



To: All Editors / Sub editors

For immediate release

Press Release

Wednesday, 13 October 2009

Metrorail on high alert after the Piensaarspoort shooting incident

Metrorail has noted the criminal incident that occurred last night at Piensaarspoort train station which left a Metrorail security guard wounded and a commuter seriously injured. The incident was apparently sparked by a group of unruly criminal elements, who in open defiance to the legitimate fare collection process by Metrorail ticket officials, continue to create an unabated disconcerting atmosphere that poses a serious safety risk to the running of normal operations, resorting to criminal actions in their utter disregard for the rule of law and due process.

We are also concerned that such criminality has the ability to compromise the safety not only of our commuters but also our operational staff. We are monitoring the situation closely and conducting a risk assessment exercise to establish if it is feasible to continue operations.

It must be noted that should the security outlook in this corridor remain serious and volatile, Metrorail will not hesitate to suspend its services as we cannot allow the safety of our commuters to be compromised.

Metrorail cannot guarantee services in an environment that continues to expose our assets and staff to unabated criminal threats and the Piensaarspoort section of the Metrorail network, in particular, has witnessed an upswing in illegal and violent commuter actions.

We also appeal to community leaders and stakeholders to take firm action against all those criminal elements who continue to compromise the safety and security of our commuters, staff and assets and to take necessary steps to ensure that incidents of this nature do not recur.

As a contingency, we have deployed additional security personnel in partnership with the SAPS at the station to ensure that we are able to deal with any eventuality.

Issued by:

Metrorail Communications

Enquiries:

Sibusiso Ngomane – Spokesperson

083 557 2499 / 011 774 5085

End.