



SUMMARY REPORT OF THE ROUNDTABLE ON RE-IMAGINING PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN NAIROBI HELD ON 1ST AUGUST 2023 AT BEST WESTERN PLUS HOTEL WESTLANDS NAIROBI

The roundtable was convened by the National Public Transport Alliance (NAPTA) and facilitated by the **Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – Kenya Office**.

The theme of the roundtable was **Re-imagining Public Transport in Nairobi: Toward a more inclusive, safer and cleaner mobility**.

The roundtable brought together participants from different stakeholders. They included financial institutions, directline insurance, matatu workers, NTSA, NPS, PSV Sacco/Company leaders, UN-Habitat, and the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP).

Attendance:

1. Josphat Nduhiu Githae – Chairman – KMO Sacco
2. Lydia Kerubo – Vice Chair – Latema Sacco
3. Richard Rithoo – Manager -Nicco Movers
4. Lewis Siangu – Chairman - Eastleigh Commuter
5. Benard Obol Omondi – Manager - Team Swat
6. Ruth Obala – Secretary -Blue Line
7. Philip Gitau – Chairman - Walokana Sacco
8. Maurice Oduori – Manager – Killeton
9. Samuel Jonabi – Director - Royal Swift
10. Geofrey Chacha – Director - Royal Swift
11. Cyprine Odada – UN-Habitat
12. Alex Mwanthi – Cooperative Bank
13. Eng. Moses Kuyaki – Director – Public Transport Nairobi County
14. Nicholas Kiprono – NCBA Bank
15. Paul Munyasia – National Bank
16. Evanvil Kiplimo – National Bank
17. Boniface Otieno – National Police Service
18. Sammy Kanyi – Directline Ansurance
19. Chris Katiwa – Directline Ansurance
20. Dr. Eric Manga – Institute of Development Studies
21. Philip Dinga – Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance
22. Samuel Musumba – National Transport and Safety Authority
23. Mildred Njoroge – National Transport and Safety Authority
24. Robert Muthami – Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – Kenya Office
25. Vivienne Kigondu – Friedrich Ebert Stiftung – Kenya Office
26. Christopher Kost – Institute for Transportation and Development (ITDP)
27. Samuel Ndegwa – Komiut/Safetek Systems Limited
28. Millicent Gichimu – Komiut/Safetek Systems Limited
29. James Githua – Komiut/Safetek Systems Limited

The roundtable discussion focused on the following thematic areas:

- i) The state of the matatu sub-sector in Kenya; Existing legal framework, challenges, and opportunities.
- ii) Re-imagining the future of public transport in Nairobi; repositioning PSV Saccos/Companies for an inclusive, safer and cleaner mobility.
- iii) A panel discussion that looked into different approaches towards a re-imagined socially just public transport/mobility in Nairobi. The different approaches include technologies, planning approaches, shifting norms and practices, new mobility and financing.

The State of Matatus sub-sector in Kenya

The participants highlighted some of the pressing issues in the sector that require urgent attention. Financing of the sector is highly individualized and loan recovery and repayment is a major issue for financing institution. Lack of safety and service standards has made the sector a high-risk investment. Bribery and extortion due to cash collection of fares. Over regulation of the sector with several government entities regulating the sector. Congestion due to high number of vehicles operating from a limited space. Pollution due to emissions from old vehicles. The sector has failed to adopt technology to enhance efficiency. Poor customer service due to tough working conditions for workers in the sector. Workers labour rights are non-existent with many working without social protection. Finally lack of government incentives to support the sector.

The Sacco/Company model was scrutinized and it was found to have not achieved its intended purpose of formalizing and self-regulating the sector. The informality of the sector has continued to negatively affect the employment of workers, safety and quality of service to passengers and the level of compliance by the operators. There is need to rethink the model by reviewing the legal framework, and building the capacity of the operators through training and partnerships.

Re-imagining the future of public transport in Nairobi

On re-imagining the future of public transport in Nairobi, the participants underscored the importance of adopting the five pillars of socially just public transport. The pillars include:

- i. Available – Public transport that is available to all.
- ii. Accessible and affordable – public transport that is safe, accessible and affordable for all
- iii. Inclusive – Public transport that does not leave anyone behind
- iv. Human rights and equity – public transport that non-discriminatory, promotes decent work, and covers all areas including informal areas
- v. Sustainable – public transport that conserves the environment and meets the needs of future population.

Approaches towards a re-imagined socially just public transport

The panel discussion emphasized the need to build the capacity of the sector to embrace technology, new planning approaches, shifting the norms and practices, and embracing new mobility approaches. For the sector to embrace the changes envisioned and incorporating principles of a socially just public transport in their operations, a new partnership with all stakeholders is necessary and establishment of financing model to support the sector. A financing



model that is pegged on the operators adopting sustainable mobility principles and investing in clean bigger, safe and environmentally friendly buses.

Way forward

- i) Continuous engagement with all stakeholders to build strong partnerships
- ii) Intensive training and capacity building for matatu operators to establish professionally managed bus operating companies.
- iii) A new financing mechanism that builds the capacity of the Saccos.