requested to assist police and Metrorail to continue operations by reporting any crimes or suspicious activity to any

of the numbers listed on page 2. Full anonymity of the information sources is guaranteed and a reward of up to R25 000 is payable for any information leading to a conviction.

For regular service updates

- Twitter: @CapeTownTrains
- Facebook: Cape Metrorail
- Visit www.gometro.com for regular service updates or to download the GoMetro app.
- You can also call the 24/7 Transport Information Centre on 0800 65 64 63 (toll-free).



BE TRAIN SMART

THERE'S A FINE LINE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

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



SAFETY



Metrorail officials reached out to motorists at the Kasselsvlei level crossing during the first safety campaign of the year.



SPOTLIGHT ON KASSELSVLEI LEVEL CROSSING

Metrorail kick-started its 2018 safety campaigns with an awareness campaign at Kasselsvlei level crossing earlier this year. Fifteen near misses were recorded at the crossing during 2017. **Alicia English**

Metrorail employees partnered with community leaders in the area and encouraged motorists to obey the rules of the road. The campaign emphasised the importance of stopping at level crossings and included the distribution of safety material such as pamphlets and branded promotional items.

SAFETY

FIRST PORT OF CALL

When you witness a crime on the train, it often leaves you in shock. It is important for commuters to report all incidents to the police, as this impacts the police's response time.

Occasionally commuters are affected by crime to a point where they feel helpless and then take matters into their own hands. They often do this by posting a comment or video recording on social media.

While this approach helps to raise awareness about incidents, it is important to also contact the Metrorail protection services, Rapid Rail Police Unit (RRPU) or the South African Police Services (SAPS) when witnessing a crime.

REPORT FIRST

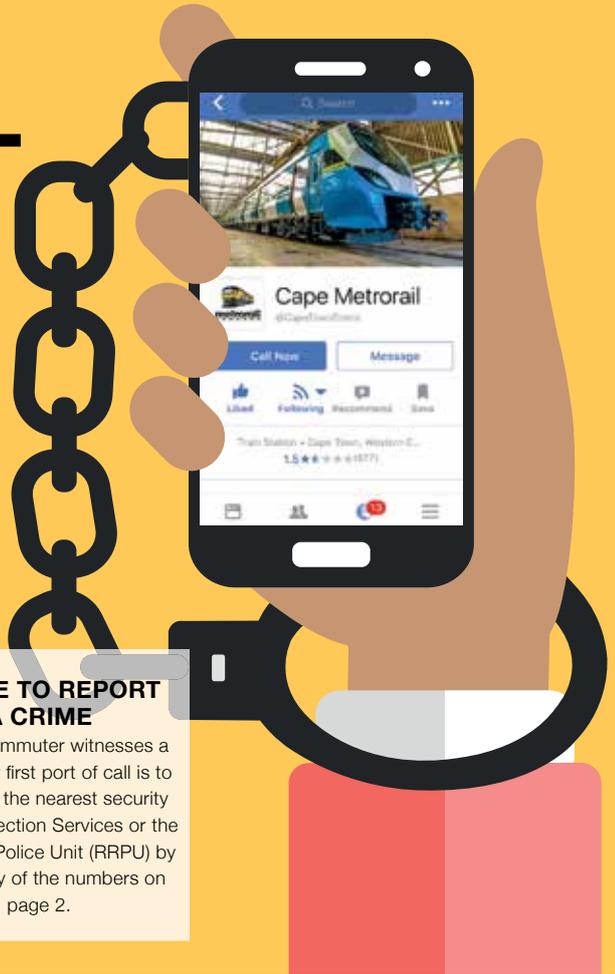
"Reporting crime is important as it allows Metrorail to put preventative measures in place, as all crimes need to be investigated by the police first," says Clinton Barends, section security commander in Metrorail's protection services department.

VISIBILITY

"Protection officers are visible on stations and trains for commuter protection, members are also deployed at hotspots," explains Clinton.

