

## LABOUR



## REPORT



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QUARTER 3 OF 2018



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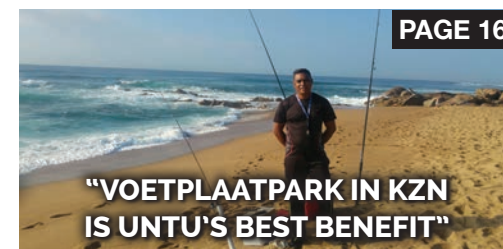
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"VOETPLAATPARK IN KZN  
IS UNTU'S BEST BENEFIT"

Cyril Ramaphosa yet to deliver on promise to turn struggling SOE ship around

# State failing members, taxpayers

**T**hree quarters after the appointment of President Cyril Ramaphosa, South Africans have yet to see his promised improvements to the poorly governed State-Owned Enterprises (SOE's) in our country. Although UNTU realises Rome was not built in a day, too little is being done too late putting the jobs of our 37 000 members at risk. Government has failed all taxpayers in the manner that the SOE's have been managed, says Steve Harris, General Secretary of UNTU.

"Government struggles with a strategic perspective of SOE's, has a poor understanding of its oversight role and does not know how to regulate them properly."

Ramaphosa started off as a new broom sweeping clean by appointing experienced ministers to oversee Transnet, the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa), the Railway Safety Regulator (RSR) and the Bombela Operating Company (BOC), but they have not been able to turn the ship around.

Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister of Transport, can't come up with solutions to the continued arson attacks in the Western Cape and attacks of mobs of furious commuters on trains nationwide.

"Nzimande has not been able to convince the Minister of Police, Bheki Cele, that the South African Police Service (SAPS), specifically the Rapid Railway Police Unit, has a constitutional duty to pro-

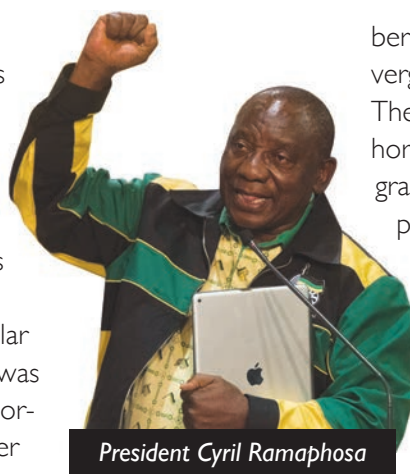
tect the assets of Prasa which belongs to millions of taxpayers.

"The Auditor-General (AG) added to Nzimande's plate when he qualified Prasa's late financial statements for R20,3 billion in irregular spending and said there was 'significant doubt' if the corruption-plagued passenger rail service will be able to continue operations of its services as a going concern," says Harris.

At the BOC Nzimande allowed Gautrain employees to embark on a three-week long strike without responding to any of UNTU's calls to intervene while thousands of commuters were left stranded daily.

Harris says Nzimande did nothing to comply with the Labour Relations Act when the French management of the BOC refused to disclose the company's financial statements. "By refusing to disclose its financial statements, the BOC made it impossible for UNTU to properly engage in collective bargaining as the Union had no idea what profits the company made, what amount is being paid to the French Concessionaire or what bonuses management gets," says Harris.

UNTU recently recruited several mem-



President Cyril Ramaphosa

bers at the RSR and is on the verge of obtaining recognition. The Union has been locking horns with the RSR after it granted Prasa a safety operating permit for another year till August 2019.

Harris says the Union was disturbed to learn that several of the RSR's employees across the country took voluntary severance packages (VSP) while the expenses of the regulator have not yet been cut back to the bone. "How can Nzimande allow retrenchments when board members of the RSR only fly business class?" Harris asks.

According to UNTU President Wyndham Evans, a very similar scenario applies to the Minister of Public Enterprises, Pravin Gordhan. Evans wrote a letter to Ramaphosa asking for a speedy resolution to the allegations against key leaders within Transnet.

Dr Popo Molefe, Chairman of the Board of Transnet, announced that an internal syndicate was operating within Transnet and vowed to suspend Transnet Chief Group Executive, Siyabonga Gama; Thamsanqa Jiyane, the Chief Officer of Advanced Manufacturing of Transnet Engineering; and Lindiwe Mdletshe, the Senior Manager of Strategic Sourcing for Transnet Freight Rail.

Although Jiyane and Mdletshe were sus-

pended, the fate of Gama remains uncertain.

The allegations against them are related to a multibillion-rand procurement deal for over a thousand locomotives emanating from a transaction in 2014.

Evans says Molefe was at the steer of the Board of Prasa during the period of the AG's shocking financial report.

"To date, nothing has come of the corruption and maladministration allegations revealed by the former Public Protector, Adv Thuli Madonsela, in her report on Prasa, *Derailed*, which was tabled in August 2015. Nobody has been prosecuted by the National Prosecution Authority (NPA) about the allegations.

"The result is that Prasa is completely ruined today and is struggling to provide a service to commuters daily," says Evans.

He asked Ramaphosa and Gordhan not to allow Transnet to go through the same turmoil and ruin the confidence of future investors. "UNTU is all for the rooting out of corruption on the highest levels in all spheres of Government but believes it should be done in a responsible manner without jeopardizing the jobs of thousands of workers.

"Ramaphosa informed the National Council of Provinces that he will re-evaluate the structures of SOE's to 'bring back public and investor confidence'. It must be done as soon as possible. UNTU will not allow another SOE left in ruins," says Evans. ❖

## Recruit & win a trip to Victoria Falls!

**T**his year UNTU is offering our top recruiter the opportunity of a lifetime to win a trip to the magnificent Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe by recruiting the highest number of new members for the Union. The competition runs from 3 September 2018 until 31 December 2018 and is open to all Full-time Trade Union Representatives, Trade Union Representatives and members of the Union. Our staff and Exco are excluded from entering.

The first prize for recruiting the largest

number of new members is a four (4) day trip to the value of R15 000 for two (2) persons to the Victoria Falls via UNTU'S travel agent. You can also decide to rather take a four (4) day boat trip to the value of R15 000 for two (2) persons via UNTU'S travel agent or take the R15 000 in cash.

The second prize is a seven (7) day, out of season holiday for four (4) persons at Voetplaatpark, situated in Sunwich Port near Port Shepstone. Transport to and from the resort will be discussed between the prize winner and the office of the

General Secretary.

The draw for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prize winner will take place on 14 January 2019. In addition to these prizes, there will be a lucky draw with the names of three (3) winners announced every second week. Each winner will win R500.

Footage will be recorded when Hendrik Fourie, Vice-President of UNTU, draws the names and all members will be able to view the video clips on UNTU's Facebook page. No backdated application forms will be accepted. ❖







# How can Government watch while Metrorail goes up in flames?

**M**etrorail, the urban commuter division of the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa), is going up in flames while Government is watching as a silent spectator.

In recent months Metrorail suffered unprecedented attacks nationwide by commuters, criminals and a sinister force on its rail infrastructure funded by South African taxpayers.

Metrorail, the cheapest form of transport for the poorest of the poor, might soon cease to exist.

By the time this edition of *Labour Report* went to print, the Western Cape only had 36 train sets left.

The rest of the trains went up in flames in recent months as a sinister mob followed the same modus operandi to torch coaches with a highly flammable substance while it was entering or stationary in train stations.

Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister of Transport, promised Parliament in his budget speech in May that Metrorail will operate 88 fully configured train sets, but admitted that the Cape Town corridor requires approximately 110 train sets.

According to the Minister it is his department's priority to "provide safe rail travel, especially for the working class".

Sadly, the result of this promise is an almost complete collapse of the services of Prasa nationwide.

In September Metrorail train services in KwaZulu-Natal were suspended for a week after commuters attacked and burnt the uMlazi ticket office, trains and staff vehicles parked near the station. Similar attacks happened all over Gauteng.



Steve Harris

But while train coaches are burning, Prasa and the Rapid Rail Police Unit of the South African Police Service (SAPS) continues to play the blame game as to who is responsible for ensuring safe trains.

The SAPS has admitted that they are unable to adequately police trains. Excuses presented to Parliament's Standing Committee on Community Safety were that the trains were too overcrowded for officers to man it on the inside; CCTV cameras at stations have been out of order since 2015; and squatters living along railway lines.

However, none of these excuses are new, yet Government continues to remain mum and to tolerate the destruction of a critical state asset to the South African economy. Maybe the investigation into State Capture might reveal the reasons why. ❖

## Exco members on the move



Wyndham Evans, UNTU President (middle), visited UNTU members working for Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) at the Golela border post in KwaZulu-Natal between South Africa and Swaziland, with UNTU Full-time Trade Union Representative Wally Hattingh, and UNTU's Media, Liaison and Communication Officer, Sonja Carstens.



