



# THE LABOUR REPORT

Catastrophic impact of cable theft costing the economy more than R7 billion per year

## ECONOMY KILLER

**T**he rapid increase in cable theft in recent months has a catastrophic impact on South Africa, costing the economy more than R7 billion per year. State-owned enterprises (SOE's) like Transnet, the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa), Telkom and Eskom have been hit the hardest.

Cable theft is so rife that Government's Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan is at risk. This plan must restore the economy and create jobs after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) recently established a cable theft sub-committee to assist the South African Police Service (SAPS) to find workable solutions between all social partners.

Lisa Seftel, Executive Director of Nedlac, says cable theft cannot solely be resolved by law enforcement authorities; there is also a role for community mobilisation, the private sector and labour to identify shortcomings and provide support.

According to the SAPS the export of copper to countries like India and China is fuelling the demand from international organised crime syndicates.

Steve Harris, General Secretary of UNTU, says the demand for copper can only be stopped if the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC) and the South African Revenue Service (SARS) prohibit the export of scrap metal. This debate is continuing at Nedlac.

"Everyone is acknowledging the devastating impact and talking about cable theft, but President Cyril Ramaphosa has failed to listen to UNTU's



**“Cable theft is hampering the well-being, livelihood, daily operations and economic activity of all South Africans.”**

repeated pleas to deploy soldiers of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to patrol and safeguard the assets of the SOE's that are vital to the country's economy.

"Cable theft is hampering the well-being, livelihood, daily operations and economic activity of all South Africans," says Harris.

Transnet has an average of 650 cable theft incidents per month with an average of 120 km of overhead cable being stolen each month.

Harris says although 600 suspects have been arrested in Transnet alone, none has been sentenced according to the prescribed sentence in the Criminal Matters Amendment Act that came into force from 1 June 2015.

If found guilty of tampering, damaging, or destroying essential infrastructure, the Act allows for a

sentence not exceeding a period of 30 years imprisonment.

Prasa Group Chief Executive Zolani Matthews told Parliament that its plan to make the railway network "vandal-proof" and meet world-class standards, is paralysed by cable theft.

Matthews hoped to have met with National Police Commissioner Khehla Sithole, with the aim to convince the SAPS to bring back the rail police unit. But Sithole decided to rather delegate Deputy Commissioner for Policing Lieutenant-General Fannie Masemola to meet with Matthews to find out "what Prasa's further needs are", as the police were "also providing interventions".

According to Harris, it should not be Matthew's job to convince Sithole or Masemola to do their jobs.

The mandate and functions of the Rapid Rail Police Unit of the SAPS

include rendering of a visible policing service within the rail environment to address safety of commuters, passengers, freight, and the rail transport system; conducting of preventative and reactive policing service within the rail environment; providing of a rapid rail policing service; performing of crime prevention; and crime combating operations in the rail environment.

"The unit has more than 3 232 police officers deployed nationwide, but they are poorly managed and don't have the resources to patrol the railway infrastructure. This is at the heart of the cable theft catastrophe in South Africa," says Harris.

Police Minister Bheki Cele was called in June 2021 to explain to Nedlac why this police unit is dysfunctional but failed to do so.

In September last year Transport Minister Fikile Mbalula announced that Prasa's new security plan will operate in conjunction with other law enforcement ministries and will also include the Hawks, the National Prosecuting Authority, and the various Metro Police Departments.

In March, the Minister launched the People's Responsibility to Protect (PR2P) project of more than R100 million which saw the additional appointment of 9 860 community volunteers and 80 veterans of Umkhonto we Sizwe deployed in 46 rail corridors nationwide.

The PR2P project has now been put on hold due to compliance issues.

Transnet also had to spend millions to acquire security technology, gather intelligence and employ more guards.

"The bottom line is there is no political will to safeguard the railway infrastructure at the cost of the economy," says Harris. 🚩

**650**  
cable theft  
incidents  
per month

**120 km**  
of overhead  
cable stolen  
each month





## Prioritise pension process



**Hendrik Fourie**  
PRESIDENT SAYS

**A** Herculean task lies in front of me as the newly elected Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the Transnet Retirement Fund (TRF) at a critical time in the pension fund industry.

UNTU supports the demands of its members to amend the Transnet Retirement Fund Act which will allow them to make cash withdrawals from their pension savings.

These amendments will follow in the footsteps of the proposed amendments of the Pension Fund Act that is currently being considered by Parliament.

As Chairperson of the TRF I echo the frustrations of workers who have been left waiting while families are suffering under severe financial strain due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

South Africa's unemployment rate surged to 34,4% in August 2021, the highest on a global list of 82 countries monitored by Bloomberg. Yet, Government continues to frustrate the finalisation of the proposed amendment in Parliament.

On the one side, the National Treasury is fiercely opposed to the amendment, arguing that most South Africans have too much debt and do not make enough provision

for retirement.

Ismail Momoniat, Treasury's head of tax and financial sector policy, also said there were "a lot of consequences" in allowing immediate withdrawals, because it would have an impact on gross prospects of other pension fund members.

Presenting a summary of the submissions to the standing committee on finance, Parliament's legal adviser, Noluthando Ntlokwana, said the retirement fund industry was against the proposed amendments to the Pension Fund Act.

Former Finance Minister Tito Mboweni promised to prioritise the process and to meet with the National Treasury to establish where the delays are and to speed up the process. He believed workers should be allowed to make withdrawals, provided that the money is spent responsibly, for example, relieving outstanding bonds.

Three days later Mboweni resigned when President Cyril Ramaphosa announced his cabinet reshuffle.

In the meantime, Government wants to introduce a state pension that will force all South Africans to pay 12% of their earnings into a state-managed fund as part of the Green Paper on Comprehensive Social Security and Retirement Reform published by the Department of Social Development.

The Green Paper was temporarily withdrawn after fierce objections.

As President of UNTU and Chairman of the TRF I will ensure that Fedusa, our affiliated federation, puts pressure on Government at all levels to finalise and implement the amendments. 🇿🇦

## Partner plans just **profit-making**



**Steve Harris**  
FULL SPEED AHEAD

**P**resident Cyril Ramaphosa, you can't have your cake and eat it too.

Under your leadership Government is trying to generate billions of rands from the private sector and international

investors to restore South Africa's state-owned enterprises (SOE's) and its infrastructure that was looted during state capture and stripped bare by criminals since.

But privatisation of any aspect of the SOE's, even if you disguise it as plans to partner with private investors for the expansion of ports or granting third-party access to the country's rail network, boils down to profit-making.

No private company or international investor will invest in state assets funded with taxpayers' money that have been stripped bare by organised crime syndicates because the South African Police Service (SAPS) is unable to combat crime in this unique environment.

They will throw good money after bad.

And no one is unaware of the devastating impact of state capture on SOE's.

In the National Development Plan 2030 published in 2014, it was pointed out that South Africa needs to maintain and expand its transport infrastructure to support economic growth and social development goals.

The plan highlighted the vital role SOE's play in terms of the direct basic services they provide. The population's access to water, electricity, sanitation, and transportation is almost entirely dependent on the state.

One would think that Government will protect all its SOE's and its assets like they protect any other national key point delivering an essential service to the well-being of all South Africans.

This is also the mission of the SAPS: to prevent and combat anything that may threaten the safety and security of any community; investigate any crimes that threaten the safety and security of any community; ensure offenders are brought to justice; and participate in efforts to address the causes of crime.

But because Government turns a blind eye to the fact that the police has lost the war against crime, South Africa will remain one of the most unequal countries in the world with an unemployment rate of 34,4%. 🇿🇦



▲ UNTU Full-time Trade Union Representative Lincoln Visagie visiting UNTU members in Kimberley.



▲ UNTU Executive Council Member Wielligh Meyer visited the leadership of the UNTU Transnet Engineering Koedoespoort Branch to discuss Covid-19 related issues.



▲ UNTU Full-time Trade Union Representative Sonnyboy Mosebedi with UNTU Trade Union Representatives during an UNTU branch meeting in Polokwane.



▲ UNTU Deputy General-Secretary Neels Haasbroek and UNTU Branch Secretary Hannes Oosthuizen of Transnet Engineering in Koedoespoort represented UNTU member Patrick Netsianda in a case of double jeopardy.





