



public works,  
roads & transport

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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RHINO BUILDING

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Departement van Openbare Werke,  
Paaie en Vervoer

UmNyango wezemiSebenzi  
yomPhakathi, zeeNdlela nezokuThutha

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## MEDIA STATEMENT NEWS JOURNALISTS / EDITORS 28 JANUARY 2025

### **Subject: MEC Thulasizwe Thomo expresses suspected arson incident at Putco Bus Depot in Moloto**

The Mpumalanga MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Mr. Thulasizwe Thomo, has expressed deep concern regarding the recent fire outbreak at the four Putco Bus Depots in Thembisile Hani and Dr JS Moroka Local Municipalities in the Nkangala District. The incident, which is suspected to have been caused by arson, has resulted in significant damage, affecting over 45 torched buses and parts of the depots structures.

In light of this unfortunate event, MEC Thomo has called upon law enforcement authorities to conduct a thorough investigation to determine the cause of the fire. "This incident is not only a loss for the bus company but also a severe setback for our communities who depend on this public transport service for their daily commuting," said MEC Thomo. "The impact on our residents, particularly in the Nkangala District, cannot be overstated."

The Department is particularly concerned about the effect this destruction will have on passengers who rely on the Putco bus service to access various employment and services across the district. As a result, transport arrangements will need to be prioritized by the company to ensure that commuters are not left stranded.

In response to the situation, MEC Thomo has announced that a site visit and meeting with the executive management of Putco will be scheduled soon. This meeting aims to discuss and to explore ways to minimize disruption to bus services.

"We urge anyone with information regarding this incident to come forward and assist law enforcement," MEC Thomo added. "We must work together as a community to ensure the safety and reliability of our transportation systems." The MEC assures the public that the Department will continue to monitor the situation closely and keep affected communities informed

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