Hendrik Fourie, UNTU Vice-President, visited UNTU members in Hotazel in the Northern Cape. He was accompanied by UNTU acting Exco member, Tikum Hardhaw, UNTU Full-time Trade Union Representative Sharon Goosen, and UNTU's Media, Liaison and Communication Officer, Sonja Carstens.



UNTU's team of organisers nationwide held their quarterly UNTU Organiser Workshop at the Transnet Engineering Koedoespoort Depot. The organisers had a day of practical recruitment training with the help of the UNTU Branch Leadership in Koedoespoort: Chairperson Izak Brink, Secretary Hannes Oosthuizen and William Swanepoel, one of UNTU's Trade Union Representatives.



# Thousands of jobs at risk due to uncertainty at Transnet

**T**he jobs of thousands of workers are at risk with the ongoing uncertainty surrounding key leadership positions in Transnet which is chasing potential clients and investors away.

By the time *Labour Report* went to print, the newly appointed Board of Transnet announced in the media that it intended to fire Siyabonga Gama, Chief Group Executive of Transnet, and he had to convince them otherwise.

This came more than a month after Thamsanqa Jiyane, the Chief Officer of Advanced Manufacturing of Transnet Engineering, and Lindiwe Mdletshe, the Senior Manager of Strategic Sourcing for Transnet Freight Rail, were suspended.

Why? Because the Board lost con-

fidence in Siyabonga's ability to lead Transnet. Siyabonga allegedly violated his financial, procurement and fiduciary duties on a R54 billion contract to buy new locomotives in 2014. These allegations are nothing new. It was revealed in the reports of two law firms, Werksmans and MNS.

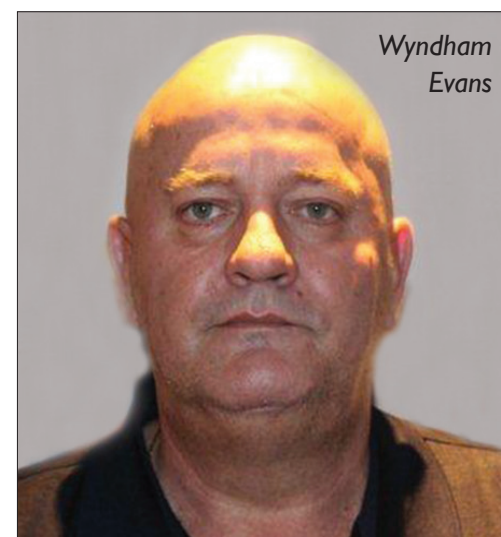
What is very disturbing to me is that neither Werksmans nor Popo Molefe, the Chairman of the Transnet Board, has good track records when it comes to proving allegations made about procurements.

Just look at the current state of the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa), yet nobody has been prosecuted by the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) after Molefe instructed Werksmans' multibillion-rand investigation into irregu-

larly awarded tenders. Molefe, at that time the Chairman of the Prasa Board, fired Lucky Montana, a former Chief Executive Officer of Prasa, in July 2015 with immediate effect. Lucky was blamed for Prasa's R3,5 billion tender for new diesel locomotives that allegedly did not conform to South African rail line standards.

This is why I wrote a letter to President Cyril Ramaphosa to plead with him and the Minister of Public Enterprises, Pravin Gordhan, not to allow Transnet to follow Prasa's fate. The President informed the National Council of Provinces that the Boards of State-Owned Enterprises (SOE's) will be re-evaluated to "bring back public and investor confidence".

I requested him and the Minister to



Wyndham Evans

meet with UNTU to assure us that we will not have another SOE left in ruins. No response has been forthcoming. ❖



# Jason Davids a Springbok in the making

Is this the next Jean de Villiers of South African rugby? That is what inside centre Jason Davids (16), son of UNTU Exco member Brian Davids, is working very hard to achieve.

Jason has just been honoured by being chosen for the Western Province Under-19 Academy Team to participate in the annual Interprovincial Tournament (IPT) of rugby teams nationwide. This year the tournament was held in Johannesburg in Gauteng during the October school holiday.

"I am so excited and realise that it is a big achievement and I need to do my utmost best," says Jason, a learner at the Hoërskool Strand in Cape Town.

He started playing rugby when he was 10 years old. "I love teamwork and the fact that all of my teammates and I need to work together to achieve our goals."

Jason's biggest dream is to play for the Blue Bulls. "The Blue Bulls have always been the best team. My role model as a

rugby player is Warrick Gelant, fullback of the Bulls."

Jason works very hard to achieve his dream. Every day after school, he trains for two hours with his teammates.

"My brother, James Davids (19), also plays club rugby and is my mentor. When James goes to his club in the evening, I go with and train on my own for another two to three hours practising kicks and working on my fitness. Rugby is my life. It is in our blood."

Jason says his father is his biggest fan. "I am very proud of him. He is only 16 years old and already made it to the Under-19 team. He has a lot of talent and potential and we need to support him to achieve his dream," says Brian, also a Blue Bulls supporter.

When Jason is not busy playing rugby or doing school work, he likes playing PlayStation games and spending time with his friends.



Jason Davids (16) in action on the rugby field.



Ashlee Carstens

## Ashlee to dance at World Finals

Ashlee Carstens (13), a learner of the Laerskool Magalieskruin in Pretoria, recently competed in the Dance Star South African Championships and qualified to compete in the Dance Star World Finals in Porec, Croatia from 22 to 26 May 2019. More than 7 000 dancers from all over the world will be competing at the World Finals.

"I am so excited. Achieving this honour makes up for all the hours of practise and tears," says Ashlee who will be traveling abroad for the first time.

She is the youngest daughter of Sonja Carstens, UNTU's Media, Liaison and Communication Officer.

Ashlee started dancing when she was five years old. She participates in modern contemporary dance and acrobatic dance.

She won her first South African Championships when she was seven years old.

Although Ashlee enjoys participating in swimming and athletics, she had to stop competing in these to focus on her dancing.

Although she loves dancing, she is also learning very hard at school to be able to achieve her dream of becoming a haematologist one day.

When Ashlee is not dancing, she enjoys watching television and playing games on her phone.

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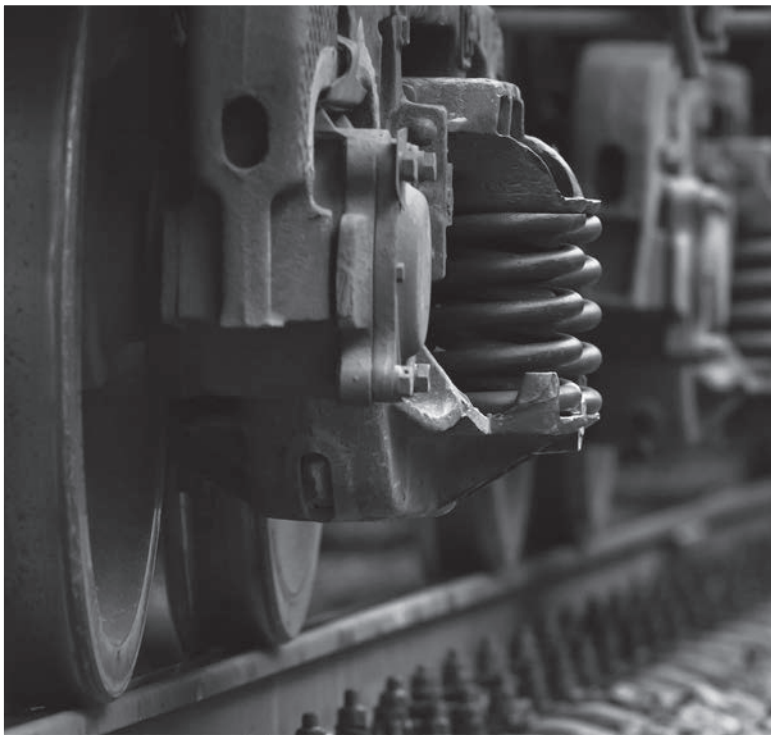
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**“Rail is the cheapest form of transport, whether it is goods and commodities or commuters being transported. As South African taxpayers, we all have an obligation to protect this critical asset to our economy.”**

# Railway Safety Regulator

## Ensuring compliance with rail safety in South Africa

**T**he Railway Safety Regulator (RSR) has an enormous task at hand ensuring that railway operators in and around South Africa comply with legislation to ensure rail safety.

The RSR was established in 2002 in terms of the National Railway Safety Act to monitor and enforce compliance in the rail sector.

According to Tshepo Kgare, acting Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the RSR, their primary legislative mandate is to oversee and enforce safety performance by all railway operators utilising the rails in our country, but it is the primary responsibility of the operators to ensure that they adhere to regulations and legislation, and they are kept accountable if they don't.

