

Wildcat strike a step in the wrong direction:

Statement by Cllr Nico de Jager – DA spokesman on Transport in Joburg

While the Transport arrangements has been going generally well, with especially many very happy customers around the Park 'n Ride facilities, potential hiccups can be very damaging to the image of the city.

Yesterday's unfortunate behavior of some of the Rea Vaya BRT bus drivers was one such incident. This behavior was the equivalent of "national sabotage" in the face of the country's ability to be a successful host of the World Cup.

The city should treat this behaviour as unforgivable and should this happen again, the saboteurs should be dismissed without a trial or hearing. The reason for the strike given as insufficient warning to the changing shifts is ridiculous. An event of this size cannot be held ransom by ill-conceived games.

What is of even greater concern is that officials who knew about the strike did not inform spectators, instead diverting spectators to the train stations. Radio reports of "no problem" went out leaving spectators to believe all was fine when in fact it was not. Had the strike panned out differently the city would have ended up with egg on its face while the administration would have had to take the blame. Potentially we could have ended up with riots had the situation turned for the worse.

I urge the officials not to make the mistake and stop acting like ostriches with buried heads, pretending everything is fine when it isn't. Should this happen again, spectators should be warned in time that there are delays and to make use of alternatives such as Metro Rail. Better coordination between the transportation department and JMPD would also help ease the situation in terms of traffic regulation.

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