▲ Sonja Carstens, Media, Liaison and Communication Officer, with Maria Chonco, National Organiser of UNTU, with hand sanitiser worth more than R50 000 donated by Crème Classique.

>> PHOTOGRAPH: ALEXIUS VAN DER WESTHUIZEN

#UNTUCares

# “Mama UNTU” touches hearts, changes lives

## Chonco’s fulfilling her calling to do God’s work on earth

**U**NTU National Organiser Maria Chonco has always been caring for others, but the Covid-19 pandemic showed her just how dire the situation is in starving disadvantaged communities.

Chonco (54), who is fondly referred to as the mother of UNTU, is based at the Union’s head office in Houghton, Johannesburg. She is also known as Mama Dube by her community.

She was called to action on 14 April 2021 when nine people, including a baby, were killed after a fire ripped through the Kaserne parking garage in Johannesburg.

The parking area has been occupied by poverty-stricken citizens living in shacks when at least a hundred shacks caught fire. Most of the residents managed to escape but lost all their belongings.

“I have been supporting them ever since out of love and to honour my late son, Prince, because this is the work we were doing while he was still alive,” says Chonco.

With the help of Sonja Carstens, UNTU Media, Liaison and Communications Officer responsible for the #UNTUCares-projects, she received a donation of two thousand antiseptic waterless hand sanitisers from Crème Classique, a local beauty product range, to assist this project and other projects Chonco is involved with. The donation is worth R50 000.

According to Michele Louw of Crème Classique, the company started manufacturing hand sanitiser to help with combatting the global Covid-19 pandemic. They decided to donate where there is need.

Louw saw Carstens’ plea for donations of sanitary towels and books for children,

two other projects where #UNTUCares is involved, on social media and offered to sponsor sanitiser.

UNTU is a registered non-profit organisation who cannot make donations of its own as it works with trust funds, the monthly contributions of its members. The Union facilitates help and donations from other parties through its #UNTUCares projects.

Chonco’s community project, Touching Hearts Changing Lives, supports the vulnerable elderly in old age homes by spending time with them and cooking for them monthly. She also supports four disadvantaged families and five orphaned girls out of her salary.

She enjoys the support of her family, the Jeppeshtown Community Forum Leadership, Bambanani Community Development Centre, and her colleagues in spreading love and goodwill wherever she goes.

“I love working with other people and believe in teamwork to tackle any challenge. Together we can achieve so much more. I will not be able to do what I do without the support of Steve Harris, General Secretary of UNTU, and my fellow sisters at the Federation of Trade Unions of South Africa (Fedusa), as I serve in one of the structures called Social Justice Committee (SJC).

“With their help, I have managed to get hold of non-profit organisations who helped to distribute food parcels to starving people even though it is not easy for some of these organisations to assist. I will be happy if I can one day achieve my dream by having a centre where disadvantaged elderly people and the youth can be taken care of – that will fulfil my calling! I will forever continue to do God’s work on earth,” she says. 🌟



## Super support for sanitary towel project

**T**ransnet Train Control Officer Maria Kekana was over the moon with joy when her fellow members and staff of UNTU supported her annual project to donate sanitary towels to underprivileged girls in rural schools in Limpopo.

“I am very grateful. Every little bit helps. At UNTU we are not just members of the most progressive Union in the transport industry. We are also a diverse family who find ways and means to assist and empower each other to improve the lives not only of UNTU members, but of communities,” says Kekana, who is based at Pyramid South in Pretoria.

Her annual project that has been running for years, suffered a massive blow after several individuals who used to support her, were left out of pocket due to the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of Kekana’s contributors were retrenched or their

salaries were cut, or they simply no longer had the money to buy sanitary towels to donate.

Sonja Carstens, Editor of *Labour Report* and Media, Liaison and Communication Officer of UNTU, decided to challenge all UNTU ladies to join forces by donating sanitary towels to Kekana’s project in celebration of Women’s Day on 9 August 2021.

“The theme for this year’s International Women’s Day was Choose to Challenge. As a woman and as a mother of two teenage girls I realise how imperative something so basic as sanitary towels are for all women,” says Carstens.

Kekana started the project after she realised that Government has still not made good of its promise that schoolgirls in their puberty will get free sanitary towels at schools.

Every month thousands of girls nationwide still miss out on schooling because of menstruation. 🌟



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► It is all systems go to finalise technical rehabilitation of the vital passenger routes in Gauteng so that Centralized Traffic Control (CTC's) and Signal Cabins can be migrated into the Gauteng Nerve Centre (GNC) in Kaalfontein, Johannesburg.



# Mission to modernise

At last a silver lining in endless effort to restore Prasa

**P**rasa is on a mission to put its state of the art technology to use by migrating Centralized Traffic Control (CTC's) and Signal Cabins to the Gauteng Nerve Centre (GNC) in Kaalfontein, Johannesburg.

The plan is to restore the key Mabopane-Pretoria-Germiston-Johannesburg-Soweto corridor, a critical corridor to the economy in Gauteng, within the next few months.

The GNC is designed to be able to monitor up to 600 trains per day. With the new technology comes the re-signalling of subprojects, automatic train routing, train tracking and routing, event logging, closed-circuit television (CCTV) access at stations, as well as an error-detection and notification system.

This plan will also see the introduction of the People's Train in the corridor that can transport up to 1 200 passengers in six cars at 120 km/h.

But it is still early days, warns Christopher Ramolotja, acting Manager of the GNC, who started at the centre in July

Christopher Ramolotja



2021 after being at the helm of the CTC in Pretoria North for more than two decades.

There is light at the end of the tunnel with Prasa management appointing experienced and skilled employees within the state-owned enterprise for the first time after they have been overlooked in the past.

Although Ramolotja is excited about and grateful for this "amazing opportunity", he is aware of the responsibility on his shoulders and realises how dependent the progress

of his plan for the GNC is on all the other stakeholders involved to play their part.

Currently the Prasa technical department is rehabilitating the routes after the unprecedented vandalism and theft of rail infrastructure that started in November 2019 but continued throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We are doing everything we can to get Prasa back on track. This is something I have worked for all my life. I am positive that Prasa will provide this vital service to the poor who needs trains, the cheapest form of public transport, to get to work and who cannot afford taxi fares. Restoring Prasa is critical to restoring South Africa's economy and creating more jobs," says Ramolotja.

The onslaught of organised crime syndicates on the rail infrastructure and the impact thereof on Prasa, Transnet and the South African economy in general is so severe that the National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) established a cable theft task team to assist and guide the South African Police Service on what more should be done to win this war. 🏹

► The hub inside the Gauteng Nerve Centre (GNC) in Kaalfontein, Johannesburg.

>> PHOTOGRAPHS: ALEXIUS VAN DER WESTHUIZEN



"We are doing everything we can to get Prasa back on track. This is something I have worked for all my life. I am positive that Prasa will provide this vital service to the poor."



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# Covid-19 vaccine: Your right to decide

South Africa far from achieving herd immunity, virus will never fully disappear

**T**ransnet's decision to embark on vigorous vaccination outreach programmes to employees had employees, who are reluctant to get vaccinated, worried that they might be forced to get it.

With the "Transnet takes a shot for SA" campaign, the state-owned enterprise wanted to show its employees and the South African public that it is fighting at the forefront to combat the spreading of the Covid-19 pandemic by doing its bit to ensure that the country achieves herd immunity before it enters a fourth wave.

Transnet deployed the Transvaco train and held an on-site vaccination outreach at Transnet Engineering Koedoespoort in Pretoria where hundreds of employees stood for hours in a queue outside the Meriting Recreation Club to be vaccinated.

South Africa needs to vaccinate two thirds of its population (67%) to achieve



Izak Brink, Branch Chairman of Transnet Engineering Koedoespoort in Pretoria, waiting to get vaccinated against Covid-19 during Transnet's vaccination drive. Brink and his family got sick after being exposed and he wants to protect himself and his family against the virus.

herd immunity against Covid-19. So far just over three million citizens have been vaccinated. But many South Africans are reluctant to be vaccinated due to their own personal beliefs and fears.

