



# NEWSLETTER

## UNITED NATIONAL TRANSPORT UNION

Pride

Unity

Trust

### EDITOR'S NOTE:

This newsletter will touch on the lives of those who have retired after dedicating their lives to serving UNTU members.

Their years of service and dedication to the union have impacted the lives of thousands of people, and we are grateful for all that they have done.

I hope that their stories will inspire us all to continue working towards a better future for ourselves and our union.

*“Reflection requires looking back so that the view looking forward is even clearer.”*



As we look ahead to the future, let us take a moment to reflect on the past. Let us remember the hard work and dedication of those who came before us and let us honour their legacy by continuing to fight for the rights and well-being of our members.

I hope that this newsletter touches your heart and brings back fond memories. Here's to a successful year ahead! 

### TRADE UNION STALWART, HENK SMITH, BOWS OUT AFTER 43 YEARS OF SERVICE.

We pay tribute to the exceptional dedication and unwavering commitment of Mr. Henk Smith, a true stalwart of UNTU. His inedible mark on the union serves as a testament to the power of hard work, passion and steadfast devotion to a cause. As we bid farewell to this remarkable individual, let us all be inspired by his legacy and strive for excellence in our respective fields.



## -Social Media

Find us on 

UNITED NATIONAL TRANSPORT UNION

 Instagram

@UNTU\_UNION



@HEADOFFICEUNTU

“

*I WAS BROUGHT UP THAT EVERYBODY IS EQUAL, NO MATTER THE BELIEF OF YOUR STANDING IN LIFE- HENK SMITH.*



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Picture: President Steven Leshabana and Vice President Wielligh Meyer honours Henk Smith with a Life Achievement Award.

Trade Union stalwart, Henk Smith, has hung up boots after forty-three( 43) of being a unionist. Smith was born in Bellville, Cape Town and his family relocated to his grandparents' farm in Touws River.

Soon after matriculating, Smith entered the job market as a Transnet Train Assistant in 1980 and this was when the union bug bit him and he enrolled as a Voetplaats Union member.

When the Spoornet started the restructuring, unfortunately, Touws River was affected and several depots closed-

but as luck would have it, Smith was one of the employees transferred to Worcester .

*"In 1995 I was appointed as Train Driver in Worcester and I was then elected as the Branch Chairperson for Worcester with a total membership of 4 members. Over the next 3 years I grew the Worcester branch to a point where it had more members than the Kimberley branch," he said.*

*Smith's hard work and efforts were recognised by the Union at the Congress in 1996.*

While this was momentous for Smith, surprisingly it has not been the highlight of his career but the pinnacle of his career was winning his first arbitration when he represented three members who were unfairly dismissed by Transnet Engineering in Salt River.

*"Three of our members were unfairly dismissed, they were brought back and they were retrospectively compensated," he said.*

One of Smith's highlights was being given the chance to attend an ER course in Turin, Italy's capital city.

*"During the course, you meet up with all TURs and managers from all over the world. It also showed me that the training that UNTU gave to its TURs or FTURs is excellent in relation to all the other countries that had attended the training, as members we should be proud of how UNTU equips us as TURs," Smith added.*



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While Smith says he hasn't considered what this next chapter holds, however, he says he will focus on his wife, Magriet, who has selflessly allowed him to do what he loves for the last 14 years which is to serve UNTU members by going beyond the call of duty.

*"I believe it is time to take her to those places she wants to see that I have told her about during my time with UNTU and Transnet," he said.*

Smith says what he will miss the most about being part of UNTU is the daily interaction with members, whose diversity have always presented him with an opportunity to learn.

*"What I will miss the most is the daily interaction with our members, to experiencing their gratitude when you have assisted them, I believe it is also the diversity and the opportunity to learn from them all, there was never a dull moment, each day brought its own ups and downs," he said.*

Smith's advice to the remaining UNTU leadership emphasizes the importance of putting members of the union first.

*"You are not the Union, our Union consists of our membership they are the members that have elected you, earn their trust and be worthy of their trust," he said.*

Smith's last parting words to the rest of UNTU embody the type of leadership he has shown over the span of his career.