“The RSR is accountable to Parliament and the public to protect the people who use, interact or work on the railway and to ensure that rail operations do not contribute to environmental degradation. This work is fundamental to ensure continuous

improvements in railway safety.

“The RSR also protects the interests of future rail users by working with the industry and funders in the development of future railway networks and services,” says Tshepo.

The RSR recently established a Multilateral Stakeholders Forum to meet with organised labour, including UNTU as the majority Union in Transnet, the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) and the Bombela Operating Company (BOC), operator of the Gautrain.

Tshepo says these meetings are very valuable to the RSR as the regulator obtain crucial information about non-compliance with safety regulators which is not brought to the attention of the Regulator by the rail operators. “Rail safety is everybody's responsibility,” she says.

One of the aims of the Forum is to roll out a management programme to all railway operators designed to:

- Standardise Competency Management Systems (CSM);

- Determine acceptable vacancy rates within safety-critical grades;
- Ensure effective workload planning for staff involved with safety-critical work; and
- Safe Systems of Work.

Steve Harris, General Secretary of UNTU, urges all UNTU members to assist the RSR in its task by reporting serious safety-related occurrences within 15 minutes via the RSR Call Centre's toll-free number on 0800 444 888.

All calls are kept anonymous and UNTU members don't have to disclose their identity if they feel that they might be victimised.

“Rail is the cheapest form of transport, whether it is goods and commodities or commuters being transported. As South African taxpayers, we all have an obligation to protect this critical asset to our economy. We can only do this if we strengthen the RSR's hand by being the eyes and ears of the Regulator and reporting it whenever rail operators does not comply with the Act,” says Harris. 📞

## Contact the RSR toll free number on 0800 444 888



**Labour Report is the official publication of UNTU and is published quarterly.**

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# Girls' lives changed thanks to Maria

Segodi helping mothers of the future remain in school with their dignity intact

“One out of every three schoolgirls in South Africa stay home for up to four days a month because they cannot afford sanitary towels. If they do go to school, they use toilet paper or get teased and laughed at.”

This is according to Maria Segodi, who believes that every girl must be helped to remain in school with dignity during their periods.

Maria was so humbled by how grateful the girls of the Kabela High School in Limpopo were for their sanitary towel donation that she decided there and then to continue with her project annually.

“They overwhelmed me with joy. I was so happy. I will do it again next year,” says Maria (34), an UNTU member and a Train Control Officer at Transnet Pyramid South in Pretoria.

With the help of Sonja Carstens, Media, Liaison and Communication Officer of UNTU, and her fellow UNTU members, Maria managed to donate three packets of sanitary towels to each girl in grade 11 and matric, and two packets of sanitary towels to each girl in this school in the remote rural area of the province.

“This was the first time these 184 girls at the school got any donation. God will



Sonja Carstens and Maria Segodi with the sanitary towels that was donated.

truly bless everyone who contributed in whatever way,” says Maria.

The mother of two boys started this

project single-handedly to supply sanitary towels to all the girls at her former high school after the completion of all the

Madiba Day-drives this year. “There were many organisations who collected sanitary towels. Afterward, I phoned one of my former teachers to enquire if they had reserved some of the donations. Unfortunately, they didn’t.”

Sonja responded to Maria’s call after UNTU’s Branch Secretary of Pyramid South, Charles Mhlongo, phoned her to ask if #UNTUCares can support the project.

#UNTUCares donated 67 packets of sanitary towels for Maria’s project after Sonja managed to obtain the donation from the Sinoville Crisis Centre (SCC), a registered non-profit organisation who provides a free 24/7 counselling service to victims.

Maria is providing not only for her own family but also for a mother and her three children who fled from the Republic of Rwanda, a sovereign state in Central and East Africa, to South Africa.

“I want to be a part of changing the lives of other people for the better. These girls are the mothers of the future,” she says.

Minister of Women in the Presidency, Bathabile Dlamini, announced in July that girls in primary and secondary schools will soon receive free sanitary towels. This project has not yet been rolled out in Limpopo.

## Melikaya dreaming of World Draughts crown

As a little boy growing up in the small town of Peddie in the Eastern Cape, Melikaya Nonyukela’s uncle and grandfather taught him how to play Draughts. Now his aim is to become South Africa’s first World Draughts Champion and bring the World Draughts Trophy back home from the United States of America (USA).

“I know that I will have to perform and make South Africa proud. All eyes are on me now,” says Melikaya, a Shore Crane Operator at Transnet’s Port of Ngqura in the Eastern Cape, and a member of UNTU.



Melikaya Nonyukela

This is the second year that he will be participating in the World Draught Championships in the USA. Last year he participated for the first time and placed third in the tournament.

UNTU assisted Melikaya to obtain a sponsorship from Transnet this year. Thanks to Siyabonga Gama, Chief Executive Officer of Transnet, the company paid for Melikaya’s flights and accommodation in the USA.

He applied for a sponsorship from Transnet last year, but it was denied. UNTU established later that his application never reached Gama’s office.

“I feel good. I am very excited and promise UNTU that my Union will be the first to know if I win,” says Melikaya.

His colleagues also raised R10 000 for him to take along as spending money and the Eastern Cape Draughts Association sponsored him with R5 000.

Draughts or Checkers is a strategy board game for two players, which involves diagonal moves of uniform game pieces and mandatory captures by jumping over opponents’ pieces.

“UNTU is very proud of Melikaya’s achievements and wishes him all the best for this tournament. He is truly an inspiration to all of us. Our prayers will be with him.

“The Union is very glad to see that Transnet is investing in one of their own and making it possible for Melikaya to compete at this level,” says Wyndham Evans, President of UNTU.

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# Bare minimum for these Transnet employees

**W**ater, electricity, phone signal, and fresh food is a luxury for the 38 Transnet employees at Loop 10, Halfweg in the Northern Cape.

They are left to their own devices, since their closest town in the Kalahari, Upington, is 224 km away. A delegation led by Wyndham Evans, President of the United National Transport Union (UNTU) has discovered this during a visit to the Union's remote branches in the area.

None of the 38 Transnet employees in Halfweg are trained to provide first aid or any form of medical assistance in the area that is known for its Cape Cobras, Rinkhals and Black Mambas. There are no cell phone towers nearby, hence no reception.

The 70 km gravel road from the Trans-Sahara Highway is in a terrible condition and one should think twice before tackling it without a 4x4 vehicle.

The employees in Halfweg no longer have the privilege of a Transnet driver to drive their children to and from their nearest school hostels or to take them to the shops.

Two employees take turns to do the

driving when there is a need, but they are not trained or compensated.

Although fresh food is delivered weekly to the Halfweg-hostel, where train drivers and their train assistants coming from either Saldanha in the Western Cape or Sishen in the Northern Cape need to overnight, the employees are only allowed to visit shops in Upington once a month.

**They don't have access to fresh milk or bread or even emergency sanitary goods as Halfweg does not have a kiosk. Fresh water and electricity are a luxury they seldom enjoy.**

"If we have a power failure, the water pumps also stop working and we are left without water and electricity for up to five days," one of the employees said. If the water pumps start working again, it takes up to four days for the brackish water to clear.

Transnet provided Halfweg with two generators, but this is used for operating

the signals and the hostel's kitchen. Halfweg does not even have a qualified electrician to perform any of its electrical work.

These employees are tired of the empty promises from their employer. Over the past decade, they have been left with several reports and recommendations on their hazardous working conditions.

"When you have to work here in Halfweg, you don't believe that Transnet can be the best employer in South Africa.

"During summer the weather in Halfweg is typical the same as the desert and semidesert areas. This is a large dry region where the highest recorded temperature was 47.8 °C at the Orange River in 1939.

"With this in mind, it is mind-blowing that all the air conditioners have been removed within the hostel rooms at Halfweg. In winter, the minimum temperature in the area has been as low as -6 °C," says Wyndham.

The only entertainment for the children in Halfweg is a dusty play area and a dirty play room with a very old pool table.

Transnet employees staying at the hostel have access to a pool table and a television in a lounge that has seen better days.

## Transnet responds:

**R**avi Nair, Chief Executive Officer of Transnet Freight Rail (TFR), responded to Wyndham Evans, President of UNTU, by thanking the Union for bringing the living and working conditions of TFR employees at Halfweg to his attention and assured the Union that Transnet will not allow their employees to be housed in such "appalling" conditions.

He asked Mr Russell Baaitjies, Transnet General Manager: Iron Ore and Manganese (IOM), to personally visit Halfweg with an independent team to investigate the conditions.