For them alarm bells started ringing when Discovery announced that it would

make it mandatory for all staff to be vaccinated from the start of 2022.

To make matters worse, Dr Melinda Suchard, head of the Centre for Vaccines and Immunology at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), says South Africa now needs a higher level of vaccine coverage to contain the spread of the virus.

"We are very much far off from achieving herd immunity. The R0 is how many people usually catch Covid-19 from one case. This depends on the strain. Initially, we thought that the R0 value was between two and three. So, the initial aim was to vaccinate about 66% of the population. With the Delta variant, the R0 is higher, meaning someone with the Delta variant tends to transmit the virus to five or six individuals. The herd immunity threshold would then have to be 80%. So, we would now need a higher level of coverage in the country if we were to rely on herd immunity to say outbreaks would not spread."

According to Suchard, the coronavirus will never fully disappear. However,

with increased vaccinations, death and hospitalisation will be prevented in the years to come. The washing of hands, sanitising, and social distancing should become part of our daily lives.

Even President Cyril Ramaphosa, who had mandated that no one will be forced to vaccinate, made an about-turn when he told Parliament that employers had to strike a "delicate balance" when implementing mandatory vaccination programmes.

According to Ramaphosa employees may refuse vaccination on medical or constitutional grounds, but said every South African had a personal responsibility to ensure the safety of others in the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Ramaphosa said the implementation of mandatory vaccination must be based on "mutual respect, which achieves a balance between public health imperatives, the constitutional rights of employees, and the efficient operation of the employers' business".

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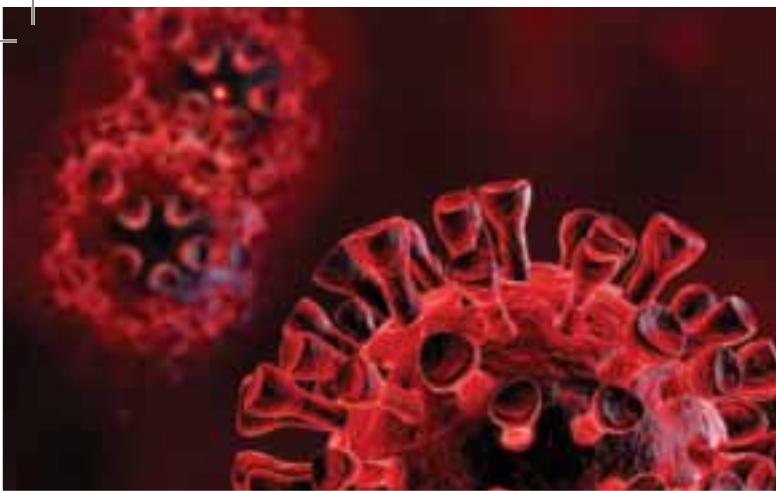
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# Transnet's Transvaco on track

## Stopping the spread of Covid-19 in South Africa one station at a time

**T**ransnet proved once more why it remains the most progressive state-owned enterprise in South Africa with the introduction of Transvaco, a state of the art Covid-19 vaccination train.

Portia Derby, Chief Executive Officer of Transnet, announced the Transvaco, the little sister of the Transnet Phelophepa "miracle train", earlier this year.

Transvaco started operating in August amidst the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic at the Springs Station in Ekurhuleni. It was built and prepared by Transnet Engineering Koedoespoort in Pretoria.

On 2 September the train departed to travel the length and breadth of South Africa to assist with vaccinating at least 66% of the population so that the country can achieve herd immunity. The train consist of eight wagons and has the capacity to vaccinate 600 patients per day.

Dr Paballo Mokwana, the train manager, says the first week showed its staff that this new journey will have its own unique challenges.

"It is a wonderful opportunity to be able to try and curb the spreading of the virus by reaching more patients in remote areas. We realised very soon that one of our greatest challenges is going to be the education of patients on myths about the vaccine.

"There are so many myths. One

being men will become sterile if they get vaccinated. Another that the vaccination is a microchip implant allowing others to control you.

"My biggest reward is if someone who was negative about the vaccine, decides to get vaccinated after being educated. If we are only able to change the perceptions of one person per day, it is already a step in the right direction," says Mokwana.

UNTU member Clayton Marabee, technician on the train, says even this train bears the brunt of criminals who try to vandalise it. The trains travel with full-time security and has two holding cells to keep arrested suspects on the journey.

"We struggle a lot with the theft of cables and copper."

He has been working for Transnet for the past four years and says he could not have asked for a more rewarding job.

"I love what I am doing. Transnet allows me to provide for my family. Yes, I am away from home for weeks at a time, but I can visit them every six weeks. I miss my family but realise that we are doing what we do to keep them and the rest of our fellow South Africans safe."

The trains run on a less formal schedule to allow it to assist in the provinces as the impact of the third wave continues to be felt in the country.

It will be operating until 17 December 2021 after which the employees will enjoy a well-deserved break over the festive season. 🇿🇦

Dr Paballo Mokwana, manager of Transnet's Transvaco Train, and Siboniso Wilson Nene, the head of the Covid-19 vaccination programme on the train.  
>> PHOTOGRAPHS: ALEXIUS VAN DER WESTHUIZEN







The Transnet Transvaco Train at the Springs Station on its first deployment in the fight against combatting the spreading of the Covid-19 pandemic.



Nurse Sesi Mvuba preparing the Covid-19 vaccine for a patient on the Transnet Transvaco Train. This train can vaccinate up to 600 patients per day against Covid-19.



William Molebale, an UNTU member and yard official at Transnet Freight Rail in Springs, gets his Covid-19 vaccine from Bongani Nxumalo, a nurse on Transnet's Transvaco Train.



Nurses of the Department of Health and Transnet goes though the set of questions patients need to answer before getting vaccinated against the coronavirus on the Transnet Transvaco Train.



UNTU member Clayton Marabee has been working for the state-owned enterprise for the past four years. He is standing inside one of the two holding cells for suspects who are arrested for trying to vandalise the Transnet Transvaco Train.



One of the restrooms on the Transnet Transvaco Train where employees can take a break in between assisting up to 600 people getting vaccinated per day.



The kitchen staff on the Transnet Transvaco Train preparing a healthy lunch for the employees working and living on the train to assist with combatting the spreading of the Covid-19 pandemic.

**108 000 vials**

The train is equipped with ultra-cold fridges to handle temperature-sensitive vaccines and can hold up to 108 000 vials.



**30 years**

The train is modelled on the Phelophepa, which has been offering rail-based healthcare services for almost 30 years.



**82 000 people**

South Africa has been battered by three Covid-19 waves, infecting more than 2,7 million people, killing almost 82 000.





# UNTU DIRECTORY

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TRE Durban	Chairman	Naidoo	Krishnan	084 686 1556	031 361 5103	–	UtataTRE.PortEg@transnet.net/Krishnannaidoo@gmail.com
	Secretary	Rampersad	Sanjay	082 721 7833	031 361 5694	086 573 2747	Sanjay.Rampersad@transnet.net
TRE Traction Durban	Chairman	Bezuidenhout	Hendrik	083 412 3174	031 361 5963	–	Bez Bezuidenhout2@transnet.net
	Secretary	Allanson	Michael	083 661 3528	031 361 5354	–	Michael.Allanson@transnet.net
TRE Richards Bay	Chairman	Msweli	Bonginkosi	082 588 5565	035 905 4178	–	bonginkosi.msweli@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mathiso	Cynthia	078 479 1492	–	–	cynthia.mathiso@transnet.net
Umbilo	Chairman	Rankin	Rodney	082 874 7797	031 361 5205	–	rodney.rankin@transnet.net
	Secretary	Heijmans	Jakobus	078 282 3237	031 361 5520	–	remonheijmans@gmail.com
Vryheid	Chairman	Ndlamlenze	Bongane	082 741 3022	–	–	bongani.ndlamlenze@transnet.net
	Secretary	Malinga	Nkosinathi	083 444 0386	034 989 9430	–	Nkosinathi.Malinga2@transnet.net
Wentworth	Chairman	Govender	Reagan	072 690 0706	031 361 5346	031 361 4330	untuwddtfr@transnet.net
	Secretary	Sithebe	Lindokuhle	078 363 0718	–	–	untu.kgx@transnet.net

