



dcs&tm

Department:
Community Safety & Transport Management
North West Provincial Government
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

Third Floor, Tirelo Building
Albert Luthuli Drive
Mafikeng, 2745
P/Bag X 19 Mmabatho 2735
Tel: +27 (18) 200 811

MEC Motlhabane concerned about vandalism of learner transport buses

Community Safety and Transport Management MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane condemns vandalism of contracted learner transport buses by the learners in the province.

The MEC's concern came after the recent incident where learners of Blydeville in the Ditsobotla Municipality vandalized the scholar transport bus that was recently contracted by the department to transport them to school.

"This bus transport learners from their residence in Blydeville to Boikhutso Village, were their school is. The arrangement was made since there is no high school in Blydeville and many of these learners had to walk long distances to the nearest school.

"What saddens the department is that this operation has not been very long in the area, it's only been a month in operation but already been vandalised.

The operation came recently as an intervention after the community demanded the service which we have since acceded to. Through the involvement of the Ditsobotla Local Municipality and the Department of Education and Sport Development, we then made means to introduce an operator here.

"Again in recent weeks, learners from Welverdien in the same area of Ditsobotla also protested and demanded learner transport operation after the operator who was contracted by the department withdrew his services in the area following continuous vandalism of his bus.

"When the service provider wilfully terminated his contract with us due to continuous vandalism of his bus, the department had to start the procurement processes of appointing another service provider.

It was notably disturbing that the same learners who led the previous service provider to terminate his contract, have now ran to the media and claimed not to be attending school because they don't have transport, whereas they are the ones that drove the service provider away," retorted a distraught Motlhabane.

The MEC said if learners and communities continue with this kind of behaviour, the department will end up struggling to get learner transport service providers in certain areas of the province. "No one will allow his property to be damaged especially deliberately. We humbly request our learners to behave and stop these strange acts of vandalism," said Motlhabane.

The Department continues to be committed to provide learner transport service to learners traveling more than 7km to schools across the province.

-END-

"Together We Move Bokone Bophirima Province Forward"



Enquiries : Thabo Sematle (Director Media and Communications)

Cell : 082 091 5211/ [078 456 6351](tel:0784566351)

Email : tsematle@nwpg.gov.za

nwcommsafety@nwpg.gov.za

Facebook : Communicators CommSafety

Twitter : @ nwpgCommSafety