According to him, some concerns about the catering and facilities at Halfweg (Loop 10), were already raised in 2017. A new menu was designed for Halfweg and has since been implemented. Several other concerns about the rooms, kitchen and entertainment areas were raised and TFR started addressing it. Some new equipment had been delivered and some are still in the process of being delivered. TFR established a task team to address and improve the conditions of Halfweg's employees.

After Wyndham's letter to Ravi, he requested the task team to visit Halfweg and included Lutwena Saul, UNTU Full-time Trade Union Representative, who was also present during Wyndham's visit.

"Everyone spent the night at Halfweg to personally experience the living conditions at this remote branch. The team slept in the same rooms where the crew sleeps. Some Halfweg employees were not available and requested another visit." Baaitjies committed to a follow-up visit shortly.

"The task team committed themselves to ensure that the concerns raised receive high priority. In addition, the task team is tracking the progress on a regular basis to ensure that committed deadlines are met."

According to Nair, the employees of Halfweg are critical to TFR and for the first time they were included in the Manganese celebration with other remote areas like Loeriesfontein, Groblershoop, Kenhardt and Upington.

"We care for all our employees and we commit to ensure the improvement plan at Halfweg is strictly implemented and that our valued Halfweg team experience vastly improved living conditions."





# Four years of empty promises at Golela depot

## Transnet responds:

Ravi Nair, Chief Executive Officer of Transnet Freight Rail (TFR), thanked UNTU for bringing the “atrocious” living conditions of Transnet employees at the Golela border post between South Africa and Swaziland to his attention and says it not only shocks him but also pains him.

“We are a caring organisation and cannot allow our people to continue living in terrible conditions.

“Through my instruction, our Real Estate teams, as well as Mr Lesiba Mabotja, General Manager: Mineral Mining and Chrome (MMC) Business Unit, personally visited Golela and completed their assessments with recommendations to correct this.

“Since housing is a general problem in the Golela area, our Real Estate team has already held discussions with the Department of Public Works to assist us by making some of their houses available to TFR as accommodation for our employees.”

According to Nair Transnet Freight Rail will not be able to move all of its employees out of the existing housing, but will start moving those living in the worst conditions.

“We will immediately start fixing our employees’ houses and update it to habitable standards. I have instructed our teams to treat this with urgency and provide regular feedback to me. Our General Manager: Human Capital, Ms Beatrice Nkayi, will ensure that UNTU is kept informed of the progress.

“We thank UNTU for bringing this to our attention and assure UNTU and all our employees that we will do everything in our power to correct this totally unsatisfactory situation. We will not allow our people to be housed in such conditions anymore.”

**B**locked drains, no running water, leaking toilets and broken windows are synonymous with the working conditions of the Transnet employees at the Golela border post between South Africa and Swaziland.

The 42 members of UNTU working at this remote depot have been promised four years ago that their accommodation will be renovated and improved so that they can bring their families with them.

But none of this has happened to date.

**“We are three employees sharing a house, each paying R1 300 for his or her room. We must share the toilet, bath and kitchen,” explains one of the employees.**

“Running water is a rarity in Golela. And if we do get running water, the colour of the water is black. Transnet employees do not enjoy the luxury of having JoJo

water tanks like most of the other residents in Golela have access to.

“Instead each of us is issued with 5 litres of water per day to drink, cook, bath and clean with. We can’t bring our spouses here, not even to mention our children.”

Some of the drains of these houses have been blocked for more than three months. If the toilets are not broken, they are leaking.

“UNTU President Wyndham Evans visited Golela about six weeks ago and reported the one broken toilet. Afterward it was ‘fixed’ with putty and a plastic bag. It is still broken. The employees can’t use the bath. They have water in the bath to flush the toilet with.”

When UNTU visited Golela on 11 September, there were open live wires inside and outside these houses where children play. “This is life-threatening.”

Undemeath each house are eight holes. These holes are the ideal breeding place for snakes, rats and cats. “If a cat dies inside, you simply can’t get rid of the smell.”

The windows of these houses can’t stay open so hammers or empty 2-litre cooldrink bottles are used to keep them

open for ventilation. In summer Golela has an average temperature of 40 °C.

“We don’t have air conditioning. It is very difficult to rest during the day when you are working night shift.

“Transnet does no maintenance on these houses, yet we have to pay rent to stay here. There has been a big hole in the one roof for the past two years.”

Golela is situated 40 km from the nearest town, Pongola. There is no public transport in the area.

Right next to the Transnet houses, is the neatly built and well-maintained houses of Swaziland Railway to accommodate their train crews working on the border post. They have aircon, the area surrounding the houses is kept clean, the houses have fences and the windows are all intact.

“Transnet is supposed to be South Africa’s best employer, but working in Golela, you don’t feel the love,” says an employee.

Wyndham brought this to the attention of Ravi Nair, Chief Executive Officer, Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) and demanded a response.







# UNTU DIRECTORY



## AREA 1 – KWAZULU-NATAL

AREA COMMITTEE	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
	Chairman	Short	John	071 481 6975	031 361 6164	–	john.short@transnet.net
	Secretary	Madonsela	Jabulile	060 414 5827	035 905 3807	035 905 3293	Jabulile.Madonsela@transnet.net
BRANCH	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Durban Infra	Chairman	Biljoen	Linda	082 852 9478	031 361 4318	086 726 0711	linda.biljoen@transnet.net
	Secretary	Homan	Leon	–	031 361 4695	031 361 4713	leon.homan@transnet.net
Ermelo	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
Ladysmith	Chairman	Mazibuko	Sipho	073 288 3574	–	–	Sipho.Mazibuko@transnet.net
	Secretary	De Bruin	Ernst	084 506 3709	036 271 2001	–	tingeling@telkomsa.net
Maritime Durban	Chairman	Phethwa	Wiseman	083 721 2250	031 361 8377	086 677 6040	wiseman.phethwa@transnet.net
	Secretary	Govender	Seelan	084 309 4287	031 361 6610	–	seelan.govender@transnet.net
Maritime Richards Bay	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary		Ashmerelda	083 273 0985	035 905 3807	035 905 3189	Ashmerelda.Dunn@transnet.net
Newcastle	Chairman	Van Der Hyde	Willem	083 308 5375	034 328 7202	–	Willemdude49@gmail.com
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
Pietermaritzburg	Chairman	Holtshausen	Charles	082 336 2708	033 897 2460	033 897 2460	btholtshausen@gmail.com
	Secretary	Mnengela	Muzi	083 366 5200	033 897 2727	033 897 2773	utatupietermaritzburg@transnet.net
Metro Durban	Chairman	Munsaur	Vikash	082 309 8937	031 361 7821	–	Vikash.Munsaur@prasa.com
	Secretary	Roopnarain	Shireen	072 018 8064	031 813 0277	–	SRoopnarain@metrorail.co.za
Richards Bay	Chairman	Hattingh	Walter	083 547 3059	035 906 7193	–	walter.hattingh@transnet.net
	Secretary	Verster	Paul	072 233 1525	035 905 2034	035 905 2041	paul.verster@transnet.net
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 4033	–	remon@iburst.co.za / remonheijmans@gmail.com
Vryheid	Chairman	Ndwandwe	Mandla	083 710 4031	034 989 9310	–	alexander.ndwandwe@transnet.net
	Secretary	Malinga	Nkosinathi	083 444 0386	034 989 9430	–	Nkosinathi.Malinga2@transnet.net
Wentworth	Chairman	Govender	Reagan	072 690 0706	031 361 4079	031 361 4330	untuwddtfr@transnet.net
	Secretary	Balmogim	Shaun	081 462 8344	031 361 5346	031 361 4330	untuwddtfr@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
Burgersdorp	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
Cradock	Chairman	Els	Andries	084 205 8529	049 802 8224	–	Andries.els.05@gmail.com
	Secretary	Pain	Basie	078 320 1130	049 822 8227	–	basie.pain@transnet.net
East London	Chairman	Pautz	Clive	078 802 5566	042 700 4317	042 700 4207	clive.pautz@transnet.net
	Secretary	Groves	Clayton	076 098 3309	043 700 4341	043 700 4546	clayton.groves@transnet.net
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	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
Maritime Ngqura	Chairman	Venter	Anton	082 465 6686	041 507 8326	041 507 8328	anton.venter@transnet.net
	Secretary	Julie	Venencia	073 535 3221	041 507 8397	–	venecia.julie@transnet.net
Port Elizabeth	Chairman	Van Tonder	Wynand	076 125 7926	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
Metro East London	Chairman	Mrwebi	Thembinkosi	072 579 2049	043 700 2160	–	untuec@prasa.com
	Secretary	Nkumanda	Kholelwa	083 670 0013/083 947 1995	043 700 2353/2090/2160	–	kolelwa.nkumanda@prasa.com
TRE Swartkops	Chairman	Cyster	Julius	063 043 8599	041 507 5000	041 507 5014	julius.cyster@transnet.net
	Secretary	Verwey	Barend	076 882 4789	041 507 5194	041 507 5224	Barend.Verwey@transnet.net
TRE Uitenhage	Chairman	Meyer	Wayne	074 668 4519	–	–	wayne.meyer@transnet.net
	Secretary	Bubb	Malcolm	083 952 4967	041 994 2341	041 994 2412	malcolm.bubb@transnet.net
Queenstown	Chairman	Barnardo	Petrus	071 893 2831	045 808 2080	–	petrus.barnardo@transnet.net
	Secretary	Van Heerden	Leon	083 944 9385	045 808 2022	045 808 2150	Use fax

