

Date: 16/03/2023

To **The Hon. Mohammad Anwar HUSNOO**

Vice-Prime Minister • Minister of Local Government, Disaster and Risk Management and Chairperson, National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

To **The Hon. Alan GANOO**

Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail

To **The Hon. Soodesh Satkam CALLICHURN**

Minister of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training.

Dear Sirs,

This is a joint letter and request emanating from employers and the recognised trade union of the under mentioned bus companies.

We are more specifically, employers and employees representatives of the following bus companies.

Employers:

Rose Hill Transport Bus Services Ltd

Triolet Bus Service Ltd

Mauritian Bus Transport Ltd

Employees:

Union of Bus Industry Workers (UBIW), the recognised Union of the above companies.

We write to make a formal proposal to you, in your above-mentioned capacities, to set up a Joint Committee on public transport system in times of disasters. comprising representatives of the Ministry of Local Government, Disaster and Risk Management, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management bodies, Ministry of Land Transport and Light Rail, Ministry of Labour, Human Resource Development and Training, the employers, the recognised unions and any other bodies you deem appropriate.

We are jointly calling for the URGENT setting up of such a Committee whose aim is to:

- (a) reflect and develop proper protocols and measures to be applied to the transport system in times of disasters, including cyclones and torrential rains.
- (b) discuss the provision of safe transportation to be provided to bus transport employees under the supervision of the National Disaster Committee/Special Mobile Force;
- (c) agree on a fair treatment and safety to any transport employee required to be in the first batch of bus transport employees for public transport to be operational in a disaster recovery period

or after a termination bulletin is issued under The Mauritius Meteorological Services-Regulations (Warning) by the Mauritius Meteorological Station;

- (d) consider the treatment and safety to be given to any transport employees required to work while a disaster warning (including cyclone warning class 3 or 4) has been issued and remains in force;
- (e) discuss about the conditions and protocols under which all other employees of public transport are to resume work after a disaster recovery period is officially terminated by the National Crisis Committee, established under The National Disaster Risk Reduction And Management Act 2016 or after a cyclone termination bulletin is issued under The Mauritius Meteorological Services- Regulations (Warning) by the Mauritius Meteorological Station;
- (f) consider the risks involved to work in times of disasters and how to ensure that bus & metro transport employees are covered for any accident, death or hazards while working for public interest;
- (g) discuss any other issues relevant to provision of public transport system in times of disasters.

As the consequences of the climate crisis are worsening and are unfolding in Mauritius, it is both the responsibilities of the State Institutions and all stakeholders of society to design proper adaptation policies and inclusive disaster management protocols.

Given the critical issues raised in this letter, both in terms of the operation of an essential service, such as transport, and in terms of ensuring personal safety, protection of lives and establishing protocols for work conditions in times of disasters, we would very much appreciate if a first joint meeting could be called at the earliest to discuss the basis of our proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Signatures

For Bus Transport Companies



Rose Hill Transport Bus Services Ltd


Triolet Bus Service Ltd


Mauritian Bus Transport Ltd

For Trade Union of Employees

Union of Bus Industry Workers


Saleem Bacsou, President


Alain Kistnen, Secretary


Ashok Subron, Negotiator