

■ SAFETY

Officers to patrol buses

City law enforcement signs accord with Golden Arrow Bus Service to protect passengers

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THE City's law enforcement has signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Golden Arrow Bus Service (GABS) to ensure a safer environment for passengers.

The MOA is set to pave the way for law enforcement officers to do duty on buses.

The mayco member for safety and security JP Smith, said the appointment of 20 law enforcement officers was made possible by the City's Expanded Public Works Programme.

"Apart from ensuring the safety of passengers on GABS buses, officers will also be responsible for the enforcement of the relevant by-laws such as traffic and parking by-laws.

The MOA signed by the City will

see parties working closely in the interests and safety of passengers," Smith said.

The City's law enforcement spokesperson, Wayne Dyason, said law enforcement and GABS intervention would see officers riding with passengers on buses in identified high-risk areas and would provide bus commuters with a sense of security as they travel to their destinations.

Dyason said they were still waiting for GABS to identify their red routes, which the officers will be deployed on. He said orientation training on the bus service would get under way today.

Smith said the officers will liaise closely with passengers so that they can gather information about possible criminal activity, plan accordingly and act swiftly where necessary.

"The MOA will be in place until

February in the hope of reviewing and extending the programme, subject to operational requirements and as agreed upon by both parties," Smith added.

"In this regard the City would like to request passengers to assist officers by informing them of any anti-social behaviour or other activities that could cause a disturbance on buses."

He said the officers will also conduct stop-and-search operations, including random searches at predefined bus stops and shelters.

"To ensure sustainable service delivery, the City will have bimonthly meetings with the GABS to discuss operational efficiency and deliverables as per the MOA," Smith said.

"The effectiveness of the law enforcement programme on GABS buses will be monitored by both parties in

the interests of the safety of passengers.

"This programme will show that the City is always willing to assist in initiatives that will contribute to a safer environment for passengers on and off the road.

"Passengers should support the officers and inform them of any act that could pose a threat to safety on the bus," Smith said.

GABS general manager Derick Meyer said Golden Arrow was optimistic that the new GABS-funded unit will be a success.

"It is our sincere hope that the presence of these law enforcement officers will serve as a deterrent and that the information gathered via the programme will lead to arrests and convictions," Meyer said.

They appealed to the passengers to give the officers their full support.