



# transport

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Department:  
Transport  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**Date: Wednesday, 14 March 2018**

**To: All Media**

**Attention: News Editors / Transport Reporters**

**For Immediate Use**

### **MINISTER OF TRANSPORT CONDEMNS ACTS OF VIOLENCE, INTIMIDATION AND SABOTAGE TARGETTED AT METRORAIL SERVICES IN THE MAMELODI TO PRETORIA CORRIDOR**

The Minister of Transport, Dr. Blade Nzimande, has learnt with shock and dismay of the violent incidents of Tuesday, 13th March 2018, where a Metrorail train running between Piennarspoort and Pretoria was targeted by criminals who assaulted a female train driver and peddled the train with stones.

Minister Nzimande denounces all acts of violence, malicious damage to public property and intimidation targeted at PRASA-Metrorail Trains and its personnel.

In recent weeks, PRASA's Metrorail has suffered a series of senseless assaults to staff, train hijackings and other attacks in the Mamelodi corridor. More than ten (10) employees were attacked in a period less than a week with more than six (6) trains withdrawn from service.

"These despicable acts cannot be allowed in our democracy, where individuals with underhand motives undermine government efforts and commitment to modernise rail services in our country. We will not allow anyone to turn our rail network into a fertile ground for criminality," warned Minister Nzimande.

"These acts of deliberate destruction are condemned and law enforcement agencies will continue to work hard to arrest all the perpetrators of this senseless destruction of property, criminality and sabotage," emphasised Minister Nzimande.

Minister Nzimande said that he is extremely concerned about the impact that these acts of criminality have on thousands of commuters who rely on trains to commute from home and work on a daily basis.

The Minister said that PRASA will conduct an in-depth investigation into the nature, extent, and severity of these recent acts of contempt.

“I have already begun engagements with stakeholders and concerned citizens on the challenges that are facing PRASA. Over and above that, together with the relevant provincial MECs, I will convene a gathering of key stakeholders as a matter of urgency, thoroughly to engage on this matter, and come up with concrete proposals on how to deal with this situation at once. The Minister of Police, will also be part of these engagements”, said Minister Nzimande.

Members of the public are called upon to be vigilant and report any acts of lawlessness, to the nearest Police Station or to report such incidences by calling the 0860010111.

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