## AREA 2 – EASTERN CAPE

AREA COMMITTEE	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
	Chairman	Du Plessis	Clayton	078 212 6211	041 994 2288	–	clayten.duplessis@transnet.net
	Secretary	Godfrey	Edwin	072 236 2056	041 507 5167	041 507 5006	edwin.godfrey@transnet.net
BRANCH	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Cradock	Chairman	Wagener	Julian	063 135 2313	049 802 8224	–	julianwagener13@gmail.com
	Secretary	Mdayi	Veliswa	083 493 5020	049 802 8224	–	vratoplis@gmail.com
East London	Chairman	Fillies	Deon	063 337 6578	043 700 4260	–	Deon.Fillies@transnet.net
	Secretary	Nkumanda	Kholelwa	083 670 0013	043 700 2090	–	Untuec@prasa.com
Mossel Bay	Chairman	Prinsloo	Marius	084 582 5932	044 604 6236	044 604 6209	marius.prinsloo@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mare	Jacques	076 993 7506	044 604 6281	044 604 6250	jacquessmare@gmail.com
Maritime East London	Chairman	Emery	Douglas	082 315 9826	043 700 2410	–	douglas.emery@transnet.net
	Secretary	Faltein	Kerwin	071 688 2883	043 700 2130	–	kerwin.faltein@transnet.net
Maritime Port Elizabeth	Chairman	Julie	Venecia	073 317 3902	–	–	venecia.julie@transnet.net
	Secretary	Meyer	Morné	078 530 4925	–	–	morne.meyer2@transnet.net
Port Elizabeth	Chairman	Van Tonder	Wynand	066 221 3129	041 507 5204	041 504 5003	edwin.godfrey@transnet.net
	Secretary	Godfrey	Edwin	072 236 2056	041 507 5167	041 507 5006	edwin.godfrey@transnet.net
TRE Swartkops	Chairman	Verwey	Barend	076 882 4789	041 507 5194	041 507 5224	barend.verwey@transnet.net
	Secretary	Dickson	Michael	072 827 8461	–	–	dicksonmichaeljames@yahoo.com
TRE Uitenhage	Chairman	Meyer	Wayne	083 612 2820	–	–	Wayne.Meyer@transnet.net
	Secretary	Bubb	Malcolm	083 952 4967	041 994 2341	041 994 2412	malcolm.bubb@transnet.net
Queenstown	Chairman	Jacobs	Gerald	078 274 6589	045 808 2043	–	Grp-TFR-UNTUQueenstown@transnet.net
	Secretary	Hlalu	Sinethemba	073 145 9102	045 808 2084	–	Cnehlalu1988@gmail.com

## AREA 3 – WESTERN CAPE

AREA COMMITTEE	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
	Chairman	Warrington	George	083 411 4962	021 940 2160	086 749 1740	george.warrington@transnet.net
	Secretary	Van Rooy	Olivia	082 322 5898	021 449 3045	–	Olivia.Vanrooy@transnet.net
BRANCH	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Beaufort West	Chairman	Janse van Vuuren	Jacques	082 355 1166	023 449 2140	023 449 2177	jacques.jansevanvuuren@transnet.net
	Secretary	Meintjies	Reginald	078 907 2184	023 449 2140	023 449 2177	reginald.meintjies@transnet.net
Cape Town	Chairman	Davies	Peter	083 947 9119	021 940 2818	021 940 3438	Peter.Davies@transnet.net
	Secretary	Warrington	George	083 411 4962	021 940 2160	086 749 1740	george.warrington@transnet.net
Maritime Cape Town	Chairman	Coetzee	Chantal	076 083 1930	021 449 4285	–	chantel.coetzee2@transnet.net
	Secretary	Van Rooy	Olivia	082 322 5898	021 449 3045	021 449 4175	olivia.vanrooy@transnet.net
Maritime Saldanha	Chairman	Wevers	Ply	073 397 3179	022 703 4831	022 703 4952	plywevers@transnet.net
	Secretary	Soobramoney	Chantal	072 220 2882	–	–	chantal.soobramoney@transnet.net
Lions Head	Chairman	De La Fontyn	Jacob	082 703 2930	021 449 5349	–	jakobdelafontyn@gmail.com
	Secretary	Neels	Handre	078 699 1019	021 449 5349	–	Handre.Neels@prasa.com
Metro Disa	Chairman	Fingita	Ndimpiwe	082 091 3234	021 940 3516	–	NdinaFingita@gmail.com
	Secretary	Thembelani	Tyilo	073 345 8390	–	–	Tyilo.Thembelani@gmail.com
Metro Tafelberg	Chairman	Qoyl	Luyanda	078 866 8381	021 449 5532	–	lqoyl@prasa.com
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
Saldanha Orex	Chairman	Saul	Lutwena	079 225 9168	022 703 2347	022 703 2229	Lutwena.Saul@transnet.net
	Secretary	Titus	Cornelius	063 099 3253	022 703 3242	–	Corneltitus2@gmail.com
TRE Cape Town	Chairman	Xolani	Mbolekwa	068 206 3519	021 507 2550	–	Xolani.Mbolekwa@transnet.net
	Secretary	Lengkeek	Sam	082 295 5140	–	–	–
Vredendal	Chairman	De Wee	Angelo	073 140 3320	022 703 3412	–	angelodewe@gmail.com
	Secretary	Steenkamp	Nicollo	063 161 6827	–	–	NicolloMark398@gmail.com
Worcester	Chairman	Steyn	Leon	083 293 7523	023 348 4218	023 348 4306	leonsteyn1961@gmail.com
	Secretary	Miller	Leandre	060 996 6046	023 348 4262	–	farooleandre@gmail.com

## AREA 4 – FREE STATE

AREA COMMITTEE	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
	Chairman	Van Rooyen	Pieter	079 526 9228	051 408 2663	–	pieter4901@gmail.com
	Secretary	Bezuidenhoudt	Kobus	071 268 6100	–	–	kobus.bezuidenhoudt@transnet.net
BRANCH	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Bethlehem	Chairman	Saul	Jacob	063 076 5804	058 302 2122/2113	–	–
	Secretary	Radebe	Joseph	084 557 7112	058 302 2160	–	mojchenity@yahoo.com
Bloemfontein	Chairman	Van Rooyen	Pieter	066 430 6514	051 408 3750	–	pieter4901@gmail.com
	Secretary	Swanepoel	Corné	060 564 4995	051 408 3118	–	corne.swanepoel@transnet.net
Kroonstad	Chairman	Dreyer	Douw	082 920 9450	011 978 2737	011 978 2737	douw@untu.co.za
	Secretary	Kruger	Andries	083 451 7351	056 268 2106/2141	056 268 2146	dries.kruger@transnet.net
TRE Bloemfontein	Chairman	Bezuidenhoudt	Kobus	071 268 6100	051 408 3543	–	Kobus.Bezuidenhoudt@transnet.net
	Secretary	Meiring	Minette	065 393 6505	051 408 2543	–	minette.meiring@transnet.net



IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM,  
PHONE US ON TEL: 011 728 0120



