



TO:  
**The General Secretary  
SATAWU**

Mr Khotso Ntseare  
Executive Manager: Employee  
Relations

*And*

Tel: 011 544 9532  
Fax: 011 774 9124

**The General Secretary  
UTATU / SARHWU Alliance**

**DATE:** 26<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Dear Sirs

**RE: CREW PERSONNEL TRAPPED IN SNOW BOUND RAILWAY LINES (KWA ZULU NATAL)**

It is with great concern that management wishes to inform the secretariat of the unions that Transnet Freight Rail is aware of employees that have been trapped in their locomotives due to the severe weather conditions affecting the Kwa Zulu Natal province. Further, the letter aims to inform the union of the steps that are being taken by management to ensure the safety and well being of employees who have been affected.

The recent snow in the Kwa Zulu highlands has resulted in railway lines and roads becoming impassable and as a result train crew have become trapped in their locomotives. Efforts have been made to reach the affected crew personnel via RRV's; however the roads are impassable and alternative means are being investigated. Management is currently seeking alternatives means to reach the employees; in consultation with the road and traffic authorities. Options that are being investigated include helicopters, but there are limitations in terms of the type of helicopter that can access the terrain where the locomotives are stalled. Every effort is being made to ensure that our employees are brought to safety as quickly as possible.



In the interim, hourly contact is being maintained with affected crew personnel to ensure that there is an accurate sense of the current conditions prevailing at the locomotives. Locomotives have been kept running to ensure the employees have heating.

Management wishes to assure organised labour that the safety of employees that have been affected is our primary concern and every reasonable effort is being made to bring these employees to safety. We will keep the union management informed of the progress that has been made to address this serious challenge.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Khotso Ntseare', written over a light grey horizontal line.

Khotso Ntseare

Executive Manager: Employee Relations