



BUS RAPID TRANSIT IN NAIROBI

A TRADE UNION
GUIDE FOR
MATATU
WORKERS



OUR
PUBLIC
TRANSPORT



WHAT IS BUS RAPID TRANSIT?

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a public transport system designed to improve capacity and reliability in our cities.

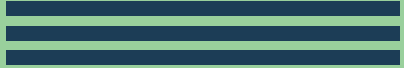
It is based on dedicated road lanes that cannot be used by vehicles other than large buses operated by the BRT company. Some BRT buses carry up to 250 people.

BRT involves building new roads, interchanges, terminals and modern stations along the routes.

All over the world, cities like Nairobi are encouraged by the World Bank and national governments to adopt BRT. They believe that BRT will ease congestion, increase efficiency, and reduce air pollution.



WHAT DOES BRT LOOK LIKE?



This is BRT in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, under construction:



And in operation:



WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN NAIROBI?

We do not yet know for sure, but five BRT lines are being proposed:

- Kangemi – Imara
- Bomas – Ruiru
- Njiru – Show Ground
- Mama Lucy – T-Mall
- Balozi – Imara.

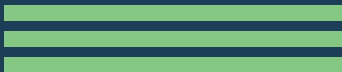
The authorities will want to see matatus removed from these routes.

There may be opportunities for some matatus to continue operating on routes away from BRT, and on “feeder routes” taking passengers to and from BRT terminals and stations.

There will be new opportunities to work for BRT, but it is likely that many more jobs in the matatu industry will be at risk.



WHAT DO WE WANT?



We want to see a modern, efficient, environmentally-friendly and affordable passenger transport system, for the benefit of all, rather than for the profits of a few.

We want all transport workers in Nairobi to have decent pay and conditions, respect for their rights, with access to training and a fair opportunity to apply for the new BRT jobs.

We want to see fairness and justice for the tens of thousands of us dependant on the matatu industry, who may be at risk of losing our livelihoods.

We want to see an end to the corruption and harassment from authorities found throughout the transport system.

MOST OF ALL, WE WANT MATATU WORKERS TO HAVE A STRONG VOICE IN THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF BRT.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Vehicle owners and SACCO bosses are already being consulted on the introduction of BRT.

No one knows the problems of transport in Nairobi as well as the matatu workforce, but we have no voice.

We must become organised in democratic trade unions.

We are stronger together than we are on our own. By coming together in a trade union, we are a powerful voice for change; we cannot be ignored.

JOIN A TRANSPORT WORKERS' UNION.

Anyone who depends on matatus for a living can join. Everyone has a right to be in a trade union.



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WHO SUPPORTS US?



Kenyan transport unions are members of the International Transport Workers Federation (ITF).

The ITF is the world-wide federation for workers in the transport industry, with more than 700 unions affiliated, representing over 16 million transport workers from 150 countries.

The ITF is assisting the Matatu Workers Union (MWU), the Public Transport Operators Union (PUTON), and the Transport and Allied Workers Union (TAWU) to represent matatu workers, particularly to ensure that the workers' voice is heard in planning BRT in Nairobi.

HOW DO I JOIN A UNION?

PUTON

General Secretary: Fenus Okonji

Contact: +254 720 316 876

Public Transport Operators Union

P.O. Box 780056,

Nairobi, Kenya

Kamunde Road off outer ring road

Kipanga Building, 1st Flr, East Wing

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