AREA 5 – GAUTENG CENTRAL							
AREA COMMITTEE	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
	Chairman	Ratshibaya	Suzan	065 875 8843	–	–	radzilanisuzan6@gmail.com
	Secretary	Grimsell	Kenneth	083 675 7619	011 365 7361	–	kgrimsell@gmail.com
BRANCH	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Esselenpark	Chairman	Maphunye	Chris	083 476 2375	011 929 1076	–	Chris.Maphunye@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mthembu	Vuyelwa	073 810 3435	011 929 1388	–	Vuyelwa.Mthembu@transnet.net
Germiston	Chairman	Motau	Thabo	083 880 2778	011 820 2622	011 820 2318	thabo.motau@transnet.net
	Secretary	Masumpa	Thembile	082 866 2546	–	–	Georgethembile@gmail.com
Heidelberg	Chairman	Njowa	Peter	073 223 3625	–	–	Peter.Njowa@transnet.net
	Secretary	Thipe	Itumeleng	078 208 3971	016 815 5400	–	Itumeleng.Thipe@transnet.net
Isando	Chairman	Machadi	Kholofelo	071 446 8124	011 507 7060	–	Chadis303@gmail.com
	Secretary	Mtshweni	Brian	076 950 4934	011 570 7030	–	brian.mtshweni@transnet.net
Kaserne	Chairman	Mokoena	Japhta	083 493 6701	011 820 2490	–	Japhta.Mokoena@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mathekga	Noah	072 799 7297	011 330 6061	–	noahmathekga@gmail.com
Krugersdorp	Chairman	Tshabalala	David	068 580 9285	011 309 7186	–	David.Tshabalala@transnet.net
	Secretary	Kalimashe	Ronald	083 574 6766	011 950 1238	–	Ronald.Kalimashe@transnet.net
Leeuhof	Chairman	Rossouw	Morne	084 504 0407	016 420 6246	016 420 6352	morne.rossouw@yahoo.com
	Secretary	Ratau	Mathume	073 843 0813	016 420 6278	–	msratau@webmail.co.za
Metro – Central	Chairman	Van Wyk	Anton	079 872 1882	011 013 0035	–	antonvanwyk51@gmail.com
	Secretary	Zwane	Remembrance	076 546 2316	–	–	Plannedpurpose87@gmail.com
Metro – East	Chairman	Grobler	Frederick	083 276 8715	–	–	Fgrobler@prasa.com
	Secretary	Van Zyl	Andries	083 276 8783	–	–	yzf1000.yama@gmail.com
Metro – West	Chairman	Hagemann	Ockert	083 275 9991	011 278 2304	–	ockert.hagemann@prasa.com
	Secretary	Smit	Albertus	083 459 9733	016 420 6204	–	smit.albertus.j@gmail.com
Parktown	Chairman	Mdyogolo	Luvuyo	071 363 6988	011 584 0574	011 774 9909	luvuyo.mdyogolo@transnet.net
	Secretary	Gagayi	Ndumiso	064 103 5499	011 544 9773	–	Ndumiso.Gagayi@transnet.net
Sentrarand	Chairman	Mulaudzi	Vhulahani	082 973 8120	011 960 2011	–	Mulaudzi777@gmail.com
	Secretary	Phoshane	Thabiso	071 248 6355	011 960 2197	–	Thabiso.Phoshane@gmail.com
Springs	Chairman	Malahlela	Sphiwe	078 180 2519	011 365 7361	–	sphiwekga@gmail.com
	Secretary	Grimsell	Kenneth	083 675 7619	011 365 7361	–	kgrimsell@gmail.com
Standerton	Chairman	Mthembu	Sibusiso	072 117 0882	083 748 3616	–	sbusisomthembu54@gmail.com
	Secretary	Sikhosana	Nelisiwe	073 609 2857	083 980 0837	–	esikhosana266@gmail.com
TRE Germiston	Chairman	Mudau	Phindile	073 872 8813	011 820 2716	–	Audrey.Mudau@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mudau	Shelton	072 228 8469	011 820 2053	–	Shelton.Mudau@transnet.net
TRE Sentrarand	Chairman	Zwane	Winnie	073 883 8917	011 960 2426	–	Winnie.Zwane@gmail.com
	Secretary	Ellis	Daniel	084 576 2428	011 960 2305	013 665 1135	Daniel.Ellis@transnet.net

AREA 6 – NORTHERN CAPE							
AREA COMMITTEE	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
	Chairman	Menziwa	Yandiswa	073 708 2136	053 632 8303	–	Ymenziwayaya@gmail.com
	Secretary	Maphike	Sipho	073 842 6747	018 632 0894	–	sipho.maphike@transnet.net
BRANCH	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Lichtenburg	Chairman	Manca	Collin	063 085 5813	018 381 9249	018 381 9201	Keaaga.Manca@transnet.net
	Secretary	Maphike	Sipho	073 842 6747	018 632 0894	–	sipho.maphike@transnet.net
De Aar	Chairman	Manziwa	Yandiswa	073 708 2136	053 632 8303	–	Yandiswa.Menziwa@transnet.net
	Secretary	Ndzunga	Xolani	083 294 8944	053 632 8303	–	Xolani.Ndzunga@transnet.net
Kimberley	Chairman	Visagle	Lincoln	073 381 7190	053 838 2008	–	Lincoln.Visagle@transnet.net
	Secretary	Wetsi	Alta	084 326 7733	053 838 3002	–	Altawetsi@gmail.com
North West (Klerksdorp)	Chairman	Cimela	Abram	064 781 1971	018 406 2206	018 406 2033	phogojanekebo@gmail.com
	Secretary	Setlhare	Papase	060 554 7588	018 406 2051	018 406 2001	papasesetlhare44@gmail.com
Postmasburg	Chairman	Pemba	Luntu	082 965 7638	053 313 7241	–	Luntu.Pemba@transnet.net
	Secretary	Kwaien	Jonathan	073 710 7742	053 313 7270	–	Jonathan.Kwaien@transnet.net
Sishen	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary	Mofokeng	Themba	078 889 0474	–	–	Thembatmofokeng@gmail.com
Warrenton	Chairman	Ximba	Jabulalini	067 068 9433	053 494 3211	–	Jabulani.Ximba@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mokopanele	Neo	084 548 5851	053 838 2166	–	–
Upington	Chairman	Van der Merwe	Petrus	083 504 9205	054 338 6699	054 338 0185	caartie@telkomsa.net
	Secretary	Schamboua	Julius	083 938 5694	054 338 3408	054 338 3440	jjschamboua@gmail.com

AREA 7 – GAUTENG NORTH							
AREA COMMITTEE	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
	Chairman	Muleya	Alfred	074 676 2136/078 261 6594	015 781 9035	–	alfredmuleya47@gmail.com
	Secretary	Tshotheli	Regina	076 476 0172	015 534 7209	015 534 7222	Regina.Tshotheli@gmail.com
BRANCH	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Ermelo	Chairman	Msweli	Mthokozisi	083 346 0206	017 801 2206	–	IM.Msweli@gmail.com
	Secretary	Shabangu	Mxolisi	072 025 5148	017 801 2210	–	Mxolisi.Shabangu@transnet.net
Komatipoort	Chairman	Sambo	Rudolph	076 840 9392	013 799 9947	–	RZSambo@gmail.com
	Secretary	Shabangu	Nkosinathi	072 461 8779	–	–	shabangunkosinathi@rocketmail.com
Lydenburg	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary	Khoza	Khodani	076 954 1181	011 774 2015	–	kodimotumba.kk@gmail.com
Musina	Chairman	Matlala	Stephen	072 532 6699	015 519 4245	015 519 4248	Grp-TFR-UntuLTX@transnet.net
	Secretary	Chauke	Raphael	079 285 0741	–	–	Grp-TFR-UntuLTX@transnet.net
Nelspruit	Chairman	Rankoe	Bongani	072 340 8940	013 752 9307	–	bonganimasuku5@gmail.com
	Secretary	Ngomane	Thulane	078 208 2403	013 751 9233	–	ikemshika@gmail.com
Phalaborwa	Chairman	Mashinya	Loyce	082 216 9251	015 781 9035	–	Loyce.Mashinya@transnet.net
	Secretary	Rokhitso	Nganyane	076 147 4323	015 781 9042	–	nghundlu2950@gmail.com
Piet Retief	Chairman	Mohlala	Kgaogelo	083 980 1774	017 824 8245	–	kgaogelo.mohlala@transnet.net
	Secretary	Nxumalo	Jabulile	079 623 4265	017 824 8200	–	bbupatricia21JM@gmail.com
Polokwane	Chairman	Mosebedi	Sonnyboy	079 502 4142	015 299 6487	–	sonnyboy.mosebedi@transnet.net
	Secretary	Pheta	Modjadji	083 380 4775	015 299 6485	011 774 9440	modjadji.pheta@transnet.net
Pretoria	Chairman	Khotle	Samson	072 805 2067	012 315 8409	–	GRP-TFR-UNTUPRETORIA@transnet.net
	Secretary	Seatholo	Shuping	078 442 4581	012 315 8237	–	GRP-TFR-UNTUPRETORIA@transnet.net
Metro Pretoria	Chairman	Mashige	Michael	083 554 7953	–	–	MichaelMashige@gmail.com
	Secretary	Ngobeni	Urgent	076 880 3881	–	–	urgentngobeni@gmail.com
Pyramid	Chairman	Mogomisi	Molwantwa	082 367 1403	012 521 9452	–	–
	Secretary	Tajane	Gabaikangwe	073 405 2108	012 521 9452	012 521 9497	Gabaikangwe.Tajane@transnet.net
Rustenburg	Chairman	Mathebula	Hlayisela	073 854 5673	014 590 2096	–	Hlayiseka.matheb@gmail.com
	Secretary	Rammala	Mohahola	076 308 6231	014 590 2214	–	–
TRE Pretoria	Chairman	Nkambule	Lynette	072 368 5222	012 315 8067	–	Lynette.Nkambule@transnet.net
	Secretary	Henning	Nico	083 390 9385	012 315 8157	–	Johannes.Henning@transnet.net
TRE Koedoespoort	Chairman	Brink	Izak	082 827 9151	012 842 6085	–	izak.brink@transnet.net
	Secretary	Oosthuizen	Hannes	079 081 0907	012 842 6085	–	Johannes.Oosthuizen@transnet.net
Witbank	Chairman	Mudalahothe	Obert	076 262 0674	–	–	avhatakali26@gmail.com
	Secretary	Mmola	Evance	081 213 5377	013 257 5030	–	Katlegoyabne@gmail.com



