



**SECURITY: JP Smith**

# **Officers on your bus ride**

By **MONIQUE DUVAL**

**GOLDEN Arrow bus commuters can breathe a sigh of relief as Law Enforcement officers will now officially accompany them on their trips to keep them safe.**

This follows the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), until January 2020, between the City of Cape Town and Golden Arrow following several bus robberies earlier this year.

Mayco member for Safety and Security, JP Smith, says they were approached by Golden Arrow after a series of incidents where armed men held up commuters and robbed them of cellphones and other valuables.

## **Risk**

He says after running a pilot project for the past three months, Golden Arrow has opted to continue the deployment of 20 officers on the routes at risk.

“The appointment of 20 Law Enforcement officers was made possible by the City’s Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP),” explains Smith.

“Apart from ensuring the safety of passengers on GABS buses, officers will also be responsible for the enforcement of relevant by-laws such as Traffic and Parking By-laws.

“The MOA signed by the City will see parties working closely in the interest of the safety of passengers.”

He says officers will be in both uniform and casual clothes to keep an eye out for *skelms*.

They will also conduct stop and search operations at bus stops and shelters.

Golden Arrow general manager, Derick Meyer, says they are optimistic the new unit, funded by them, will be a success and lead to arrests and convictions.

“We appeal to our passengers to give these officers their full support,” he says.