

AVIS INTRODUCES Accessible Transport Solution

In recognising that Avis caters for a wide ranging transport solution to the public, one remaining and important segment of their customer base required attention. As a result Avis has introduced an Accessible Transport Solution in the form of a customised Toyota Quantum to its Avis Chauffeur Drive Division. The Quantum, the first of more to come, has an hydraulic side-lift that assists passengers in their wheelchairs onto a customised platform alongside the vehicle allowing easy access and exit opportunities.

Avis chief executive, Wayne Duvenage, says the Quantum can accommodate three passengers in wheelchairs and six seated passengers. "The service is offered as part of the Avis Chauffeur Drive suite of products and drivers have been specifically trained to operate the lift and ensure all passengers are secure." he says.

The vehicle is currently available in Gauteng, but Duvenage says the service will roll out to the other provinces as the market gets to know of the product. The lifts are fitted by Skyjacks Wheelchair and Commercial Lifts, which has over 10,000 lifts out on the road and 15 service agents country wide.

Skyjacks sales manager, Neil van Rensburg, says the lifts are manufactured specifically for South African conditions and are constantly being upgraded with the latest technology available.

The Accessible Transporter solution complements Avis' existing range of vehicles that are permanently fitted with hand controls. "Being able to ensure the mobility of people with physical challenges forms part of our "Avis Cares strategy" and reinforces our brand promise that "People and more important than cars", says Duvenage.

In addition to its vehicles with permanently fitted with hand controls, Avis has additional temporary hand control units that can be fitted to vehicles on request.