

DETAWU SET TO OPPOSE GREYHOUND CLOSURE

The Democratised Transport Logistics and Allied Workers Union (DETAWU) will do everything in its power to oppose any attempt to close down long haul bus operator Greyhound.

DETAWU received notification on Monday this week that the company intends to shut its doors forever on 14 February. This is certainly not the gift of love the nearly 700 workers at Greyhound, Magic Transfers and Mega Bus were expecting.

In the letter informing labour of its intention to shutdown, the company cites difficult trading conditions as justification for wiping out 578 jobs at Greyhound South Africa and Zimbabwe; 55 jobs at Magic Transfers; and 60 jobs at Mega Bus Midrand. In the same letter, the company claims it attempted to sell the operation as a going concern but failed. The employer plans to hold the first consultation with labour this Friday, 5 February.

As DETAWU we view the speed at which this process is unfolding as highly suspect. Ordinarily, the company should have taken labour into its confidence at the first sign of trouble. More importantly, the employer should have applied to have the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) facilitate the retrenchment process.

In response to the employer's hurried Section 189 (A) [of the Labour Relations Act] notice, DETAWU has written to the company urging it to apply for CCMA facilitation. In the event the employer fails to do so by Thursday 4 February, then DETAWU will submit its own application.

In addition, we have to question why the company did not opt to go into business rescue when it found itself in financial dire straits. Doing so would have afforded it a real chance to pivot the business, save hundreds of jobs and even sell it as a going concern – if that is what it really intended.

The manner in which this process was handled leaves us questioning if the company is really not economically viable. Is the holding company perhaps using the Covid-19 pandemic as an excuse to offload Greyhound and Magic Transfers?

Whatever the answer, DETAWU will stop at nothing to ensure we halt the closure of this 37-year-old company that transports thousands of passengers across Southern Africa yearly.

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

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