

Golden Arrow Bus Services (Pty) Ltd

Media Release

(No 13007)

STRIKE UPDATE

Golden Arrow Bus Services would once again like to offer its most sincere apologies to all the commuters whose lives have been disrupted by the on-going national bus industry strike. It is extremely unfortunate that no resolution seems to be in sight after almost two weeks, given the repeated attempts by the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) and the General Secretary of the South African Road Passenger Bargaining Council (SARPBAC) to bring an end to the industrial action. It would seem that the decisions taken around the wage dispute are not necessarily those of all the workers involved in the transport industry given the harsh realities and sacrifices associated with industrial action.

In this case it is not only the commuters who suffer but also the workers who are not receiving any wages for the duration of the strike action. Golden Arrow has therefore asked the Commuter Bus Employers Association (COBEA) to urgently approach the national ministers of transport and labour to seek their intervention in what is a matter of national importance.

It should also be noted that the ability of bus companies across the country to meet unreasonable double-digit demands is in many cases linked directly to government contracts and financial allocations. Golden Arrow workers are generally well remunerated and the company pays more than the minimum wages set by the Bargaining Council. In this light, an 18% increase is simply not feasible.

Despite the lack of progress thus far, Golden Arrow remains hopeful that the unions involved in the wage dispute will approach the bargaining table with realistic expectations and in the spirit necessary to find a resolution.

Golden Arrow will continue to do its utmost to keep the public informed of any new developments.

Issued by: ME Magida, Human Resources Executive

Media enquiries: Bronwen Dyke
(021) 507 8801

Date: 2 May 2013

