



## MESSAGE FROM THE CBDO



**Yolisa Kani**  
Chief Business  
Development Officer (CBDO)

Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Sophie De Bruyn, Rahima Moosa took to the Union buildings in 1956 to march against Apartheid Pass Laws. “We the African Women know so well the effect this law will have upon our homes, our children. For us, an insult to African Women is an insult to all women”. Notice that they don’t mention the effect of the pass laws on them as individuals, but on their families. This is the one unwavering trait we all know about women – SELFLESS. As I ponder what to celebrate this Women’s Month and what to lament over, I chose to celebrate women of all sorts: the caregiver, the single mother, the teacher, the train driver. Here is to strong women! May we know them. May we be them. May we raise them –Verily.

As with most businesses, 2020 was a challenging year for Transnet, making wage negotiations in 2021 even more difficult. With the realisation that any form of strike action would be detrimental to employees, Transnet, our customers, investors and the South African economy, Transnet’s top management was committed to reaching an agreement and ensuring that our services were not impacted until such an agreement could be reached. Through regular, open and honest communication, Transnet and Labour reached an amicable agreement on wages up to 2022. We salute the team that was at the forefront of these negotiations.

In June 2021, the President announced the corporatisation of the Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) in support of economic reform. TNPA will become an independent subsidiary of Transnet, in line with the National Ports Act of 2005, creating a clear separation between the roles of the infrastructure owner, TNPA, and the terminal operator, Transnet Port Terminals, thus enhancing transparency. The implementation of this measure is a crucial part of Transnet’s broader strategy and the government’s structural reform.

From an operational perspective, we have had many successes in the past few

months, but unfortunately, also challenges. Year to date, we have railed more iron ore, manganese and containers than we planned for. However, since the beginning of the financial year, we have experienced two derailments. Although the number does not seem high, considering we have moved more than 17 000 trains up to mid-July, the consequences to our customers, Transnet and the economy is significant. A team is currently investigating the derailments’ root causes and identifying contributing factors.

Although the looting and riots in July were thankfully short-lived, the devastation it left in its wake is not. Our operations were impacted, our operational and Security teams and the Transnet 24-hour Nerve Centre worked tirelessly to limit the impact on our customers and the economy as best we could. We are grateful that our infrastructure was not damaged and operations could resume reasonably quickly. Unfortunately, some of our customers were not that fortunate.

With four months left before the end of the year, and amidst all the chaos and confusion that seeks to break us in half, may you all step into your greatness. Until next time....

## TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY APPOINTS DR GASA



**Dr Zanele Bridgette Gasas**

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) welcomes the appointment of Dr Zanele Bridgette Gasas, who joins the operating division as the new Portfolio Director – Mega Projects, effective 15 July 2021.

Gasas’s responsibility will be to provide leadership on Transnet’s flagship infrastructure projects, including finalising the

KwaZulu-Natal port master plans and developing the Durban Hub Port Development Programme. She will also ensure the successful delivery of the integrated Durban Logistics Hub strategy. Her appointment aligns with Transnet’s goal of delivering all key infrastructure projects on time and within budget.

Dr Gasas is a qualified built environment practitioner with over 27 years of industry experience in the economic valuation of mega projects, construction project management, infrastructure development, and SMME development. She has also worked in various sectors, including agro-processing, eco-tourism, logistics and light manufacturing, and road infrastructure projects.

Dr Gasas has led economic development initiatives and formulated sector-enabling policies. She has experience in the execution

of master plans. She has held various leadership roles and currently serves as Board Chairperson of the Dube Trade Port Special Economic Zone.

Dr Gasas holds a PhD in Construction Management from Nelson Mandela University, a Master of Commerce in Project Leadership Management from the University of Natal, a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management from Newport University, and a Bachelor of Building Arts in Architecture from the University of Port Elizabeth. She also holds certificates in Project Management for the Public Sector and Construction Management Programme from Stellenbosch University and the Global Executive Development Programme from the Gordon Institute of Business Science.

