

Curbing crime on Golden Arrow buses

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The deployment of law enforcement officers on Golden Arrow buses has already yielded positive results.

Last month the City of Cape Town and Golden Arrow signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for a law enforcement pilot project in which officers are required to

conduct search and seizure operations on buses and bus termini in the interest of community safety.

A group of 20 officers was appointed through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) in September to patrol buses along routes identified by Golden Arrow Bus Services (GABS). The project is funded entirely by Golden Arrow.

This partnership is in place until February next year.

A statement by the City reads: "To date, officers have made six arrests for various offences, including possession of dangerous weapons, drugs and even a suspect who was caught illegally connecting electricity, as officers were passing by the Freedom Park Informal Settlement near Bishop Lavis.

"Among the items confiscated were a gas pistol, dagga, four knives and a pair of scissors, as well as a bottle of brandy. The minor who was caught consuming the alcohol was also removed from the bus."

Officers have also provided security to passengers and bus drivers on two occasions, where one vehicle had a flat tyre and the other engine problems; and also assisted a motorist who ran out of petrol along AZ Berman Drive.

According to Golden Arrow, passengers have responded positively to the deployment of the unit. "The feedback that has been received from passengers thus far has been very encouraging and we would like to request that passengers continue to provide their full co-operation to the team," said general manager



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PHOTOS: CITY OF CAPE TOWN



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Derick Meyer.

Meyer added that they are thankful for the extra hands on deck: "Golden Arrow Bus Services (GABS) would like to extend our sincere thanks to the Golden Arrow-funded Bus Enforcement Unit team for their sterling work over the last month.

We would also like to thank Mayco member for safety and security JP Smith, for working so closely with us to make this unit a reality."

Meyer said on Wednesday 9 October five suspects were arrested for possession of a prohibited firearm at a bus stop in Philippi East.

"Our operations team and the unit are making great strides and we believe that the project is making a real difference in the fight against crime. We would like to appeal

to our passengers to continue to give their full support to the unit who have their best interests at heart."

Mayco member for safety and security, JP Smith, said: "It's only been a few weeks, and already the officers are making an impact – not only on the buses, but also in general enforcement, and assistance to the public. As they continue to find their rhythm, I have no doubt that the number of successes will increase for the benefit of bus commuters as well as the public in general.

"It is critical that we make public transport a safe and viable option for residents, if we are going to make a serious dent in the paralysing traffic congestion that has become part of life in Cape Town and that is why this partnership between the City and Golden Arrow is so important."