



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 COMMENDS POLICE FOR FOILING CASH-IN-TRANSIT HEIST BUT WARNS MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE

Democratised Transport Logistics and Allied Workers Union (Detawu) is encouraged by the work of the police in foiling the cash-in-transit heist in Rosettenville on Monday but warns that more still needs to be done.

On Friday, the ministry of police released the crime statistics for the fourth quarter of 2021, and noted the number of cash-in-transit heists between October and December 2021 was 60 as opposed to 65 in the same period the year before.

Granted, this is a 7.7% decrease but we feel 60 heists in three months is still too high. For our members who work in the sector, the slight decrease is nothing to celebrate because for them going to work feels like having a target on their back daily. They never know if their cash van will be targeted next.

Detawu commends the police for their robust action on Monday and sends sincere condolences to the family and friends of the officer who was shot and subsequently succumbed to his injuries. We also wish a speedy recovery to the officers who sustained injuries in the fight against crime.

Detawu also urges the police to strengthen their intelligence capability so as to escalate pressure on the culprits and prevent these horrendous robberies before they occur, as they did on Monday. Successful operations such as these should not be sporadic but consistent if this crime is to be eradicated.

We also call on employers in the sector to shift their focus from making exorbitant profits and put measures in place to safeguard lives by doing the following:

- Ensure guards receive rigorous training on a regular basis.
- Provide adequate personal protective equipment. If anything, the events of Monday prove just how heavily armed the robbers are.
- Provide better quality cash vehicles that are unmarked and increase the number of vehicles that escort them.
- Employ technologies such as stain dye to ensure that cash taken from a blown up cash van or safe is not useable.
- Set-up their own internal intelligence departments because often times these robberies are planned with the aid of insider information.

President: Reuben Tjaitjai

General secretary: Vusi Ntshangase

- Employers should introduce comprehensive life cover that correlates to the risk guards are exposed to on a daily basis to ensure their loved ones are taken care of should the worst happen.

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

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

**Praisewell Nsibande, DETAWU National Organiser, 081 209 8543,
praisewell@detawu.org.za**