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

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**10 NOVEMBER 2021**

### **DETAWU WELCOMES MOVES TO CHANGE POLICY IN ROAD FREIGHT INDUSTRY**

Democratised Transport Logistics and Allied Workers Union (DETAWU) welcomes the move by government to speed up policy changes in the road freight industry to address the employment of illegal immigrants in the sector.

Minister of Employment and Labour, Thulas Nxesi; Minister of Home Affairs, Aaron Motsoaledi; along with the Deputy Minister of Police Cassel Mathale and officials from the Department of Transport have given their undertaking that policy changes to stem the employment of illegal immigrants in the South Africa road freight industry will be expedited.

DETAWU, however, regrets that government was not proactive on this issue and eventually succumbed to pressure wrought on by wide-spread protests. It is our hope the institutions tasked to deal with this issue including the National Bargaining Council for Road Freight and Logistics Industry, Minister Nxesi's department and the South African Police Service will be capacitated to enforce the mooted regulations, otherwise the policy changes will be as good as wool over our eyes.

We also trust that the employers will be patriotic and carry out the amended regulations; if they do so then we will undoubtedly see a decrease in the number of unemployed truck drivers in the country.

DETAWU believes this new compliance direction will not only result in more foreign drivers joining labour unions, but will also render those who are not affiliated to any union more confident to open cases at the bargaining council and Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration on their own because they would have been legitimately employed. Currently, undocumented immigrants endure the worst kind of exploitation at the hands of unscrupulous bosses because they fear losing their jobs.

Going forward, we call upon government to be more proactive in its stance and take corrective action without being pushed. Acting only when coerced will promote anarchy in the country.

Lastly, DETAWU looks forward to the legal processes that will ensure related labour laws such as Basic Conditions of Employment and Immigration Act are assessed and aligned to ensure optimum compliance. We also urge government to consider including stiff penalties for employers who do not comply with the anticipated policy changes.

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