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

PRESS RELEASE

17 FEBRUARY 2023

DETAWU DISMAYED ABOUT CONTINUED CARNAGE ON SOUTH AFRICAN ROADS

The Democratised Transport Logistics and Allied Workers Union (DETAWU) is distressed about the continued unabated carnage that on South African roads.

In the latest horrific crash, 22 people lost their lives after a tour bus and a cash-in-transit van collided head-on on the N1 highway in Makhado on Monday.

DETAWU sends its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of those who lost their lives in the collision. We also wish a speedy recovery to all those who sustained injuries in the crash including the driver, who is a DETAWU shop steward.

In light of this latest accident, DETAWU wonders what it will take for government to make policy interventions to ensure that collisions of this nature no longer occur. DETAWU firmly believes government must put policies in place compelling companies to conduct stringent inspections on each and every bus that leaves the depot, to ensure it is mechanically sound and fit to transport passengers, especially on long haul trips. Brake failure and other safety tests should be made a legal prerequisite for long haul trips, in particular. Failure to comply should result in huge fines and cessation of operating licenses.

The policy interventions should also compel drivers to attend refresher courses to make doubly sure that passengers and other road users reach their destinations safely. Enacting strict policy measures will also aid successful prosecution of culprits regardless of whether they are bus company owners or their drivers. Without appropriate policy interventions we will continue to tally the number of fatalities that will in turn continue unabated. DETAWU calls on government to learn from this latest and other horrific accidents and take action.

DETAWU, through its Limpopo office will send a delegation to visit the bus driver in hospital on Friday. The union has also written an urgent letter to the Mabirimisa Bus Service, demanding that the company transfer the driver from the public hospital to a private healthcare facility to ensure he receives the best medical care available. The challenges inherent in the public healthcare system in this country are well-documented

and it would be immoral for our member to be subjected to conditions in the public health sector in his current state.

However, it is important to mention that though we sympathies with our shop steward and we will stop at nothing to ensure his rights are not trampled on, we will not stand in the way of authorities conducting the thorough investigation to uncover who was in the wrong. In fact, we call upon law enforcement authorities to leave no stone unturned to uncover the truth; and whoever is found to have been responsible for the collision must face the full might of the law.

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

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