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MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: ALL MEDIA


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE OF TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS ASSESS THE DAMAGE CAUSED TO GAUTRAIN TUNNEL

The Portfolio Committee of Transport and Logistics in the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, led by Chairperson Scheemann, on Thursday undertook an oversight visit to assess the damage to Gautrain tunnel due to illegal borehole drilling on private property above the tunnel which resulted in soil and water seepage into the underground tunnel between Park and Rosebank stations. As a result, the Gautrain trains operations between the two stations were suspended to allow for restorative work on the affected area of the tunnel.

The Committee was briefed by the Gautrain Management Agency about the incident which has subsequently disrupted the train service between the two stations. The Committee was informed that the damage was discovered during a routine maintenance activity after service closure last week Friday and as a safety measure the train service was halted the following day between the two stations. According to the



GMA the contractor responsible for the drilling has not provided proof of approval for the drilling either from the City of Joburg or Joburg Water as per the requirements of the City's by-laws and as a result the GMA has issued letters to the property owner and the contractor informing them of their transgressions as well as the province's rights, including the right to claim financial losses.

The Committee is extremely concerned about this activity that took place above the Gautrain tunnel and urges all property owners to abide by the set legal requirements for structural alterations, drilling of boreholes, mining activities or any construction activities on, below or over the surface of a provincial road or railway line as prescribed by the Gauteng Transport Infrastructure Act.

The Committee also commend the GMA for the immediate introduction of the bus service transporting passengers between the two affected stations and look forward to the resumption of the train service between Park and Rosebank Stations after completion of the restorative work in the tunnel.

In fulfilling its oversight mandate, the Committee will make a follow up on the progress made to repair the damage in the tunnel and restoration of trains service between the two stations.

**ISSUED BY THE GPL'S COMMUNICATIONS UNIT ON BEHALF OF CHAIRPERSON OF
TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE, HON. GREGORY
SCHNEEMANN**

For more information and interview requests please contact: Mr Abe Mokoka on

079 882 5425 email: amokoka@gpl.gov.za