



## **EFF STATEMENT ON THE PERENNIAL FAILURE OF THE SHOSHOLOZA MEYL TRAINS TO OPERATE DUE TO COLLAPSE OF PRASA**

Friday, 08 December 2023

The Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) notes, unsurprisingly, the failure of the newly reinstated Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) run Shosholoza Meyl trains to reach its destinations after its relaunch.

Earlier this month, PRASA announced that the Shosholoza Meyl would resume its Johannesburg to Durban and Cape Town route starting from December 6, just in time for the festive season.

The train, which provides vital passenger rail services across South Africa, had been non-operational since 2022 “due to operational and network infrastructure issues.”

However, the resumption of the train service came to a grinding halt, as the Johannesburg route was filled with delays and characterised by incidences of stopping while en route due to technical issues, and those on board had to complete their journeys via busses.

These technical issues were said to be due to the theft of overhead cables, however, this is unacceptable as the Railway Safety Regulator (RSR) requires a line test before each trip. Therefore PRASA either did not perform the line test or they are being entirely dishonest, proving poor planning and chronic incapacity on their part.

This is unsurprising, however, considering PRASA has a proven track record of neglect, inability to maintain infrastructure, and utter disregard for the vital service they are meant to provide to South Africans. The collapse of the railway infrastructure of this country has now affected thousands of South Africans who ought to be heading home for the festive season.

As a result, the EFF, as the champion of the working class and the poor masses who rely heavily on public transportation for their daily commutes, is deeply concerned by the disservice being done to commuters.

With the Shosholozza Meyl out of service, many travellers are forced to resort to expensive and often unsafe alternative forms of transportation, such as taxis and buses, further straining their limited finances.

As a result, the EFF, through our lawyers on 6 November 2023 wrote to the Minister of Transport Sindisiwe Chikunga demanding she immediately provide answers to the following:

1. Why has the Shosholozza Meyl been non-operational for nearly a year?
2. What concrete plans are in place to resume train operations and ensure their continued functionality?

The EFF further warned that failure to respond to these demands by Thursday, 9 November 2023, at 5:00 PM would result in legal action against the Minister of Transport.

Following the disastrous situation concerning the Shosholozza Meyl, the EFF reserves the right to pursue legal action against the Minister, and will not rest until the Shosholozza Meyl service is completely restored.

The EFF remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring accessible and affordable transportation for all South Africans. We will not tolerate the continued neglect of vital public services by the ANC government which have led to rises in unemployment and worsening conditions for the already poor.

**ISSUED BY THE ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS**

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