



Address: 208-212 Rahima Moosa Street
Marble Towers, 5th Floor, Office Number 09-12
Tell: 011 338 9077/8
Fax: 011 338 9088
Email: vusi@detawu.org.za
Website: www.detawu.org.za

DEMOCRATISED TRANSPORT LOGISTICS AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OFFICE OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

PRESS RELEASE

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DETAWU STILL AGGRIEVED AS GREYHOUND COMES BACK INTO OPERATION

Democratised Transport Logistics and Allied Workers Union (DETAWU) is still aggrieved and questions why nothing was done to save Greyhound from winding down last year, only to see it relaunch merely a year after its closure.

Shock waves reverberated throughout the industry when KAP Industrial announced it would be shutting down Greyhound operations in February 2021, leaving some 700 employees jobless after 37 years in operation. KAP Industrial claimed that Covid-19 had impacted the business financially and it could not sustain operations.

But on Wednesday, the new owners of the luxury bus liner announced that Greyhound busses would be back on the road on 13 April, merely a year after its closure.

The new owners have also chosen not to rename the long haul bus operator precisely because Greyhound is a reputable longstanding brand.

This calls to mind the questions DETAWU raised a year ago, questioning the rationale for shutting down instead of opting for business rescue or selling the business as a going concern along with the workforce to safeguard jobs. It is evident that securing a going concern buyer would not have been difficult given Greyhound's standing in the industry.

It is also peculiar that the new owners are opting to remain anonymous; who would not want to be associated with a brand of Greyhound's stature?

News of Greyhound's relaunch merely a year after its closure reaffirms our initial stance, more so as the new owners intend to expand the operation's routes and fleet. It prompts the question, why couldn't KAP Industrial do the same?

Some 700 jobs were lost when the business shut down last year; now the new owners say they will be employing 200 people. However, there is no attempt to absorb the workers who lost their jobs during the shutdown. Those workers will remain unemployed as the company they gave years of their lives to takes to the road once again. It is a sorry state of affairs.

DETAWU approached the Labour Court last year to challenge the dismissal of workers on both a substantive and procedural basis. However, the case is still pending.

DETAWU reiterates its position; we will stop at nothing to ensure that workers are compensated for the hardship they endured as a result of KAP Industrial's reckless pursuit of profit at the expense of workers' livelihood.

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

Vusi Ntshangase, DETAWU General Secretary, 083 536 0547, yusi@detawu.org.za