## 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	Fourie	Barbara	073 047 9335	021 507 2248	–	bfourie@metrorail.co.za
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	Van Niekerk	Lillian	083 557 8210	023 449 2140	021 415 2402	lillianvanniekerk@gmail.com
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	–	chantal.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	ply.wewers@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mbonyana	Sibongile	083 451 7253	022 703 5447	086 679 9561	sibongile.mbonyana@transnet.net
Lions Head	Chairman	Ramuhovhi	Livhuwani	073 870 0970/079 761 1421	021 449 5349	021 449 2104	esther.ramuhovhi@prasa.com
	Secretary	Matsepe	Moitheri	073 704 8688	081 338 4003	021 449 2104	mmatsepe@metrorail.co.za
Metro Disa	Chairman	Cupido	André	083 429 0161	–	–	Andrecupido@gmail.com
	Secretary	Rhelegushe	Simphiwe	063 443 1782/079 930 9275	021 940 3316	–	srelegusme@prasa.com
Metro Tafelberg	Chairman	Qoyi	Luyanda	078 866 8381	021 449 5532	–	lqoyi@prasa.com
	Secretary	Kwintshi	Thami	082 737 8922	021 449 6430	–	tkwintshi@prasa.com
Saldanha Orex	Chairman	Saul	Lutwena	079 225 9168	022 703 2347	022 703 2229	Lutwena.Saul@transnet.net
	Secretary	Myburgh	André	083 652 7580	022 703 3242	–	andreuntu05@telkomsa.net
TRE Cape Town	Chairman	Slabber	Shawn	082 723 3490	021 507 2388	–	shawn.slabberg9@gmail.com
	Secretary	Pugh	Shane	063 696 8694	021 507 2039	021 507 2049	UNTUSaltRiver@transnet.net
Vredendal	Chairman	Moolman	Ettienne	–	–	–	ettiennemoolman@gmail.com
	Secretary	Brand	Neil	078 445 6422	022 703 3515	022 703 3552	neilbrand8@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	Veitch	Russell	079 495 7203	051 408 2653	051 408 3959	Russell.Veitch@transnet.net
	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	Nhlapo	Ally	072 763 1459	058 302 2018	058 302 2085	Ally.Nhlapo@transnet.net
	Secretary	Taaso	Thabo	083 409 6572	058 302 2160	058 302 2081	thabotaaso27@gmail.com
Bloemfontein	Chairman	Van Rooyen	Pieter	079 526 9228	051 408 2663	–	pieter4901@gmail.com
	Secretary	Swanepoel	Corné	060 564 4995	051 408 3302	–	corne.swanie@gmail.com



BRANCH	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
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	–	–	Kobus.Bezuidenhoudt@transnet.net
	Secretary	Meiring	Minette	065 393 6505	051 408 2543	–	minette.meiring@transnet.net

AREA 5 – GAUTENG CENTRAL

AREA COMMITTEE	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
	Chairman	De Koker	Scott	082 046 6815	082 324 9169	–	scott@untu.co.za
	Secretary	Mashamaite	Chuene	083 583 7527	016 420 6250	016 789 3535	chuene@untu.co.za
BRANCH	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Braamfontein	Chairman	Stoltz	Henning	083 709 1480	011 773 4734	–	Hstoltz@prasa.com
	Secretary	Ratshibaya	Suzan	065 875 8843	–	–	radzilanisuzan6@gmail.com
Bombela	Chairman	Makwela	Thabiso	073 688 9073	011 253 3019	–	thabiso.makwela@bombelaop.co.za
	Secretary	Mashele	Themba	071 533 1500	011 253 0068	–	Themba.mashele@bombelaop.co.za
Esselenpark	Chairman	Van Rooyen	Johan	060 539 6644	082 469 2390	–	andre.vanrooyen2@transnet.net
	Secretary	Maphunye	Chris	082 767 1076/083 476 2375	011 929 1112	011 774 9017	chris.maphunye@transnet.net
Germiston	Chairman	Motau	Thabo	083 880 2778	011 820 2622	011 820 2318	thabo.motau@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mathivha	Rendani	078 508 3238/076 156 1415	011 820 2584	–	Rendani.Mathivha@transnet.net
Heidelberg	Chairman	Njowa	Peter	083 399 9626	016 340 7227	–	peter.njowa@transnet.net
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
Isando	Chairman	Mathebula	Andreas	071 827 3298	–	–	andreas.mathebula@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mtshweni	Wenzile	074 028 8561/076 950 4934	011 570 7030	–	bwmtshweni1@gmail.com
Kaserne	Chairman	Mathekga	Noah	072 799 7297	011 330 6061	–	noahmathekga@gmail.com
	Secretary	De Koker	Scott	082 046 6815	082 324 9169	–	scott@untu.co.za
Krugersdorp	Chairman	Van Zyl	Abraham	084 802 7459	011 950 1251	–	Riekiev.vz@gmail.com
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
Leeuhof	Chairman	Rossouw	Morne	084 504 0407	016 420 6246	016 420 6352	morne.rossouw@yahoo.com
	Secretary	Mashamaite	Chuene	083 583 7527	016 420 6250	016 789 3535	chuenemash11@gmail.com
Metro – Central	Chairman	Baloyi	Masenyani	076 777 8548	–	–	masenyani.baloyi@prasa.com
	Secretary	Matshidze	Thabelo	081 715 2205	–	–	blecngtm@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	Groenewald	Sannie	073 660 3605	011 584 0996	–	sannie.groenewald@transnet.net
Sentrarand	Chairman	Mulaudzi	Vhulahani	082 973 8120	011 960 2011	–	Mulaudzi777@gmail.com
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
Springs	Chairman	Monana	Lever	072 536 8388	011 365 7361	–	monam.lev@gmail.com
	Secretary	Grimsell	Kenneth	073 809 6086	011 365 7361	–	kgrimsell@gmail.com
Standerton	Chairman	Mthembu	Sibusiso	072 117 0882	083 748 3616	–	sbusisomthembu54@gmail.com
	Secretary	Letsoalo	Maredi	078 014 6871	053 723 9204	–	leslieoliphant01@gmail.com
TRE Germiston	Chairman	Mudau	Phindile	071 134 3906/076 540 0458	011 820 2716	–	Audrey.Mudau@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mikase	John	011 820 2716	–	–	jrmikase@gmail.com
TRE Sentrarand	Chairman	Tsekedi	May	061 146 7583	011 960 2123	–	May.Tsekedi@transnet.net
	Secretary	Dube	Vusi	072 130 4290	011 960 2405	–	vusi.dube@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	083 480 1613	053 632 8303	–	Ymenziwa.yaya@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	Tokwe	Oneilwe	078 970 6035	018 632 0274	–	Oneilwe.tokwe@transnet.net
	Secretary	Maphike	Sipho	073 842 6747	018 632 0894	–	sipho.maphike@transnet.net
De Aar	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary	Menziwa	Yandiswa	083 480 1613	053 632 8303	–	Ymenziwa.yaya@gmail.com
Kimberley	Chairman	Content	Abraham	073 483 0034	053 838 3414	053 838 3363	Abraham.Content@transnet.net
	Secretary	Visagie	Lincoln	063 296 7281	073 381 7190	–	Lincoln.Visagie@transnet.net
Mafikeng	Chairman	Malisha	Gundo	076 186 8304	018 381 9250	–	gundo.malisha@transnet.net
	Secretary	Manca	Collin	078 267 6257	018 381 9271	018 381 7201	Use Fax
North West (Klerksdorp)	Chairman	Cimela	Abram	071 586 4664	018 406 2206	018 406 2030	cimelaba@gmail.com
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
Postmasburg	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary	Botha	Sobuza	083 678 7317	053 313 7210	–	GRP-TFR-UNTUPostmasburg@transnet.net
Sishen	Chairman	Goosen	Sharon	073 258 5810	053 723 9207	–	Sharon.Goosen@transnet.net
	Secretary	Oliphant	Lesley	078 014 6871	053 723 9204	–	leslieoliphant01@gmail.com
Warrenton	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary	Mgwevu	Ndumiso	074 844 2482	053 494 3236	–	untuwarrenton@transnet.net
Upington	Chairman	Van der Merwe	Petrus	083 504 9205	054 338 6699	054 338 0185	caartie@telkomsa.net
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–

