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

PRESS RELEASE

11 JULY 2021

DETAWU HARSHLY CONDEMNS THE BURNING OF TRUCKS

The Democratised Transport Logistics and Allied Workers Union (DETAWU) condemns in the strongest sense the burning of trucks in Kwa-Zulu Natal as it brings the already ailing road freight industry to the brink of collapse.

This act of criminality also places workers safety and their employment at risk and will undoubtedly affect their already strained mental health due to trauma suffered in previous torchings. Not to mention this will plunge the country's economy further into junk status.

DETAWU calls on all road freight employers not to dispatch trucks to any of the hot spots so as to preserve workers' lives; we also advise our members to rely on the Occupational Health and Safety Act and refuse trips to volatile areas where they could find themselves exposed to danger. DETAWU further urges the Minister of Transport, Fikile Mbalula, and Minister of Employment and Labour, Thulas Nxesi, to not only publicly condemn this despicable act of violence but to also seek a lasting solution to the scourge that has been plaguing the industry in recent years. We also appeal to both minister to devise a financial package that will assist companies hardest hit by this latest bout of truck torching.

It is rather unfortunate, that this latest event has exposed the ineffectiveness of the country's intelligent services as it failed to detect and arrest this obviously coordinated criminal act.

DETAWU is not convinced that the police are systematically and strategically placed to respond effectively to this event because although it is currently localised in Kwa-Zulu Natal, it should not be underestimated as it has the potential to overlap to other provinces. To stamp out this lawlessness before it spreads, we call upon President Cyril Ramaphosa to deploy the South African National Defence Force to reinforce police action and stabilise the situation.

That said, DETAWU commends the police for the dozens of arrests already effected.

We, however, continue to be concerned about the disregard of Covid-19 regulations in the face of the raging third-wave and rising death rate. We urge everyone, including those currently carrying out these criminal acts, to take heed of the regulations and preserve life.

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

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