



FINAL REPORT OF NAPTA PARATRANSIT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

The Para-transit Roundtable Discussions was held on the 11th October 2022 at Hilton Hotel – Nairobi from 9:00 AM – 1:00PM.

The participants were drawn from various stakeholders in the Para-transit sub-sector. They included PSV Sacco officials, company directors, workers unions’ representatives and government agencies. In total thirty (30) people participated in the discussions.

The objective of the Roundtable Discussions was to explore ways of working with the sub-sector through a catalytic project that is founded on the Socially Just Public Transport Working Group principles and approaches.

The first session begun with a brief about Socially Just Public Transport Working Group: Genesis, approaches and the Five Pillars by Dr. Eric Manga of the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Nairobi. The participants were able to understand the context within which the roundtable discussions were being held and that the final objective was how to make the Para-transit sub-sector socially just.

Mr. Charles Aholi gave an overview of the Matatu Sub-sector in Kenya based on the findings of the Para-transit needs assessment study that was done in the first half of 2022. The objective was to highlight the different policies that have been implemented in the sector, what has been there impact in addressing the challenges experienced in the sector.

The second and final session involved a panel discussion. The Panel was comprised of Dr. Eric Manga, Senior Fellow at the Instituted of Development Studied of the University of Nairobi, Senior Superintended of Police Mr. Boniface Otieno, NTSA Deputy Director for Road Safety Mr. Samuel Musumba, Nairobi City County Gender Officer Mrs. Mercy Wanjohi, Mr. Maurice Oduori, Public Transport Workers Rights Activist at Killeton Sacco, and Mr. Joseph Nderitu Chairman of The Public Transport Operator Union. The panelists elucidated at length about the different issues in the Para-transit sub-sector ranging from what the government is doing to improve the Paratransit sub sector, ensuring gender balance in service provision in the sector, implementation of key policies on workers’ rights in the sector, and the need for government to incentivize the sector to reduce operational costs in order to realize a socially just Para-transit sub –sector.

The participants dissected the issues and the following were the agreed deliberations:

- i) The civil societies working in the sector together with other professionals need to work together to champion a socially just public transport, highlighting the need for strong leadership in the sector.
- ii) Support for Para-transit Saccos and Companies is needed in order to make them centers of excellence in Public transport management to improve quality of service for the benefit of passengers, workers and the investors.

- iii) To achieve a socially just public transport, training of drivers and workers is essential. NTSA confirmed to be reviewing the driver training curriculum. It will be important to incorporate the principles of a socially just public transport.
- iv) There is need to improve relations between the police and the workers in the industry to mitigate on corruption, harassment and intimidation of Para-transit workers.
- v) There is need to address the overregulation in the Paratransit sector occasioned by numerous government agencies and this propagates corruption. The Nairobi City County representative confirmed that the Nairobi Governor had initiated the process of setting up a single committee to bring together all government agencies working on transport. Furthermore, the Nairobi County Transport and Safety Committee is in the process of being set and will include all key stakeholders.
- vi) There is need to have an all-inclusive public transport system that takes care of everyone especially the most vulnerable ones.
- vii) All stakeholders should be adequately involved in government decisions that touch on Para-transit.
- viii) Cross city routes should be re-introduced to reduce waiting time and time spend on the road as well as reduce pollution.
- ix) Government and stakeholders in the sector to appreciate social justice and incorporate its values in decision making and planning of public transportation.
- x) The Para-transit sector to embrace and encourage innovation and push for policy changes for sustainability.
- xi) The pillars of Socially Public Transport should be anchored in law through a Public Transport Act for the stakeholders to be held accountable to ensure there implementation.

The participants appreciated the organizers of the roundtable and suggested that they have more of such to act as a platform for the sector to ventilate on issues affecting them and to hold government agencies accountable. The forum was highlighted as a place of knowledge sharing on key issues in the sector. In conclusion, the roundtable was successful.