# Never give up on the future of Prasa, says Masenya

Charity Masenya (63) is retiring after 16 years at Metrorail but prays that the employees that will follow in her footsteps, never give up on restoring train services to its former glory.

"Never give up and never lose hope, no matter how difficult it is. Keep your faith in God as He will take care of everything," says the former Administrative Assistant at the Langlaagte Signal Depot in Johannesburg. She joined Metrorail in 2005 after

working at Transnet Pipelines. Masenya saw how the once flourishing passenger rail system has deteriorated.

"It breaks my heart to see Prasa in the state that it is in today. But I have faith that it will be restored," she says.

Growing up in Soweto, Masenya wanted to become a nurse. She loves caring for and assisting people.

She started working as a domestic worker before she was appointed at Transnet.

The worst time in her career was the five years she was working for Metrorail in Capital Park in Pretoria. She had to get up at 03:00 in the morning to travel to work and sometimes returned home as late as 22:00.

For her, UNTU has always been the best Union. "Keep up the good work UNTU. This Union is number one. I love the excellent communication of the Union. I am always up to date with all the developments."



She wants to focus on doing community work and assisting her church after her retirement.



## UNTU STOP ORDER

Please complete all fields in clear print!

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_ INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTAL CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMPLOYEE / SAP NO: \_\_\_\_\_ SHIRT RECEIVED: YES ☐ NO ☐ SIZE (S – 5XL): \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_  
TEL (H): \_\_\_\_\_ (W): \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_  
CELL: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CENTRE / DEPOT: \_\_\_\_\_ JOB TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

- Formula for calculating subscription: 1% of basic monthly salary (minimum of R48,00 and a maximum of R83,00).
- I, the undersigned, hereby authorise the relevant company as indicated in the table below to monthly deduct the amount as calculated per the above formula from my salary, and to pay this amount to UNTU.

(Please mark with X) **CONTRACT WORKER:** YES ☐ NO ☐ **WHERE ARE YOU EMPLOYED?**

Prasa – Metrorail	Transnet Port Terminals (TPT)	Transnet Freight Rail (TFR)	Transnet Pipelines (TPL)
Prasa – MLPS	Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)	Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) – RME	Bombela
Prasa – CRES	Transnet Group Capital	Transnet Properties	Bombardier
Prasa – Technical	Transnet Engineering (TE)	Transnet Corporate	Other

### THIS STOP ORDER CANCELS THE MEMBERSHIP OF ANY OTHER UNION

I fully understand and accept that this STOP ORDER can only be cancelled by giving a month's written notice to the General Secretary.

NOMINEE FOR DEATH BENEFIT: I, the undersigned, hereby nominate and appoint:

(1): \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. NO: \_\_\_\_\_  
(2): \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. NO: \_\_\_\_\_

to be my nominee/s. This death grant shall form no part of my legal estate and shall be neither executable nor attachable at the instance of any creditor of mine, but shall be paid directly to my nominee.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENROLLED BY:** INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EMPLOYEE NO: \_\_\_\_\_  
**BANKING DETAILS:** BANK: \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH: \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH CODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TYPE OF ACCOUNT:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ENROLLER'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### FOR OFFICE USE

RECEIVED	PROCESSED	COMMISSION	PENALTY	SIGNATURE

#### SUBMIT COMPLETED FORM TO:

The General Secretary, P.O. Box 31100, Braamfontein, 2017 • Fax: 011 728 8258  
Internal Fax: 011 773 7920 • E-mail: headoffice@untu.co.za



## "Take a stand and protect our infrastructure"

A

s a little boy growing up in rural Venda, Azwihagwisi Mashau (35) realised that education and development is the

key to alleviating poverty and creating jobs.

This is why this Engineering Technician at Prasa Langlaagte in Johannesburg, wanted to become an electrical engineer.

He has already obtained his Diploma in Electrical Engineering at the Tshwane University of Technology and is currently busy with his B-Tech Degree.

"I feel that I have an important responsibility to see that the trains are running on time like they used to, and I am committed to remain at Prasa until we achieve this. I have a job to do for the future of all South Africans," says Mashau.

This UNTU member and father of a 6-year-old boy is rewarded every time the trains do run on time. "I am happy when a train is on time. Then I say, 'God is great'. That makes all the sacrifices worthwhile," he says.

Prasa's greatest challenge is the theft and vandalism of the rail infrastructure resulting in train delays or trains being suspended.

"If I could address those thieves, I would ask them why they are stealing the future of our children. If they continue to do so, our children will not even know what a train was.

"Thousands of children used to commute to and from school using trains. Now they can't even get to school because the trains are not running, and their parents cannot afford taxi fares.

"That is why communities need to take a stand and protect the railway infrastructure. Trains are for everyone. From the township to the suburb to the city."

Mashau is a great fan of UNTU's Facebook Page and loves the excellent communication he receives from the Union.



# Privatisation to make up for billions lost to state capture

## Transnet wants to shed 10% of its workforce – media reports

**G**overnment is set on “restructuring” Transnet and giving private companies access to compete with the state-owned enterprise (SOE) in a desperate attempt to make up for the loss of more than R215 billion to state capture.

Steve Harris, General Secretary of UNTU, says Organised Labour was taken by surprise when President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the restructuring process of Transnet, the first being that of Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA).

The sudden decision came six weeks after Transnet signed a 5% wage agreement with Organised Labour which included a no forced retrenchment clause for the duration thereof.

As part of the restructuring, Transnet offered its employees voluntary severance packages (VSPs). According to media reports, Transnet wants to shed 10% of its workforce.

Ramaphosa said Government intends to establish the TNPA as an independent subsidiary of Transnet.

But Public Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan; Popo Molefe, Chairman of the Board of Transnet; and Portia Derby, Chief Executive Officer of Transnet, were clear that there will be no privatisation. All assets will continue to resort under Transnet.

Derby announced that Transnet plans to partner with private investors for the expansion of the Durban port to the tune of R100 billion. This is vital to restore the legacy of state capture, fixing the infrastructure, modernising equipment, and creating jobs.

Ramaphosa also announced that Transnet would be granting third-party access to South Africa's rail network.

According to the draft National Infrastructure Plan 2050 (NIP 2050), Government believes third-party access is essential to add capital, capacity, and expertise to the rail network.

“In the past five years, Transnet has seen an increase of 177% in security-related incidents, resulting in an increase

in volume loss. In the first five months of 2021 alone, there have been on average 650 incidents per month,” Transnet said in a statement.

With respect to 2020 alone, Transnet Freight Rail reported 5 138 incidents ranging from vandalism of rail equipment to cable theft.

