

Nationwide bus strike underway



By Ilse van den Berg

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NEWSWATCH: Chaos is underway as a nationwide bus strike kicks off today across South Africa. About 25,000 bus drivers are on an indefinite strike from today, Wednesday, 12 April 2017, following the collapse of wage negotiations.



“ Reminder: Nationwide [#BusStrike](#) starting today, April 12th 2017. ReaVaya, Putco, MyCiti, Golden Arrow, Gautrain...
<https://t.co/ltSZPQxugg>— IG: SowetoTV (@SowetoTVchannel) [April 12, 2017](#) ”

According to reports, National Union of Metalworkers of SA (NUMSA), along with five trade unions (including Satawu and Towu) representing various bus companies, gave employers a 60-hour notice to strike.

Buses to be affected by the strike include Putco, Mgqibelo, Mayibuye, Buscor, Golden Arrow, Megabus, Mega Express, Bojanala, Gauteng Coaches, Itereleng, Ipelegeng, Atamelang, Autopax, Great North Transport, ReaVaya, Phola Coaches, PAL Bus and Greyhound.

Unions are demanding a 12% wage increase over a one-year deal and improved working conditions, while Numsa itself is calling for a 15% increase.

Alternative transportation

The estimated 500,000 bus commuters are advised to make use of alternative transportation.

According to a report on *The Times*, Brett Herron, Cape Town mayoral committee member for transport, appealed to employers to allow employees to work from satellite offices during the strike.

“ Cape Town - [#BusStrike](#) Noticeably heavier traffic out of the Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha areas - allow extra travel time— Rob Byrne (@TrafficSA) [April 12, 2017](#) ”

“ Bus commuters feeling anxious about the [#BusStrike](#) ... already feeling the effects this morning. [#eNCA](#)

pic.twitter.com/OMHCH22EJ9— Athi Mtongana (@Artii_M) [April 12, 2017](#) ”

“ Bellville bus terminals empty as [#busstrike](#) begins via [@eNCA](#)— SATAWU Media (@SatawuMedia) [April 12, 2017](#) ”

Metro buses operational

Metro buses, however, are apparently operational:

“ Metrobus services will operate as normal on Wednesday, 12 April 2017. Metrobus drivers will not take part in the nationwide bus-strike^TK pic.twitter.com/so1xNAGCsN— City of Joburg (@CityofJoburgZA) [April 11, 2017](#) ”

“ Morning Joburg! Reminder: bus ⚡️ strike starting today, April 12th 2017, affects [@ReaVayaBus](#) and Putco buses. Metro bus fully operational ^NS pic.twitter.com/CjlrRdjZgi— City of Joburg (@CityofJoburgZA) [April 12, 2017](#) ”

Follow the [#BusStrike](#) hashtag on Twitter to keep up to date.

For more:

- [Chaos looms as drivers park buses](#)
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- [Commuters face chaotic morning as bus drivers go on strike](#)
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ABOUT ILSE VAN DEN BERG

Ilse is a freelance journalist and editor with a passion for people & their stories (check out Passing Stories). She is also the editor of Go & Travel, a platform connecting all the stakeholders in the travel & tourism industry. You can check out her work here and here. Contact Ilse through her website here.

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