

REFINISHING

# SCRATCH MOBILE TAKES FLIGHT

Scratch Mobile is the fourth panel shop to be supported by Alexander Forbes and Guard Risk in their 'Adopt a Shop' initiative - aimed at transforming the vehicle repair industry in South Africa. Pritesh Ruthun attended the official launch



Some of the guests and dignitaries at the launch ceremony.

South Africa's first airport-based dent removal outlet opened last month at the OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg. Scratch Mobile is the fruit of much hard work by co-owners and operators Ntuthuko Shezi and Nhlanhla Mbele.

Scratch Mobile was founded in 2006, and served as a stepping stone towards creating the first scratch and dent removal operation within an airport precinct.

This means that you can have your vehicle pampered and repaired while you travel, and upon your return the mended vehicle will be ready for collection.

The convenience of having all the dents and scratches removed from your vehicle while you're in Durban or Cape Town on business for the day is certainly very attractive. You will no longer need to book your car into a traditional panel beater outlet;

hence there is no need to arrange a courtesy vehicle, while your vehicle is repaired in record time. Also, Scratch Mobile operates on a 24-hour basis.

"We realised that the only time people don't need their cars is when they fly out of town for a day or two," says Shezi. Shezi and Mbele felt that if they located a boutique panel shop at Oliver Tambo airport, they would be able to repair cars at the one



The paint mixing room is fully stocked at Scratch Mobile.



Scratch Mobile staff pose with one of their vehicles.



Scratch Mobile's preparation area at the OR Tambo facility.

time that it was not an inconvenience for the owners to be without their wheels.

Jabulani Khambule, Retail Manager at the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA), explained that, "when Ntuthuko and Nhlanhla approached us with this idea we immediately recognised the value of this service to the thousands of people who use our airport and car park facilities on a daily basis."

Moeketsi Wa Mitane, President of the National African Association of Automobile Service Providers NAAASP added that, "as a repair concept new to South Africa, this is an ideal empowerment vehicle for the South African auto repair industry."

Wa Mitane was also delighted that Alexander Forbes and Guard Risk had, yet again, come on board as empowerment partners - providing expertise and financial support to Scratch Mobile.

Scratch Mobile is the fourth panel shop to be supported by Alexander Forbes and Guard Risk in their 'Adopt a Shop' initiative - aimed at transforming the vehicle repair industry in South Africa. More panel shops, in other parts of the country, are being prepared for launch later in 2009.

The secure store room houses tools and consumables.