# TRANSNET SUPPORTS FEMALE-LED ENTERPRISES

To aid small businesses, in 2020, about 131 female-owned businesses have gained financial and non-financial support from the Transnet EDS programmes.

One such business is Fast World Industries KZN cc, which is a 100% female black-owned company contracted by our manufacturing division, Transnet Engineering, to supply, test and deliver uniform clothing.

Fast World Industries KZN cc benefited from the Godisa Supplier Development Fund that Transnet launched in 2014. Since its inception, Godisa has employed 18 people and invested about R55 million in other black-owned enterprises.

Mrs Naicker from the Fast World Industries KZN said: "This opportunity from Transnet has helped my business keep up with competitive prices and maintain good relationships with my suppliers."

Another business gained from our Exporter Development Program (EDP) ESD initiative is Lotus Street Foundation (LSF), a black youth, women-led non-profit and public benefit organisation. During the hard

lockdown last year, LSF provided over 30 000 people across the Western Cape with food, sanitary and hygiene packs. LSF continues to work with the Transnet Foundation to provide food relief to four schools in the Western Cape province.

Through a partnership between the National Empowerment Fund (NEF) and Transnet Port Terminals Enterprise and Supplier Development Fund, more than R25 million has contributed to the development of SMMEs since 2019.

The partnership also provides training to several businesses to assist them in developing and researching their ideas, learning basic business start-up skills and expanding their potential with marketing and financial planning.

One of the beneficiaries of this project is Macedonia Projects (Pty), a 100% black woman-owned company based in Durban. The company, which specialises in supplying Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and nuts and bolts, has recently expanded their service offering to include plant hire, cleaning material, and tyres.



**Danya Goosen**  
ESD Beneficiary from Lotus Street Foundation.

This financial year, Transnet has invested R44.4 million towards the development of SMMEs and a further R70.1 million in shorter payment periods for SMMEs.

## MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION ABOARD THE BLUE TRAIN



**Nomasonto Ndlovu (Centre): Blue Train Executive Manager; Mother and daughter Sharon and Seipati Pooe: Mothers day competition winners.**

*\*Strict COVID-19 protocols were followed before this image was taken\**

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a challenge for the tourism sector, but it has also taught us to become closer to South Africans, to be accessible as well as relatable.

We've had to change the narrative of people viewing The Blue Train as an experience for global travellers only. We had to find ways to be innovative and to entice the local market, which, in the long term, will be a continuing audience. We responded with themed charters such as the Mother's Day celebration and other calendar trips such as Valentine's Day, over and above our regular offering.

Mother's Day onboard The Blue Train was an incredible experience for guests and the mothers they were spoiling. The overnight trip to nowhere took place from 8 - 9 May 2021 and was all about celebrating the glory of motherhood. Husbands brought their wives; children brought their mothers and

grandmothers. The love and warmth were palpable, and the staff at The Blue Train reflected this familial tenor.

From the food, hospitality, glorious views of our beautiful country, mothers making beautiful hats and several guests opting for reflexology massages, to the wine tasting as the sun was kissing the horizon - all this glory was captured by our 'Blue Jewel'. Guests found their own individual ways to settle into the "luxury of slow", and the crew were right there to assist at every turn. It was a magical experience that ought to be repeated over and over again.

Seipati and Sharon Pooe, winners of the Mother's Day onboard The Blue Train competition, in partnership with PowerFM, were treated on a trip to nowhere. The lucky winners indulged in gourmet meals and fine beverages, entertainment, and impeccable hospitality.

# TRANSNET HOSTS KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL LEADERSHIP ON GAUTENG-DURBAN CORRIDOR



KZN Premier, Sihle Zikalala on a Transnet trolley trip

**T**ransnet SOC Ltd hosted a trolley trip for the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government leadership to observe operations that constitute the Durban-Gauteng Corridor. The Durban-Gauteng Corridor is considered the main artery linking the Durban port precinct to the country's main economic hub in Gauteng and is receiving priority attention in Transnet's improvement plans and as part of the Group's road-to-rail initiative.