The division said that between April 2019 and January 2020, it lost 354 227 m of overhead cables, resulting in an average of 21 trains being cancelled per day during that period.

The African Rail Industry Association (ARIA) believes third-party access is essential to rebuild the economy. An estimated 1,7 billion tonnes of freight are moved annually in South Africa, much of it via roads.

Once the third-party access reforms are implemented, ARIA believes that about 58 million tonnes of freight could potentially move to rail, benefiting agricultural commodities, metals and minerals, cars, containers, bulk liquid, and hazardous chemicals. In addition, the rolling stock investment to meet the volume potential will be about R45 billion.

Harris says Government and ARIA's views would have been wonderful in an ideal world, but the situation in South Africa is much more complicated.

“If we had an ideal world, there would be no corruption, no vandalism and no organised crime and Transnet, and even the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa), would easily be able to provide the world-class service that they used to deliver. But this is not the case.

“If the factors beyond the control of the railway operators are not addressed by Government and the various law enforcement authorities involved, any third party would be foolish to make an investment as it will be doomed from the start. Government wants to reinvent the wheel, while it only needs to fix the puncher.”

Harris says Government must admit that it only needs third parties to provide funding because all its money allocated to modernisation and infrastructure got lost during the decade of state capture. ▼

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# Six members reinstated thanks to Mudalahothe

Obert cannot stand injustice, will fight for what is right

**V**ivian Lekolwane (37), a general worker at Transnet Rail Network Construction, was so grateful when she heard she was reinstated by Transnet, that she burnt the cakes she was busy baking to sell in order to provide for her family.

"I was so relieved and so grateful. Mudalahothe is a fighter. He doesn't tolerate any injustice.

"Life outside of Transnet is hard. I am a mother of two children and must also provide for my elderly mother," says Lekolwane.

She and her colleagues have been working for Transnet on contract since 2014.

They all had to undergo required tests to reapply. They did and their applications were successful. But before the paperwork was done, the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions were imposed, and all work stopped.

Afterwards they learnt that they need to reapply and go for tests all over again.

Hetro Mnisi (34) says he was in a state of shock when he heard he had to reapply. "Everything was done before Covid-19. When services resumed, we had nothing left to eat in the house. I have to provide for my siblings."

According to Mudalahothe, he met with management and explained that they are doing an injustice to these members. They would have taken up employment had it



not been for the global pandemic.

"I cannot stand injustice. Right is right and wrong is wrong," says Mudalahothe.

All six members say they will remain loyal members of UNTU until they leave

the employer.

"We all went through a very difficult time. But we remained calm and had faith that Mudalahothe will not let us down," adds Xolani Nkonyane (34).

## "UNTU lawyer" Anja assisted member 24/7

**U**NTU member Mthe Maramba (43) was devastated and traumatised when Transnet wanted to take away the house he waited so long for, but will forever be grateful to Anja Möller of UNTU who did "an amazing job" assisting him.

"I wish that Anja (Möller) could be empowered to help all the UNTU members struggling with housing issues nationwide. She is so professional. She kept me informed 24/7 throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

"I said to my wife we can relax because I have an UNTU lawyer in Anja. I will forever be grateful for her assistance and will continue recruiting new members to UNTU," says Maramba.

He is an examiner and repairer who started working for Transnet in 2010 in Saldanha. He was transferred to De Aar in the Northern Cape in August last year and applied for a Transnet house. His name was placed on a waiting list.

"I was paying R6 000 for a house while there were people living in Transnet houses who are not employed by the company. That was heartbreaking. I believe charity begins at home and Transnet has an obligation to look after its own employees first," adds Maramba.

He frequently contacted the Transnet housing department in Kimberley to enquire about the progress.

"My supervisor told me that he would be resigning. I contacted the Transnet housing department and enquired if I could move into his house. I got confirmation and had to get the key from him."

Maramba was told that the paperwork would be done after he moved into the house.

However, when he went to the housing department afterwards, he heard that someone submitted a complaint because he got a house while others are kept waiting.

"I was devastated. I would never have taken anyone's house deliberately. I know the hardship. As far as I am concerned, I obtained my house lawfully," says Maramba.

According to Möller, Transnet failed to follow its own procedures when awarding a house and created an expectation with Maramba.

"This is something that often happens to the remote depots because people talk on the phone and not in person due to Covid-19 and are working from home.

"It was an administrative oversight on the side of Transnet that resulted in the problem. In future, Transnet must ensure that the keys are handed back to them," says Möller.

According to her the allocation of housing is a crisis in Transnet.



# Making her mark as a woman @ work

Do not shy away from **engineering** jobs, says Transnet artisan Anna Ralefatane

**T**ransnet artisan Anna Ralefatane (35) loves the challenges she needs to find solutions for in instrumental mechanisms at Transnet Engineering Koedoespoort in Pretoria.

"I always thought working in engineering requires physical strength and hard work. But the engineering world is so vast, that there is ample growth and development opportunities. I love the fact that I am daily presented with challenges for which I have to find a solution. There is never a dull day. It is challenging, but at the same time rewarding, because my knowledge and experience is growing. It is certainly a job that I would recommend to more women," says Ralefatane.

Growing up in Lephalale in Limpopo she wanted to become a nurse because



she is a caring person. She did not qualify to go and study in a medical field but got accepted in engineering.

After she completed her training, her

brother, who was working for Transnet, told her that the School of Rail at Esselenpark was taking on engineering students. She applied and got accepted.

Ralefatane met her UNTU Trade Union Representative Angelique Rossouw while they were at Esselenpark.

"I joined UNTU because of the hard work and commitment of Rossouw. She ensures that all the UNTU members are updated on any developments. She is always ready to assist with a smile on her face – a true role model for others observing her every day," says Ralefatane.

She was also very grateful for the UNTU maternity benefit that she claimed last year. "Sitting at home with a newborn baby you are flooded with expenses that you did not take into consideration. The maternity benefit really helped a lot to pay those unexpected bills," she adds.

She wants to develop herself to apply for a risk safety management position.

When this mother of two is not working, she loves to spend time with her husband and two daughters. 🌟



## From steam train manager to diesel locomotive train driver

**T**ransnet train driver Themba Maseko (42) fell in love with trains after working as a waiter and later as the manager of a steam train in Waterval Boven in Mpumalanga.

"There is just something else about a steam train. It is magical. At school I wanted to become an engineer, but this is much better. I love my job. I am fortunate to see the most beautiful sights. It is a feeling I can't describe," says Maseko.

He grew up in Waterval Boven and started working for Transnet in March 2005.

He is very concerned about the future of Transnet Freight Rail and prays that Government will take reactive action to combat cable theft.

"Cable theft is out biggest challenge,

and it is threatening to destroy the South African economy.

"Government should get into the day-to-day solving of the crisis because it affects each aspect of the lives of ordinary people.

"For train drivers it is even worse. Cable theft can result in a derailment. It used to be a wonderful experience to drive trains at night, but now due to the constant vandalism and theft of the rail infrastructure it has become very stressful," says Maseko.

He used to be a member of a rival union but followed UNTU Full-time Trade Union Representative Obert Mudalathohe in his decision to join UNTU.

Maseko does not regret his choice. He was elected as an UNTU Trade Union

Representative last year.

"Mudalathohe is my brother, my role model and my mentor. I have learnt so much from him and he has helped me a lot. He guides us and allows us to grow while learning more.

"He is always just a phone call away for any guidance or help. He does not tolerate any injustice and his work is an inspiration for me.

"I will remain loyal to UNTU because Mudalathohe believes in me and my personal goal is to become as good as he is," says Maseko.

He dreams of growing into a management position one day.

This father of four children loves spending his free time at home, watching soccer, or going to church. 🌟





# RSR forced to pay back leave

Employers cannot unilaterally do away with perks employees enjoy – Steve Harris

**T**he Railway Safety Regulator (RSR) finally agreed to pay back employees' industry leave after ignoring UNTU's warning that it was unilaterally changing an existing condition of employment by scrapping it.

