

# ***Golden Arrow Bus Services (Pty) Ltd***

**Media Release**

**(No 13001)**

## **TWEEDE NUWE JAAR TRANSPORT DELAYS**

Golden Arrow Bus Services (GABS) would like to take this opportunity to clear up the large amount of misinformation surrounding the transport delays for the *Tweede Nuwe Jaar* celebrations.

The company has always recognised the cultural importance of this iconic event and has enjoyed a long association with the organisers. Given that *Tweede Nuwe Jaar* is a normal working day and that Golden Arrow operates a normal scheduled service, the company made it clear that it would not be able to assist with a regular bus hire as we would not be able to allocate drivers. The organisers assured the company that they had suitable drivers (employed by GABS and currently on annual leave) lined-up and that this kind of special voluntary arrangement would be the ideal solution.

This has worked well previously given that many suitable drivers who are on leave are associated with individual troops in some way and are happy to volunteer their services for this kind of hire. This arrangement also has significant cost-saving benefits for the organisers. Throughout our interactions with organisers we made it clear that Golden Arrow would be responsible for providing the buses themselves but that arrangements would have to be made by the hirers with individual GABS drivers.

Through all of this Golden Arrow has acted in good faith and with the best of intentions and it is extremely disappointing to read official statements stating otherwise. The company is investigating why the volunteer drivers did not arrive as agreed but it must be said that the company was not made aware at any time that the drivers did not intend to operate as agreed with the hirers. Once we became aware of the problem we acted as quickly as possible to arrange for scheduled drivers to assist with the transport. Given the manner in which this unfortunate situation has played out Golden Arrow will have to seriously reconsider whether it would be willing to make special arrangements of this kind in future.

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Date: 3 January 2013

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