"Sometimes people don't report incidents to us first because they fear for their lives, but it is important for them to call us or the police in order to respond timeously and investigate the crime."

He adds: "Commuters need to allow police investigators and protection services members the opportunity to investigate crimes."



WHERE TO REPORT A CRIME

When a commuter witnesses a crime, their first port of call is to report it to the nearest security depot, Protection Services or the Rapid Rail Police Unit (RRPU) by dialling any of the numbers on page 2.

EDUCATION



TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR FUTURE

Still finding it hard to make a decision on what to study this academic year? Then worry not, this should help you make the perfect choice. **Yonga Balfour**

Leaving high school often means stepping out of your comfort zone and realising that you're an adult. You now have to make wise choices for the sake of your future. It is never easy deciding what to study after matric for many reasons: parental expectations, peer pressure and finding it hard to understand the jargon used in most varsity prospectuses.

Dr Felicity Coughlan, director of The Independent Institute of Education, warns parents and prospective first-year students that they should look into their options now. If there's uncertainty, rather change the course right away instead of taking the 'let's wait and see' option.

"South Africa's first-year dropout rate is significant. At an individual level, this costly outcome can be avoided if prospective students just take more time to ensure they have investigated all offerings in terms of institutions and qualifications," she says.

PRESSURE

Felicity cautions that dropout cases are largely a cause of learners applying for the same qualifications or institutions as their friends without knowing much about that particular course. Another case is when learners –

particularly academically strong students – opt for traditional universities and do traditional courses in the interests of continuing their family tradition.

"There's evident research that success in first year requires students to enrol in courses that are meaningful to them and not in those that they are expected to do," adds Felicity.

She also urges prospective students to understand what they want to study, to find an institution that will suit their personalities, and that they should be excited about the path they choose.

Felicity says private higher education is increasingly becoming the study route of choice, in line with international trends for students who want quality, workplace-oriented and recognised qualifications when they graduate.

"South Africa has a single quality assurance system and one National Qualifications Framework which means students may have many more exciting options than they realise.

"Private institutions are often affordable from a broader perspective, which is something the public hardly realises. They offer more individual focus to students because the campuses are relatively small. As a result, high success rates are the norm for such institutions, resulting in more students graduating in time," she adds.

OPTIONS TO CONSIDER

There are many options for matriculants who didn't achieve the marks required to qualify for degree study further. They can:

- Send papers for remarking or rechecking.
- Upgrade marks at colleges that offer bridging year studies.
- Enrol for a higher certificate at a higher education institution, which can give access to degree studies.
- Enrol for a diploma, which can give access to degree study if they pass.

Traditional institution refers to public institutions that most of your family members attended to pursue studies for their careers; while a traditional qualification refers to pursuing a qualification that your family members pursued. It can also refer to qualifications such as:

- Teaching
- Medicine
- Law
- Nursing
- Theology
- Dentistry
- Arts and literature
- Accounting and economics
- Social studies



GENERAL INTEREST

A CALL TO SPEAK OUT

Launched as part of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children, the Enough is Enough photo art exhibition and writing retreat is currently taking place in Cape Town. **Mandisa Nduli**



The Enough is Enough photo art exhibition raise awareness about the increase in violence against women and children.

The 1000 Women Trust has been mobilising 1000 Women to Unite against Domestic Violence across South Africa since 2004. The organisation is raising the voices of women through a photo art exhibition and a writing retreat.

The project is divided into two parts: the Enough is Enough photo art exhibition, and the Every Scar Tells a Story: Women Writing Retreat/Workshop. Both projects raise awareness about the escalating violence against women and children. The exhibition was staged at the Western Cape Provincial Administration Concourse from 25 November to 10 December 2017 after which it moved to the Slave Lodge on the corner of Adderley and Wale Streets. It will be on display until International Women's Day on 8 March 2018.