AREA 7 – GAUTENG NORTH

AREA COMMITTEE	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	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
Komatipoort	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary	Mbuyane	Mandla	082 745 7847	013 793 9986	–	Mandla.Mbuyane@transnet.net
Lydenburg	Chairman	Mkonto	Defference	072 094 0352	013 235 8243	–	mkonto.dp@gmail.com
	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	Willem.vermaak@transnet.net
	Secretary	Tshotheli	Regina	076 476 0172	015 534 7209	015 534 7222	Regina.Tshotheli@gmail.com
Nelspruit	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary	Ngomane	Thulane	078 204 2403	013 751 9233	–	ikemshika@gmail.com
Phalaborwa	Chairman	Muleya	Alfred	074 676 2136/078 261 6594	015 781 9035	–	alfredmuleya47@gmail.com
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
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	SK	072 805 2067	012 315 8409	–	GRP-TFR-UNTUPRETORIA@transnet.net
	Secretary	Seatlholo	Shuping	078 442 4581	012 315 8237	–	GRP-TFR-UNTUPRETORIA@transnet.net
Metro Pretoria	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	Secretary	Mashige	Michael	079 963 5454	–	–	michaelmashige@gmail.com
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IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, PHONE US ON TEL: 011 728 0120



An informed member is a happy member, says Steven Matlala

Steven Matlala (39), the UNTU Branch Chairman of Musina in Limpopo, believes an informed member is a happy member. That is why he takes pride in the UNTU notice board of his Branch and ensures that all communication sent out by the Union to its members, get put up so that all UNTU members are informed.

“My mentor, Sonnyboy Mosebedi, UNTU Branch Chairman of Polokwane and Full-time Trade Union Representative,

told me never to lie to a member and to ensure that I get answers to their questions,” says Steven.

He has been an Infra Assistant at Transnet in Makhado for the past twelve years and joined UNTU in 2007.

“I was not working long when my colleagues decided to elect me as their Trade Union Representative (TUR). They believed in me. I am very proud to say that to date I have always won all the hearings in which I represented our members

thanks to the excellent training provided to TUR’s. Nobody will get dismissed under my watch. I love being a leader.”

His key to success is that he educates UNTU members about their responsibilities in accordance with their job descriptions. “If a worker knows what is expected of him or her, very little can go wrong,” he says.

According to this father of four children, his family is very supportive. When he is not working, Steven is a keen soccer player who also loves travelling.



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:

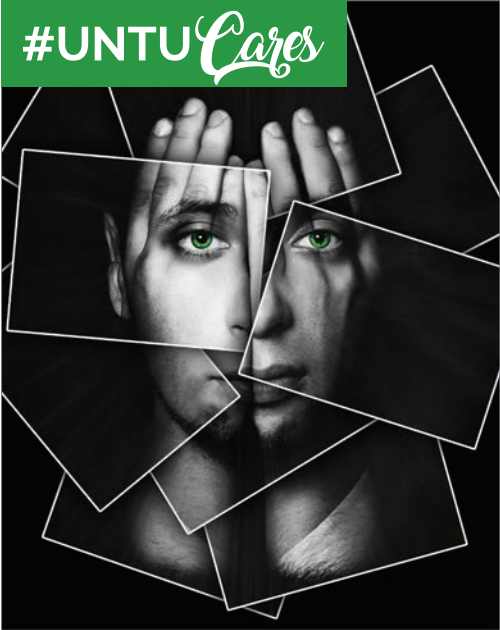
ACCOUNT NUMBER: TYPE OF ACCOUNT:

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



UNTU supports YANA (You Are Not Alone)

The staff and the Secretariat of UNTU this year adopted YANA (You Are Not Alone) as its Casual Day project and want to urge our members to also support this non-profit organisation.

YANA is the Pretoria Association for family and friends of schizophrenia sufferers. Their aim is to give parents and siblings practical and emotional support and to provide group homes for schizophrenia sufferers. YANA helps people with schizophrenia to improve their life skills according to the potential of the individual.

Sonja Carstens, UNTU Media, Liaison and Communication Officer who heads the #UNTUCares-projects, says schizophrenia is a devastating mental illness of which the symptoms are caused by a chemical imbalance in the brain.

The main symptoms include:

- Hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that do not exist)
- Delusions (irrational beliefs)
- Paranoia (believing themselves to be persecuted)
- Flatness of emotions and loss of drive.

YANA currently has two homes, one for men and one for women, in Pretoria. Schizophrenia affects approximately 1% of the population and there is an urgent need to expand the existing facilities.

If you would like to donate to YANA or join their support groups, phone one of their social workers on 012 332 3927. For more information visit youarenotalone.co.za.



# DAGGA

## ILO requested to guide Union

“UNTU's advice to our members is to ensure that you comply with the policies of your employer until we get the best practices from the ILO and have reached an agreement with the various employers.”

UNTU has asked the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to advise the Union on how employers in other countries, where the use of dagga have been legalised at home, are implementing the effect thereof at work.

Currently, you face possible dismissal if you use dagga or any other form of cannabis and are tested positive for it at work, says Steve Harris, General Secretary of UNTU.

All the employers for whom UNTU members work, maintain “zero-tolerance” policies against the use of alcohol and drugs like cannabis. In accordance with the various substance abuse policies of the employers, there are specific steps that kick in when an employee tests positive.

“If these steps are exhausted, the employer has the right to take disciplinary action which may result in dismissal,”

says Steve.

UNTU received lots of questions from members seeking legal certainty of their rights at work if they use cannabis at home.

This comes after the Constitutional Court declared it legal to use cannabis at home.

In a unanimous judgement, Deputy Chief Justice Raymond Zondo said it is legal for South Africans to use or be in possession of cannabis in private for his or her personal consumption in private and to cultivate cannabis in a private place for his or her personal consumption in private.

The effect of the judgment is twofold:

- it decriminalises the use or possession of cannabis by an adult in private for that adult person's personal consumption in private; and



- it decriminalises the cultivation of cannabis by an adult in a private place for that adult's personal consumption in private. However, the use or possession of cannabis by a child

anywhere, or by an adult in public, is not decriminalised.

The Constitutional Court suspended its order of invalidity for a period of 24 months to give Parliament an opportunity to correct the constitutional defects in the two Acts.

Judge Zondo did, however, grant interim relief by ruling it would not be a criminal offence for an adult person:

- to use or be in possession of cannabis in private for his or her personal consumption in private; and
- to cultivate cannabis in a private place for personal consumption in private.

Zondo said Parliament must decide on the quantity of cannabis that an adult person may use, possess or cultivate for it to amount to “personal use”.

But Harris says the judgement made no reference to the effects of what the use of dagga inside one's home, might have on your job.

“Transnet, for example, has clear policies on the use of alcohol and drugs and they have not been changed as they are in line with the requirements when working with or on machinery.

“If you use cannabis today, you will test positive for a substance for up to 30 days.

“UNTU's advice therefore to our members is to ensure that you comply with the policies of your employer until we get the best practices from the ILO and have reached an agreement with the various employers on the effect of the judgement on workers,” says Steve. 🍀

## Feral cat colonies pose a great health risk

Feral cat colonies are synonymous with train depots all over the world, but it becomes a great health risk to humans and animals if they are not controlled according to the National Council of SPCA's (NSPCA).

When UNTU members were asked whether or not feral cats were a problem at depots of Transnet and the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) nationwide, they had lots to say for and against these cats that live outdoors and has had little or no human contact.

Some feral cats, also referred to as stray cats, were getting out of hand as some employees feed them and they continue reproducing. It was also pointed out that not all these cats are in a healthy condition.

Others felt that the cats keep rats and mice under control and aren't a nuisance. “Once the cats go, the number of snakes, birds and rats will start to increase,” an UNTU member pointed out.

Dr Kobus du Toit, a vet, says feral cats may carry rabies, a viral disease that causes inflammation of the brain in humans and other mammals, and toxoplasmosis, an infection caused by a parasite found in

cat faeces.

“Feral cats will always be a problem but should be controlled. When feral cat colonies are left uncontrolled, it becomes a hygiene risk to humans and the cats disturb the biodiversity of the whole area. Cats don't only catch mice and rats, but also catch birds, bush babies and chameleons,” says Kobus.

Meg Wilson, Public Relations Officer for the NSPCA, says there are several depots of Transnet where companies participate in Feral Cat Sterilisation Programmes where the cats are caught and sterilised at a huge cost to the employer.

