



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORT AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All Media Houses

01 MAY 2026

**MEC MATHYE CONDEMNS BRUTAL ATTACK ON TRAFFIC OFFICER AT N1 YSTERBERG, PRAISES
BREAKDOWN TEAM FOR HEROIC INTERVENTION**

POLOKWANE – Limpopo MEC for Transport and Community Safety, Ms. Violet Mathye, has condemned in the strongest terms the violent and criminal assault of a traffic officer in full uniform by a bus driver on the N1 South at Ysterberg today, 01 May 2026.

The officer was lawfully deployed to manage traffic around the jackknifed abnormal vehicle when he was attacked while executing his duties to protect all road users during this busy Weekend Ya Ma-Workers period.

DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT:

This morning, the officer stopped a bus, carrying school children. The driver ignored the officer's instruction, pushed forward, and forced the officer to step back to protect his life. After the officer stepped off the road and the bus passed, the vehicle was stopped. When the driver alighted, he pushed the officer, accused him of abusing power, and physically attacked him.

MEC Mathye stated:

"This is thuggery of the highest order. You do not push, shove, or fight a traffic officer in uniform. You do not endanger school children because you refuse to obey the law. This behaviour is criminal, cowardly, and will be met with the full might of the law. I am disgusted that on Workers' Day, a day of solidarity, we have a driver attacking the very people deployed to keep workers and children safe."

HEROIC ACTION BY BREAKDOWN TEAM

MEC Mathye expressed profound gratitude to the breakdown operators who were repairing the jackknifed heavy vehicle for immediately intervening to defend the officer under attack.

"While fixing a broken truck under pressure, these technicians chose to protect a public servant. They are true heroes of Weekend Ya Ma-Workers. Their bravery prevented further harm. We thank them for their courage and service to the people of Limpopo."



LEGAL ACTION AND OFFICER WELFARE

The officer arrested the driver at the scene. A case has been opened at Westernburg Police Station for:
Failing to comply with the instruction of a traffic officer in full uniform

Assault

The driver is currently arrested and detained at Westerb Police Station.

The officer sustained injuries on duty. The Department's Employee Assistance Programme has registered an Injury on Duty case. The officer is currently receiving medical treatment at Limpopo Mediclinic.

"We have repeatedly appealed to motorists to be patient and cooperative with officers assisting them. This incident proves why," said MEC Mathye. "Non-cooperation costs lives and leads to violence. Respect the uniform. Respect the law. Or face arrest."

The Department wishes the injured officer a speedy recovery and assures all law enforcement members that their safety is a priority.

Issued by the Limpopo Department of Transport and Community Safety

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. #RespectTheUniform #NoToViolence #ArriveAlive #WeekendYaMaWorkers #MayDay2026



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