

# **Golden Arrow Bus Services (Pty) Ltd**

**Media Release**

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## **A FIRST FOR SOUTH AFRICA: 20 GABS ELECTRIC COMMUTER BUSES HIT THE ROAD IN CAPE TOWN**

In 2021, when Golden Arrow Bus Services began testing two electric buses, there was a great deal of uncertainty around suitability for the South African commuter bus industry. After intensive testing, international observations and enabled by innovative partnerships, Golden Arrow has taken delivery of the first 20 electric buses which will be followed 100 more buses to be delivered over the course of 2025. The Company has also installed 30 charging units, with two dispensers each, the largest of its kind in South Africa. The charging facility will be expanded to 60 chargers with a total of 120 dispensers during the second half of 2025.

“This is a full circle moment for Golden Arrow, in 1896 we were behind the wheel of the first electric tram in South Africa and now, some 129 years later we are first commuter bus company to introduce electric buses into service at scale,” says Golden Arrow Bus Services Chief Executive Officer Francois Meyer.

“Innovation, backed by data and testing, is key to transforming the South African economy. We believe that this is a key moment not only for Golden Arrow but for the local transport industry. This is an opportunity for businesses across the supply chain to diversify their offerings, embrace sustainable transport solutions and create jobs. This is a historic moment for our country that we can all be proud of,” adds Meyer.

According to Golden Arrow Bus Services Company Engineer, Gideon Neethling, a key takeaway from Golden Arrow’s electric bus journey has been the power of partnerships. “As part of planning for this project, we visited a number of international electric bus operations and the golden thread behind their successes were partnerships with business, government and civil society. We have been engaging with a variety of stakeholders and will be looking to establish further partnerships so that this project can benefit the transport industry and economy,” says Neethling.

120 buses represent over 10% of Golden Arrow’s total fleet and the buses will operate across various routes. The new buses were given a resounding thumbs up by the Company’s passenger forums and feedback from passengers and the public has been overwhelmingly positive thus far.

“As a cornerstone of Cape Town’s public transport system, Golden Arrow Bus Services is leading the way in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by introducing these electric buses into its fleet. In the public transport sector, the shift to electric vehicles is critical to achieving sustainable mobility for commuters and creating economic opportunities and job creation in various sectors of the province. These vehicles also create opportunities for entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized enterprises in the electric mobility sector and takes us closer to achieving our long-term vision to be a net zero emissions, climate resilient and job creating province,” said Isaac Sileku, Western Cape Minister of Mobility.

Issued by: Francois Meyer  
Chief Executive Officer

Media Enquiries: Bronwen Dyke-Beyer  
021 507 8801

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103 Bofors Circle Epping Industria  
PO Box 1795 Cape Town 8000  
Tel. 021 507 8800 email: [information@gabs.co.za](mailto:information@gabs.co.za) Website: <http://www.gabs.co.za>