“There is no sense in removing the feral cat colonies as they will only be replaced by another cat colony very soon. The cats reproduce very fast and the only way to control this is to trap them in a humane way, sterilise them and return them to the colony where they came from.

“Employers are not under any legal obligation to do this, but it is the ethical thing to do if you are concerned about animal welfare in general,” says Meg.

Employers are accountable in terms

### DID YOU KNOW?

The average litter of cats is 1 to 8 kittens and 2 to 3 litters annually. One cat could have **100 KITTENS IN HER LIFETIME.**



of the Animals Protection Act No 71 of 1962 if the feral cats are neglected or are abused by staff. “Prevention is better than

cure, so it is safer to tackle the feral cat colonies before they get completely out of hand,” says Meg. 🍀



# Prasa's huge modernisation flop

Old yellow train fleet going up in flames ■ No green light yet for "People's Train"

**T**he Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) will never be able to adhere to its promised completion of the first phase of its modernisation project by the end of this year.

Steve Harris, General Secretary of UNTU, says Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister of Transport, informed Parliament in his budget speech in May that phases of the modernisation project were "near completion".

"Unfortunately, the Minister was misled. The roll-out of the project is lacking far behind the expectations created by Prasa.

"Eighteen months after former President Jacob Zuma unveiled the new 'People's Train', Prasa is still unable to meet the minimum safety requirements set out by the Railway Safety Regulator (RSR) for it to allow the trains into commercial service."

The RSR will only allow these trains to run as a pilot project in the mornings between Pretoria and Pienaarspoort in Gauteng.

Harris says this is because of Prasa's inability to exercise basic operational safety and security towards its paying customers



*In September Metrorail train services in KwaZulu-Natal were suspended after commuters attacked and burnt a ticket office, trains and staff vehicles parked near the station. Similar attacks happened in Gauteng and the Western Cape.*

and its lack of commitment to render a reliable service.

"Several of these new trains have been vandalised in recent months by frustrated commuters on this route."

While Prasa is still developing the new train sets, its old yellow train fleet is going up in flames weekly.

On Friday 28 September there were three separate arson attacks within two

hours where train coaches were set alight at three different stations in Cape Town.

"That is not the only part of the modernisation that is a flop. The Prasa re-signalling project is also facing a number of challenges due to the unavailability of spare parts, the high number of safety-critical skills vacancies and the lack of training of the employees who are supposed to perform maintenance on the new equipment," says Steve.

According to him, Nzimande did not have the facts at hand when he informed Parliament that the Department of Transport has intensified its effort of stabilising Prasa by dealing with capacity challenges, appointing a new board that will implement a turnaround strategy and attending to senior vacancies in Prasa.

"UNTU could have corrected the Minister if he kept his promise to meet with the leadership of the Union to discuss the dire situation of Prasa in which our members must work," adds Steve.

Although the Minister agreed to meet with UNTU after his appointment on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, the Union's repeated requests to his office to set a date have gotten no response. ❖



## UNTU makes history and headlines with Gautrain strike

**U**NTU members working for the Bombela Operating Company (BOC), operator of the Gautrain, made history and international headlines with the first-ever strike of South Africa's high-speed train.

Thanks to those members who were prepared to suffer on the streets for three weeks while the rule of no-work-no-pay applied, the employees of the Gautrain will receive a bonus in December for the very first time and finally share in the profits of the BOC.

"The BOC always has a difficult and robust negotiation process, but this year

the employer stooped to an ultimate low by prohibiting some UNTU members to work during the strike while phoning other members and begging them to please return to work.

"The BOC selectively targeted certain employees by sending them an SMS instructing them that they were locked out from midnight 30 July 2018. They were informed that they were locked out of the Gautrain Depots and informed that they must enjoy their 'rest' wherever they were. Their access cards were blocked," says Steve Harris, General Secretary of UNTU.

Although the BOC informed UNTU that

it was applying its right to lock employees out in terms of the Labour Relations Act (LRA), the employer applied the rule inconsistently, discriminating against some employees while others were asked to work.

"By doing this, the BOC was able to run a reduced service during peak hours. This made its French Concessionaire who receives the profits of the Gautrain, even more arrogant and prolonged the suffering of the striking employees. A strike is only effective if an injury to one, is an injury to all," says Steve.

The BOC also refused to disclose its financial statements. Steve says in terms of the

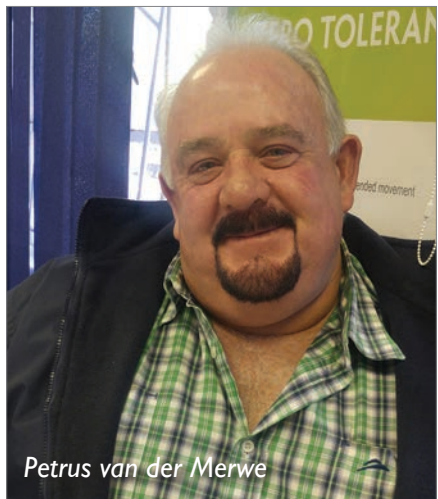
LRA employers must disclose their financial statements during wage negotiations.

UNTU is now taking on the unconstitutionality of certain sections of the LRA which the BOC relied on to withhold its financial statements.

But for the members who continued with the plea of workers and bared the brunt, the reward paid off.

"One day we will be able to tell our grandchildren that thanks to our suffering and sacrifices, the employees of Africa's first high-speed train share in its profits. That achievement is something no money can buy," a BOC member said. ❖





Petrus van der Merwe

## “Being a train driver is living my dream”

**P**etrus van der Merwe (51), Chairperson of UNTU's Upington Branch, loves working in nature every day. “I would have died if I had to sit in an office all day. When I was a little boy, I used to tell my parents ‘that is what I want to do one day’ whenever I saw a train. I am living my dream.”

He has been an UNTU member in Upington in the Northern Cape for the past 30 years. Petrus was born in Upington and grew up here.

“I love the fact that I have to make my own decisions and never know what the day will bring. Being a train driver is a big responsibility. It is not just as easy as getting into a train and off you go. It is a skill.”

To Petrus safety comes first. He believes that a lot of the incidents on our railway lines today can be contributed to the poor maintenance of infrastructure. As Chairperson of the Branch he loves to assist UNTU's members. “One cannot always win your case, but you should try your best and put in everything on behalf of UNTU's members.”

To Petrus, communication in the Union remains a problem as some members still feel that they want to be even more informed about the decisions and the reasoning of UNTU's Executive Council.

When he is not working, he spends time on his hobby as a welder. “I love taking a dead piece of steel and creating something unique with it.”

This father of two sons also loves gardening. 🌱



# Every day presents a new challenge for Thuto

**T**huto Moacwi (31), UNTU Trade Union Representative (TUR) in Hotazel in the Northern Cape, will never regret his decision to become a train driver and loves the tremendous responsibility that comes with it.

“There is never a dull moment. Every day presents new challenges to a train driver. I know my job is critical, and I cannot allow my concentration to slip for a moment as it might lead to the loss of my own or the life of a colleague and damages to Transnet Freight Rail (TFR).”

“I have a responsibility to ensure that the commodities I transport, reach our customers on time,” says Thuto.

Growing up he wanted to become a mechanical engineer, but due to financial constraints he wasn't able to follow his dream.

Thuto is very dedicated to the Union.

As a TUR he ensures that he is always available to assist UNTU members, irrespective if he is on duty or not.

“It is not always easy to be a TUR as you will never be able to please all your members at the same time. I just try my utmost best to represent our members to the best of my ability.”

He believes that UNTU is representing its members very well and loves the added benefits which come with belonging to the Union of Choice in the Transport Industry.

“I would like to see that our Executive Council is more visible in remote areas such as Hotazel to get input from members on ground level as to what they want, especially with the UNTU Conference coming up next year. Members want their voices to be heard.”

When Thuto is not working, he loves reading and watching TV. “I also enjoy playing soccer every now and then,” he says. 🏆



Thuto Moacwi

## Violet blossoms despite disability

**U**NTU member Violet Mudau (45) did not allow polio to ruin her life. She was diagnosed with polio when she was only three years old and her right leg is shorter than her left leg. Consequently, Violet has to use a wheelchair or crutches to move about.

“My disability killed my dream of becoming a social worker as I realised that I would not be as mobile as the job would require me to be. But I decided that it will not affect me negatively and indeed it does not,” says the mother of three.

Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by the poliovirus. It invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis or even death. Due to routine immunisations in childhood, polio hasn't been seen in South Africa since 1989. However, there have been outbreaks of polio in neighbouring countries.

According to the World Health Organisation, one in 200 polio infections will result in permanent paralysis.

Today Violet is a Senior Administra-

tor at Transnet in Polokwane in Limpopo and a member of Transnet's Sitting Volley Ball team. She trains very hard each day and loves the sport. “I am very good! I love competing.”