Steve Harris, General Secretary of UNTU, says this is another example why President Cyril Ramaphosa warned Boards of state-owned companies to stick to their mandates and not get involved in

the day-to-day operations.

The Board of the RSR decided to do away with the leave despite warnings from UNTU, making it an unfair labour practice when employees were unlawfully forced to take annual leave instead of industry leave between Christmas 2020 and New Year.

UNTU declared a dispute at the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA).

Senior Commissioner Duduzile Mahlangu warned the RSR that she will issue a certificate of non-resolution of an unfair labour practice against it if it cannot

resolve the dispute with UNTU.

She gave the RSR time to engage with UNTU to find a solution as to how employees will be compensated before submitting a written presentation to her.

UNTU demanded that the RSR either compensate UNTU members for the five days or credit them with the five days leave but allow them ample time to use the leave.

The RSR agreed to paying the leave.

According to Harris, employers cannot unilaterally do away with perks employees enjoy in their Employment Agreement. ✎



## Phoko loving every second of examining and repairing trains

**S**onnyboy Phoko (30) wanted to study graphic design after school, but after being accepted as an examiner and repairer at Transnet Engineering it steered his life in a new direction and he loves it.

Stationed at Belfast, Phoko says it is a big responsibility to ensure that every train that arrives or departs is checked because the trains are carrying lives and valuable goods and it is vital to the economy that it reaches its destination.

He talks passionately on how he goes about step by step to complete his task.

Phoko has heard about the plans of Transnet Engineering to restructure the business and is afraid of what the future holds for him.

He is the only breadwinner providing for his extended family of sixteen people living in Bushbuckridge in Mpumalanga.

"It is hard out there. There is no work. The unemployment rate is sky high. Especially in the more remote and rural areas like Belfast, it is very difficult to find a

job. My family depends on me to put food on the table. There is no one else who can provide for my elders," he says.

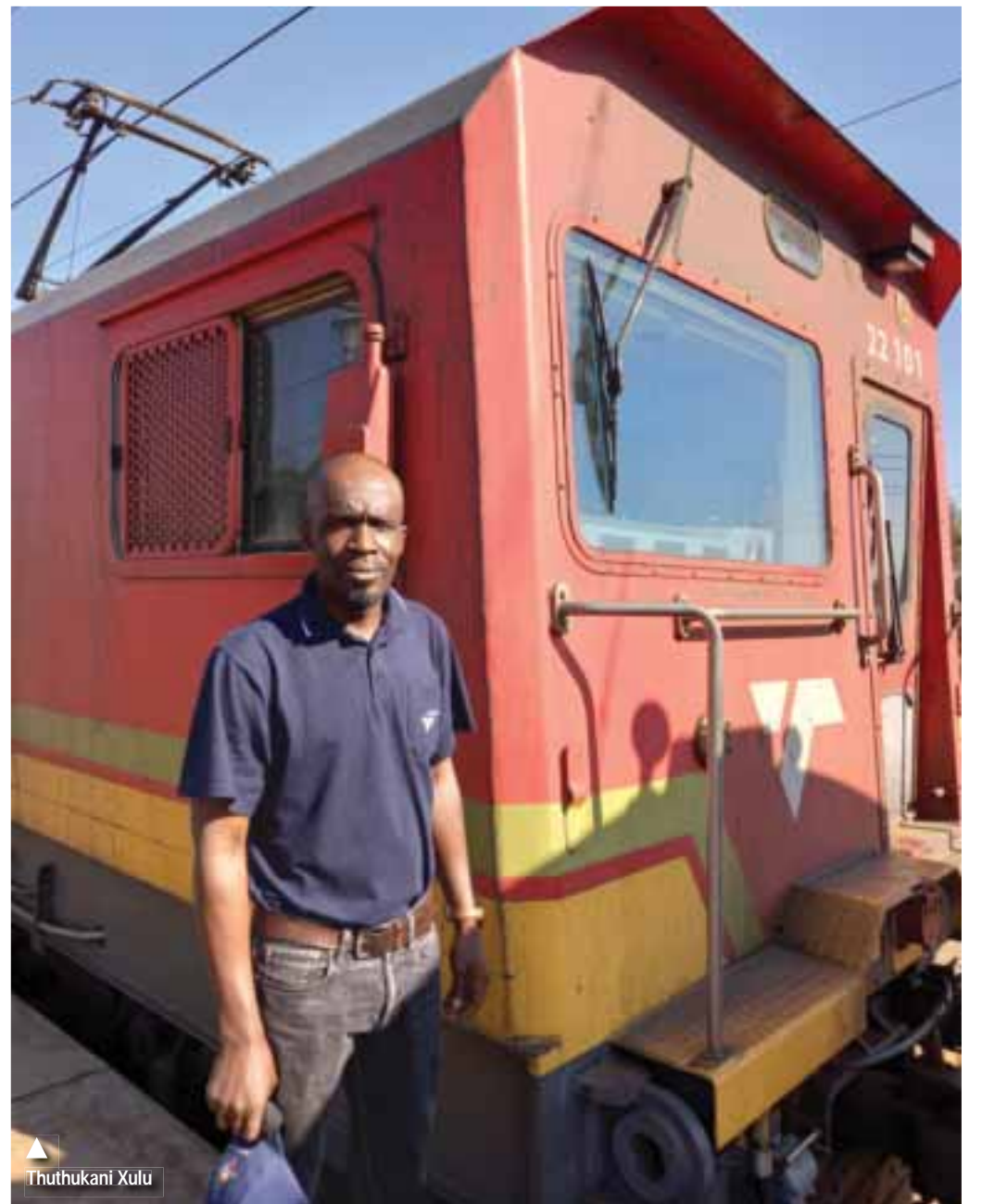
Phoko would one day like to get married and start a family of his own, but for now that is something he cannot afford. A wife and kids will only add to his financial responsibility.

"I place my life in God's hands. If I am destined for greatness, God will help me to achieve it. I am guided by what God wants me to achieve," he says.

He did not join a union when he first started working for Transnet. "I have never needed a union. I am a hard worker and do what I am told as long as it is a lawful instruction.

"I was impressed with the way UNTU representatives assisted their members in cases, gave feedback on developments and ensured that they visit often. That is why I decided to join UNTU," he says.

When he is not working, he loves to run to keep physically and mentally fit and follows a healthy lifestyle. ✎



## Thuthukani wants to better his life, continues to study to grow

**T**huthukani Xulu (40) knows that education is the key to the future and continues to study to grow and develop his goals.

This yard official of Transnet in Belfast in Mpumalanga is studying business management. He sees himself growing in Transnet into the position of a yard manager one day.

"I love my job. I am grateful to Transnet for empowering its employees by giving us the opportunity to study."

Xulu grew up near Ermelo. He wanted to become an electrical engineer and went to college where he completed his N6.

He was appointed at Transnet as a yard official in 2008.

"I want to better myself and support my loved ones to the best of my ability."

Xulu observed UNTU representatives in his work environment, always providing feedback and enquiring about the challenges of workers.

"I decided this is the Union I want to belong to. I have not regretted my decision. I am a huge fan of UNTU's social media pages where I am kept informed throughout the day on all the latest developments."

He also receives daily circular letters from the Union and enjoys reading the *Labour Report* when it is published quarterly. When he is not at work, he enjoys spending time with his family. ✎





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## New owners of Aunty Betty's celebrate one year

**Congratulations to Ivan Walther and Michelle Anderson on a very successful first year as the new owners of Aunty Betty's. The pair took over the job amidst the Covid-19 pandemic and introduced several new editions to its takeaway menu. Our personal favourite is the UNTU Palms Burger. Be sure to visit them when staying at UNTU Palms.**



## Dedicated employees receive long service awards

UNTU Palms is grateful and humbled to have dedicated, loyal and hardworking employees who are committed to doing their best to make your stay at our seashore holiday resort your most memorable holiday. The resort celebrated the long service awards of several of its employees. They are: Eunice Mqadi – 1 July 1991 – 30 years, Patience Mbili – 1 July 1991 – 30 years, Zebulon Qwabe – 1 August 2006 – 15 years, and Vicky Cele – 1 September 2006 – 15 years.

## UNTU Palms caring for our environment & ocean

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