"The Western Cape Government is proud to partner with the 1000 Women Trust as it mobilises women to unite against domestic violence across South Africa. Women's voices must be heard, and the arts provide another platform for women to not only amplify their journey through their world of abuse and domestic violence, but also offer hope to the many others who are caught in the grip of this scourge," says Western Cape Finance Minister, Dr Ivan Meyer.

WOMEN'S WRITING RETREAT

The three-day retreat/workshop was held in Saldanha. The writing workshop gave women



who have been through tough experiences the opportunity to release their painful experiences and heal. It provided a safe space for women to share and relay their experiences through creative writing and storytelling. The narratives will be published in celebration of the women.

SHOCKING STATISTICS

- One in every four women in South Africa is in an abusive relationship.
- Every six days a woman in South Africa is murdered by her intimate partner.
- Every 25 seconds a woman or girl is raped in South Africa.

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:

.....

Cellphone number:

.....

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

- 1. Bellville via Esplanade and Lavistown
- 2. Bellville via Monte Vista
- 3. Cape Flats
- 4. Kapteinsklip
- 5. Khayelitsha

- 6. Malmesbury via Bellville
- 7. Muldersvlei via Stellenbosch
- 8. Southern Suburbs
- 9. Strand
- 10. Wellington via Kraaifontein
- 11. Worcester via Bellville



BE TRAIN SMART

AVOID TROUBLE. TRAVEL WITH A VALID TICKET

Travelling without a valid ticket is illegal. Avoid a fine by purchasing your ticket.



MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME 25 TO 31 JANUARY 2018



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

25 – 31 Jan 2018	Cape Town – Salt River	09:00 – 14:00	Maintenance between scheduled train service. Train delays of 10 to 15 minutes can be expected.
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NORTH: CAPE TOWN – MONTE VISTA – BELLVILLE – WELLINGTON – STELLENBOSCH – STRAND

25 – 31 Jan 2018	Maitland – Bellville	09:00 – 14:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 25 to 30 minutes can be expected.
25 – 31 Jan 2018	Kentemede – Century City	09:00 – 15:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 25 to 30 minutes can be expected.
25 – 31 Jan 2018	Bellville – Kraaifontein	09:00 – 15:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 25 to 30 minutes can be expected.



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

25 – 31 Jan 2018	Lentegeur – Kapteinskliip	09:00 – 14:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 20 to 25 minutes can be expected.
25 – 31 Jan 2018	Mutual – Ysterplaat	09:00 – 14:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 20 to 25 minutes can be expected.
28 Jan 2018	Mandalay – Nolungile	08:00 – 18:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 20 to 25 minutes can be expected.
28 Jan 2018	Mutual – Paarden Eiland	08:00 – 18:00	Platform changes will be announced. Train delays of 20 to 25 minutes can be expected.

PERFORMANCE

AM ON TIME

17.3%

PM ON TIME

8.1%

CANCELLED (AM + PM)

37.8%

AM ON TIME

46%

PM ON TIME

43.8%

CANCELLED (AM + PM)

22.3%

While we try our utmost to do maintenance during off-peak hours to minimise possible delays, connecting trains may be subject to delays on all service lines. Your safety is our concern. We apologise for any inconvenience inadvertently caused. Performance reflects week of 11 to 17 January 2018. *The service on Area Central was suspended from 11 Jan 2018 due to ongoing severe vandalism and theft.

CUSTOMER NOTICE

Access to **Muizenberg beach**

The pedestrian access gate leading to Muizenberg beach from the nearby station remains closed until further notice. Pedestrians can access the beach via the subway at Muizenberg Station.

SERVE AND PROTECT

In case you missed it

The following area security managers have been deployed in your areas:

AREA IKAPA
Donald Ngqoba
021 449 2260

AREA SOUTH
Paul Jonkers
021 507 2319

AREA CENTRAL
Percy Makapela
076 652 4093

AREA NORTH
Thembisile Blom
021 940 2144

AM ON TIME

*N/A

PM ON TIME

*N/A

CANCELLED (AM + PM)

*N/A



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