Hosted by the Group Chief Executive, Ms Portia Derby and Chief Executive of Freight Rail, Ms Siza Mzimela, were the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sihle Zikalala; MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Mr Ravi Pillay; Deputy Mayor-Elect of eThekweni Metropolitan, Ms Dianna Hoorzuk; and Director-General from the Department of Public Enterprises, Mr Kgathatso Tlhakudi.

One of the critical observations made by the stakeholders was the increasing number of communities encroaching the rail servitudes, particularly around Durban, Pietermaritzburg and the surrounding areas. This, together with continuing vandalism of Transnet infrastructure,

remains a significant constraint in the ability of this Corridor to perform at design capacity.

Ms Portia Derby said: "It's critical that we work jointly with our partners from the provincial government, the municipalities and the surrounding communities to protect the integrity of the infrastructure and provide security, to enable rail to reclaim its position as a significant freight mover."

"The Durban-Gauteng corridor is strategically placed to benefit from high volumes, particularly from container traffic. These operational constraints remain a bottleneck towards our ability to achieve growth along this Corridor, which would have a beneficial impact on communities along this line and the provincial and national economy," Ms Siza Mzimela added.

Speaking after the trolley trip, Premier Zikalala said: "In collaboration with other organs of state, the KwaZulu-Natal Government is committed to finding a lasting solution to ensure that the strategic Durban-Gauteng Corridor is not further compromised. The encroachment of illegal informal settlements on the tracks

and rail reserve, exacerbated by the wanton destruction, theft and vandalism of infrastructure, must be urgently addressed. We have adopted an all-hands-on-deck approach so that the Corridor can perform at its optimum capacity and move commodities such as coal, motor vehicles, gold ore crude, containers and fuel much more efficiently."

Transnet will collaborate with the provincial and local government to find solutions to protect the railway infrastructure and ensure that this vital Corridor can move freight safely and reliably for the growth and competitiveness of the South African economy.

**"The Durban-Gauteng Corridor is strategically placed to benefit from high volumes, particularly from container traffic."**

## TRANSNET VACCINE TRAIN TO COMMENCE OPERATIONS



Transnet, through its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) arm, will be commencing operations of a vaccination train, 'Transvaco', in support of government's efforts to reach herd immunity against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Modelled on the Phelophepa health trains, which have been providing primary healthcare services in under-served areas across South Africa over the past 27 years, the Transvaco aims to reach, and vaccinate, communities in remote parts of the country and areas where health facilities are over-burdened.

The train, which has state-of-the-art vaccine facilities, including ultra-low temperature vaccine fridges, was designed and built by Transnet's manufacturing division, Transnet Engineering. The train can store up to 108 000 vials of COVID-19 vaccines.

Transvaco has nine coaches, with two accommodation coaches, a kitchen, dining area, storage facilities, security coach, power car and a vaccination coach with consulting rooms.

The train will be at the Springs Station in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng over the next two weeks, to support the acceleration of the province's vaccination programme. The train's health workers, in collaboration with the Department of Health, have successfully piloted the first round of vaccinations. Services to the public commenced on 19 August 2021.

Transvaco will be stationed in Springs from 19 August until 02 September 2021. The train will then proceed to the Eastern Cape to continue with the national vaccination programme.



## TNPA'S MOSSEL BAY REPAIRS BIG VESSEL

The Port of Mossel Bay's ship repair facility accommodated its biggest Catamaran vessel for 2021. In June, CAT Squid Fishing Vessel Princess Azeemah docked at the Port for her first hull survey since her maiden voyage.

The arrival of the fishing vessel comes after a three-month planned maintenance shutdown at the facility. It aligns with Transnet National Port Authority's core functions to provide marine services at its eight commercial ports.