*"Lastly, I want to thank each and every member of UNTU, every employee at UNTU Head office, Cape Town office, Port Elizabeth and in Durban. Thank you for your willingness to always assist," he added*

*UNTU wishes Oom Henk a long and blissful retirement with his wife and loved ones.*

**-End**

**LUTWENA SAUL  
RETURNS TO HER  
SEAT IN UNTU'S  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:**

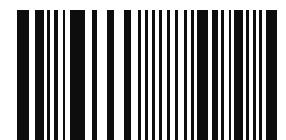


Lutwena Saul has recently returned to the UNTU Executive Council with renewed energy, a wealth of experience, and a plan to drive the Union forward.

Saul officially joined the EXCO on January 1st, 2024, following Henk Smith's retirement in December.

This is not Saul's first time serving in the Executive Council, she previously served in 2019 and therefore has a deep understanding of the significance and weight of this position and the responsibilities that come with it.

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For Saul, being a leader means being in tune with the people you serve, understanding their personalities, character, circumstances, and what matters most to them in their work and personal lives. Service delivery remains a top priority for Saul, and she aims to gain a more profound understanding of UNTU members by proposing specific strategies to better serve them.

Saul says the goal is to make UNTU the number one and only recognised Union within Transnet and this can be done by ensuring that our members are always prioritised.

-End

*"A leader ... is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realizing that all along they are being directed from behind." ~Nelson Mandela*

### UNITU DISPUTE ADMINISTRATOR NATALIE ZACHARIAS-SAHIB'S RETIREMENT & LEGACY.



Picture: President Steven Leshabana and Natalie Zacharias- Sahib

When the United National Transport Union( UNTU) announced that Natalie Zacharias-Sahib was taking her much-deserved retirement, messages started pouring from far and wide from members who enjoyed interacting with Natalie.

Natalie was born in Umtata and raised in Port Elizabeth. in the Eastern Cape before moving to the City of Gold, Johannesburg in 1982.

When Natalie was interviewed at UNTU, she must have wooed the interviewers as she was hired on the spot.

Natalie has devoted all her years to the Union, and now she's looking forward to resting and spending time with her family.

*"I look forward to resting, spending time with my grandchildren and seeing my dad who is now 91-years- old," she added.*

-END



# Get the financial advice you need

Consulting an accredited financial adviser is essential to help you with some of the most important financial decisions of your life, we offer you holistic advice to help you reach your financial goals, achieve sustainable wealth and gain peace of mind.

We offer a comprehensive range of products and services to help you achieve your financial goals through each stage of your journey covering all your needs from personal income protection, short- and medium-term savings goals, retirement planning and the commercial needs of your business.

Contact us at **Aquila Wealth BlueStar** for professional financial advice.



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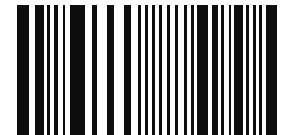
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### UNITU AWARDS CEREMONY

The United National Transport Union (UNITU) is dedicated to acknowledging the invaluable contributions made by individuals who strive to advance our organisation and propel it to new heights. Recently, UNTU hosted a prestigious Awards Ceremony to honour the dedication and hard work of our Executive Councillors, Staff, and representatives, who serve as the backbone of our union.

The ceremony encompassed various categories of recognition, including Long Service Awards presented to both the Executive Council and staff, celebrating their enduring commitment and loyalty to our cause. Additionally, the WIETS BOTES TROPHY was bestowed upon a representative who demonstrated exceptional advocacy by representing the highest number of members at disciplinary hearings. Another notable accolade was presented to the representative who excelled in recruiting new members, highlighting their instrumental role in expanding our union's reach.

President's Recognition Awards were personally conferred by President Steven Leshabana. This surprise accolade serves as a testament to outstanding leadership, dedication, and exemplary service to UNTU's mission and values.



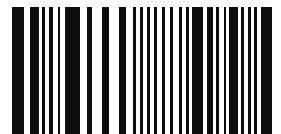
Picture One(1): Vice President Wielligh Meyer honoured with a Long Service Award (8 YEARS).



Picture two(2): Mr MW. Mogamisi honoured with the WIETS BOTES TROPHY for representing the most members at Disciplinary Hearings.



Picture Three(3): S.Sibiya honoured with the Recruiter of the Year trophy for 2023.