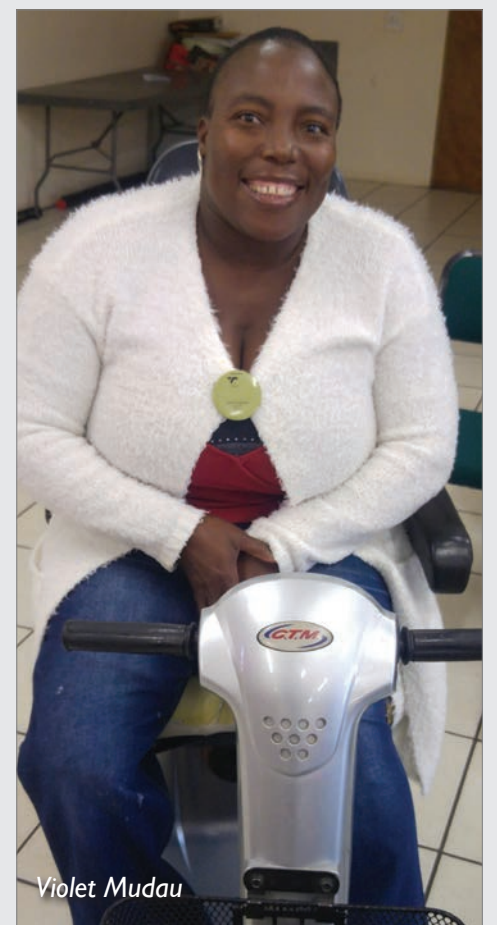
After completing her matric, Violet obtained her degree in Public Administrative Management. She started working for Transnet in 2013.

“I love working with people, doing paperwork and taking minutes of meetings, but I don't think there are enough career growth opportunities in Transnet for people like me.”

She has been an UNTU member for the past five years and has not regretted her decision to join the Union.

“I see UNTU working very hard for all its members. I also know I can always count on my UNTU Branch Leadership in Polokwane, Chairman Sonnyboy Mosebedi and Secretary Modjadji Pheta.”

When Violet is not training, she loves watching TV and spending time with her family. 🏡



Violet Mudau



## Aquila Wealth Bluestar holds first Roadshow at UNTU's Salt River Branch

Aquila Wealth BlueStar held its first Roadshow at UNTU's Transnet Engineering Branch in Salt River in Cape Town. Shaun Slabber, UNTU Branch Chairman of Salt River, showed Madlé Abrahams, Sanlam Investment Specialist; Leon Abrahams, Principal and Senior Financial Planner; and Eugene Grobler, Sanlam Market Specialist, around this big depot. They thanked Shaun for a great day. 🌟





# Shayamoya: An unforgettable experience

**A** jewel of beauty, comfort and luxury overlooking the Pongola Game Reserve and Lake Jozini in northern KwaZulu-Natal. This is what UNTU members will experience when they visit the Shayamoya Tiger Fishing and Game Lodge where unforgettable hospitality, delicious food and friendly service in a spectacular setting are guaranteed.

This truly unique bush lodge is set in an extremely rich and rewarding birding destination, boasting around 400 species of birds.

Shayamoya has a wide variety of exciting birding habitats on offer of which most is typical Zululand Thornveld.

Shayamoya now offers UNTU members who present their membership cards, special tariffs so that they can enjoy a truly African Safari.

Shayamoya is an exclusive resort with its 10 chalets, each sleeping two people. It is ideal for a couple's honeymoon or wedding anniversary, but beds can be



added to the room if you want to bring along the children.

The area is very popular for its Tiger Fishing. These ferocious fighting game fish are rare to South African waters, but enjoy these sub-tropical conditions. Good sizes have been caught in Lake Jozini (also known as Pongolapoort Lake) where the

official record is 8,3 kg.

The lodge has a good selection of fishing rods and tackle for hire but bring your own fly rods and tackle.

You can also enjoy a game drive in the reserve that boasts a range of wildlife including white rhino, wildebeest, zebra, warthog, giraffe and plenty of antelope.

## 10 reasons to stay at Shayamoya

- Picturesque and breathtaking views
- Excellent service
- Hearty home-cooked meals
- Game-viewing from a boat
- Thrilling Tiger Fishing
- Free 250 Mb WiFi
- Stylish bush chalets
- Customized itinerary
- Family fun
- Well-positioned and accessible to break the long journey.

Shayamoya's Spa, where you can enjoy a wide variety of relaxing treatments, is situated in the gardens. On the menu of Shayamoya's Restaurant, the Venison Pot and the Oxtail Pot is highly recommended.

• **Phone 034 435 1110 or 083 456 8423, send an e-mail to [shayalodge@saol.com](mailto:shayalodge@saol.com) or visit [www.shayamoya.co.za](http://www.shayamoya.co.za)**







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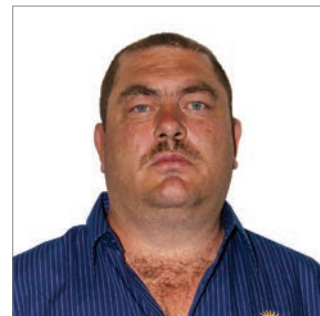
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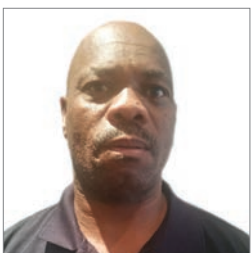
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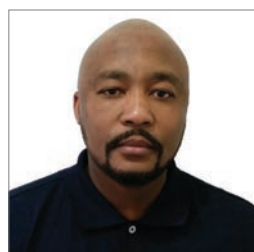
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# “Voetplaatpark is UNTU’s best benefit”

**T**rain driver Selvan Pillay (41) of the Wentworth Depot in Durban visits Voetplaatpark, the Union’s family holiday resort on the South Coast of KwaZulu-Natal, five times per year.

“It is the only UNTU benefit I use. I love Voetplaatpark. I can fish Shad, Karanteen, Blacktails and Crayfish while watching the dolphins passing by. It is also a very good diving spot,” says this UNTU member.

He knows that his family is safe while they are relaxing in the resort. He also regularly invites his six brothers to the resort to spend quality time together.

“When we visit Voetplaatpark, we do self-catering. The fact that the resort has a braai area right next to its huge swimming pool is a bonus. My family and I can braai while having a swim. I also enjoy the lapa family entertainment area.”

According to Selvan the facilities at Voetplaatpark compare very well with other resorts in the area. “Voetplaatpark, irrespective of whether or not you enjoy the UNTU members’ rates or the normal tariffs, is value for money. You won’t be disappointed.”

Selvan has been based at the Wentworth Depot for the past 18 years. He wanted to become a pilot when he was a little boy, but he was afraid of heights.

According to him, the representation UNTU members at his Branch get from their Branch Leadership, Chairman Reagan Govender and Secretary Shaun Balmogim, is remarkable. “They know how to fight for your case thanks to the excellent training provided to them by UNTU.”

When Selvan is not working or fishing, he loves to travel our beautiful country and listening to music. 🎧



Selvan Pillay



Joey Roberson

## Orca’s Pub and Grill: Truly is a home away from home

**B**eing the owner of Orca’s Pub and Grill on the beachfront of Sunwich Port at Voetplaatpark in Port Shepstone, is a dream come true for Joey Roberson (63).

She has been the owner of this popular restaurant and bar for the past three years and enjoys every minute of it. “People from all over South Africa stop

at Orca’s because they have heard about our great food from a relative or friend.

“Our atmosphere is the best. We are a genuine home away from home.”

Joey recently introduced a scrumptious Chicken Cordon Blue to her extensive menu. The Eisbein and hake and chips at Orca’s are also very popular.

“For twenty years I dreamt of owning

Orca’s. We had a flat in Sunwich Port for holidays while living in Roodepoort in Johannesburg and used to come here often. Every time there was a change of ownership at the pub, I was too late.

“After my husband, Eric (74), and I retired and moved here, I was at the right place at the right time and I got the lease for Orca’s. We did not enjoy sitting at

home and we enjoy to not be retired.”

Joey is the mother of Bafana Bafana soccer legend Eric Tinkler (48), who recently was the head coach of SuperSport United. He played for Wits in South Africa, Vitória de Setúbal and União de Tomar in Portugal, Cagliari in Italy and Barnsley in England where he played in the Premier League as a mid-fielder. 🎯

## Enjoy an affordable holiday on the South Coast

Looking for an **affordable holiday**? Then the Voetplaatpark family holiday resort on the seashore of Sunwich Port is the **perfect destination**! We offer **great discounts** for families, group bookings and pensioners. **Book your chalet, cabana or caravan site today!**



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