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

PRESS RELEASE

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DETAWU CALLS FOR TOUGHER ACTION AGAINST LONG HAUL BUS COMPANIES

Democratised Transport Logistics and Allied Workers Union (DETAWU) is calling for tougher action against long haul passenger bus companies after nine people, including a baby, died in a horrific crash in Kwa-Zulu Natal on Tuesday.

DETAWU sends condolences to the family and friends of those who died in the accident and wishes a speedy recovery to the injured.

We are deeply concerned that government does not appear to have a concrete plan on how to curb these tragic accidents that result in massive loss of life. Long haul passenger buses must be inspected on a regular basis to ensure they comply with safety regulations.

We appreciate that bus drivers are often charged with culpable homicide whenever these unfortunate accidents occur.

However, it is grossly unfair that drivers are charged even when there is clear evidence that the accident was due to a mechanical fault. In such cases, the company directors and/or owners should be criminally charged because they are responsible for ensuring vehicles are safe to transport passengers. This will serve as a deterrent and safeguard thousands of lives.

DETAWU calls on the Department of Transport to conduct regular inspection visits to bus company depots to ensure safety regulations are complied with. In addition, the police through the traffic law enforcement officers must conduct aggressive routine checks on public transport vehicles on the road to doubly ensure compliance.

We also call upon employers to ensure that drivers are well-rested before embarking on long trips to avoid fatigue as it impairs concentration, which in turn can cause accidents.

DETAWU is anxious that if no urgent action is taken to curb serious accidents we might see fatalities spike as the festive season approaches.

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

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