

Golden Arrow Bus Services (Pty) Ltd

**Media Release
(No 14004)**

INCREASING ACTS OF VANDALISM OF GREAT CONCERN TO GABS

Golden Arrow is extremely concerned by the recent upsurge in acts of violence, vandalism and arson directed towards our buses. Since the end of May, five of our buses have been set alight (in Khayelitsha and Samora Machel) and there have been daily stoning incidents in various areas.

To put these incidents into perspective; a single stone thrown at a bus can have fatal consequences. The family of one of our drivers lost a loving father and husband when cowards threw stones at the bus he was driving in 2012. Homes were destroyed when his bus ploughed into a number of shacks. Setting a bus alight can go horribly wrong in so many ways. These are not victimless crimes and yet they are being committed with impunity.

Every bus that is damaged or destroyed must be repaired or replaced and since Golden Arrow is a private company these costs are then inevitably passed on to passengers. This is an unnecessary burden on the company and our passengers.

We are working closely with the South African Police Services and will be appealing to them to increase their presence in known hotspots. Increased manpower has been allocated from our side in order to monitor and divert buses where necessary but this is not viable in the long term. This threat to our staff and passengers cannot simply be allowed to continue.

Golden Arrow would therefore humbly request that anyone with any information regarding the perpetrators of recent incidents of vandalism and arson please report these to the police as soon as possible. We would also ask community members to spread the word that Golden Arrow buses should be allowed to operate without being targeted because these buses are carrying neighbours, friends and family who are just trying to get home or to work.

ENDS

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