

MEDIA RELEASE

PSA demands urgent investigation into attacks on bus services in Mpumalanga

DATE

4 February 2025

EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association (PSA) strongly condemns the recent violent attacks on *PUTCO* bus services in the Nkangala region of Mpumalanga, which resulted in the destruction of 51 buses and injuries to security personnel.

Reports indicate that three groups of assailants overpowered security guards at separate *PUTCO* depots, setting fire to multiple buses. The attacks in different areas, with 16 buses being destroyed in Moloto, 18 in Maphotla, and 17 in Thanane, Siyabuswa. During the incidents, a security guard was shot in the leg, whilst another was assaulted. Both victims required hospitalisation.

The PSA is deeply concerned about the devastating impact of these criminal acts on the Nkangala community, particularly in rural areas where thousands of residents rely on these buses for daily transportation to work and essential services. The destruction of these buses will significantly disrupt livelihoods and economic activities in the region.

The South African Police Service has confirmed the arrest of two suspects, and investigations are ongoing. The PSA calls for an expedited and thorough investigation to ensure that all perpetrators are swiftly brought to justice. The safety of public transport users and employees must be a priority, and law enforcement agencies must take decisive action to prevent further threats to such essential services. The PSA urges the authorities to prioritise this matter, reinforce security measures, and restore safe and reliable public transport in the affected areas.

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