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### UNTU AWARDS CEREMONY

Picture: four(4) Zotha Ngobho honoured with the President's Recognition Award for always going Above And Beyond The Call Of Duty.



Picture six(6): Area 3-Cape Town office honoured with the President's Recognition Award for their Outstanding Commitment To Advancing Gender Equality and Inclusivity.



Picture 7: EXCO member, Clayton du Plessis honoured with a Long Service Award(8 YEARS).



Picture 8: Annemarie Vosloo was honoured with a Long Service Award(15 YEARS) & the President's Recognition Award for always going Beyond The Call Of Duty.



Picture five(5): EXCO member Lincoln Visagie honoured with the President's Recognition Award for Inspirational Leadership.

Picture 9: Thivhakoni Netshitakanani honoured with a Long Service Award( 20 YEARS).



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### DISCRETIONARY FUND BENEFIT:

UNITU members qualify for the Discretionary fund Benefit of R6000 payable when an UNTU member retires. This benefit is only payable on Statutory retirement age ( age 63 years)

N.B. To qualify for the above benefit a member must have had 5 years of continuous union membership with UNTU. Should a member resign and rejoin, his benefit is penalized by 25%.

#### **UNITU members who claimed from the Discretionary Fund:**

**We extend our warmest wishes to all of our members who retired in 2024. May you have a peaceful and fulfilling retirement.**

**DID YOU  
KNOW?**

IN 2023 UNTU

PAID OUT **494**  
DISCRETIONARY  
FUND CLAIMS.

INTERESTING FACT

H. Turner

NM. USIBA

RD. STEYN

I. JOUBERT

J. VILAKAZI

JF. VICTOR

DJ. VENTER

AJ. VAN  
WYK

CL. VAN  
DER  
MERWE

GS. TIMMS

LL. TEMBE

PJ.  
NIEWENHUIS

JI.  
SWANEPOEL

A. JACOBS

HWJ.  
SMITH

AF. SMIT

EF. SAULS

PAJ.  
SWART

A. MULLER

AM. JACK

A. MULLER

SA.  
MUHSFELDT

U.  
MOONSAMY

CJ.  
POSTHUMUS

NJ. HENNING

A. GROVE

SB. KOFI

KJ.  
KLIENGELD

JN.  
MOLEFE

ID. MNGUNI

JJ. MEYER

GD.  
HOUGAARD



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### REAP THE BENEFITS

UNITED NATIONAL TRANSPORT UNION 

The United National Transport Union provides a range of free benefits to its members. All UNTU members are eligible for primary benefits e.g. representation at Dispute Resolution Processes and wage negotiations and secondary benefits like our Death Benefit (explained on our Benefits Wheel). Members can access an extensive range of benefits by paying a minimum of R53.00 to a maximum of R88.00.

Additionally, UNTU rewards members for successful recruitment by providing R100 for each Stop Order.

#### Collective Bargaining

Representation in collective bargaining, disciplinary proceedings and legal representation as determined by the Management Committee.

#### Holiday Discounts

10% on holiday bookings made on Gomelo.co.za subject to availability. T&Cs apply. Discounted holiday prices at The Palms Voetplaak Park (formerly UNTU Palms).

#### Death Benefit & Funeral Cover

UNTU pays out R1 000 to R10 000 to a member's nominee, spouse or estate. This benefit covers a member's spouse, children and stillborn babies. UNTU offers members an extended voluntary funeral cover at discounted rates.

#### Maternity Benefit

UNTU female members receive R1 800 once-off after the birth of their child. (After 12 months' membership).

#### Collective Bargaining



#### Tertiary Assistance



#### Tertiary Assistance

Education assistance based on merit available **ONLY** for members' children for studies at Tertiary institutions.

#### Discretionary Fund



This fund pays out R6 000 to members who go on statutory retirement. This fund is applicable to members who have been with the union for five or more continuous years.

#### Holiday Discounts\*



#### Death Benefit & Funeral Cover



#### Maternity Benefit



#### Insurance



#### Excellent discounts



#### Discount on Insurance

Discount on short-term insurance through Indwe and discount on life insurance through Old Mutual, Metropolitan and Sanlam.

#### Excellent Discounts

Get Discounts at Tiger Wheels & Tyre and Tyres & More. Preferential discounts on all products.