

**MEDIA RELEASE**

PSA applauds Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety officials for preventing potential N1 tragedy

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EMBARGO

None

ENQUIRIES

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The Public Servants Association of South Africa (PSA) commends officials from the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety, particularly members of the Polokwane Traffic Control Centre (PTCC), for their decisive and professional intervention that prevented a potentially catastrophic road incident on the N1 highway.

On Sunday, 19 January 2026, PTCC officers during a routine compliance operation near Polokwane, intercepted an unroadworthy bus travelling from Malawi to Gauteng. A thorough inspection revealed multiple serious violations that posed a direct and imminent threat to the safety of passengers and other road users.

According to the Department's spokesperson, the bus was operating with a copied licence disc that did not correspond with the vehicle's VIN number. This operating licence had expired in July 2025, and alarmingly, two wheels were missing from its driving axle, rendering the vehicle extremely unsafe for public transport use. The driver and operator were detained for further investigation and are expected to face legal action.

The PSA believes that this intervention exemplifies the critical role played by traffic and law-enforcement officials in safeguarding lives on South Africa's roads. The interception of this vehicle averted a potential tragedy, particularly given the long-distance nature of the journey and the number of passengers involved.

The PSA reiterates the Union's call for continued investment in traffic enforcement capacity and resources. Strong cross-border cooperation is required to curb the operation of unroadworthy and illegally permitted public-transport vehicles, with firm consequences for operators who prioritise profit over human life.

The PSA salutes the commitment, vigilance, and professionalism of the PTCC officers and all officials involved. Their actions reflect the highest standards of public service and demonstrate the tangible impact of effective law enforcement on road safety.

END