After the maintenance, main support equipment to hoist vessels from the water was installed to support fishing vessels up to 200 tons. This is the main factor behind accommodating Princess Azeemah, who weighs 160.6 tons with a length of 23 metres and an overall width of 8 metres.

The Port of Mossel Bay might be the smallest of the eight commercial ports along the South African coast but still has set itself apart by competing with the best in the fishing industry and offering impeccable service delivery.



"Being able to attract bigger vessels to the Port does not only directly contribute to the generation of better revenue streams for the Port, but also contributes to growing the region's economy. The Ship Repair Facility primarily serves the fishing industry. We are truly committed to ensuring that it is fully rehabilitated and upgraded to sustain fishing operations", said Shadrack Tshikalange, Port Manager, Port of Mossel Bay.

The planned upgrade of the Ship Repair facilities, including the hoisting equipment, is in line with the Port of Mossel Bay's commitment towards creating and growing port infrastructure capacity and achieving the strategic goals of Operation Phakisa. This includes improving operational efficiencies, growing the economy, providing technologically modern facilities, and job creation.

## DURBAN CAR TERMINAL BREAKS 26-YEAR RECORD

The Durban Car Terminal has recorded a ground-breaking milestone since its inception 26 years ago by handling 51 407 units during the month of June 2021, against a target of 29 126 units. The terminal exceeded its budget by 65% to date.

The increased volumes are largely attributed to a myriad of factors, including a high export season for certain export Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), the launch of new models, as well as rental and corporate re-fleeting.

The sterling performance by the Port Car Terminal comes during unprecedented times where the world is battling the COVID-19 pandemic and the global market demand for automotive volumes is not favourable. This by far demonstrates resilience from the teams on the ground and shows determination to respond to the call for the economic reconstruction of the province and the country at large.

On-time berthing and sailing for all automotive vessels have also proven to be catalysts for such great performance, the Port recorded zero Marine Service delays for the month of June 2021. This, in turn, enabled high berth utilisation and therefore unlocked capacity to handle more volumes.

General Manager at the Port of Durban, Moshe Motlohi, said, "We would like to congratulate the Car Terminal teams and everyone involved in the automotive value chain for the outstanding work during the month of June. This amazing performance is what the Port needed. We firmly believe that when we work together as partners, we can achieve good results. We want to cherish this as part of building momentum, using the small wins approach, and this performance is also a positive indicator of the recovery being made by the automotive sector."

From an integrated planning perspective, the Port Authority could also avail more parking capacity for the terminal. The collaborative approach between Transnet National Ports Authority, Transnet Port Terminals and Shipping Lines also played a crucial role in achieving such volumes. "This performance shows that through a synchronised effort, we can achieve greatness. The level of commitment is admirable and shows our passion for satisfying customers," said Motlohi.

The terminal first recorded its highest number of volumes (50 169) in one month against the budget of 38 479 in December 2018.



## TRANSNET DOUBLES RAIL CAPACITY FOR EXPORT GRAIN FARMERS



From left to right: Johan van Rensburg, VKB Regional Manager, Christo van der Rhee, Agri SA Executive Director, Portia Derby, Transnet GCEO and Siza Mzimela, TFR CE

Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) has doubled up rail capacity for export grain farmers in the Bethlehem area in the Free State province as the export grain season gets underway.

TFR plans to move 550 000 tons of export grain through integrated demand planning with farmers, a 133% increase from 235 826 tons in the previous season. The 550 000 tons is equivalent to approximately 16 100 trucks off the road, which will have a material impact in easing road congestion in the Port of Durban precinct.

The export season started in April already and runs until September 2021, peaking in the months of June and July.

TFR will run between 15 to 20 export grain trains per week from Bethlehem to the Port of Durban, where private terminal operators handle the commodity.

TFR is committed to further increasing rail capacity for the 2022 grain export season through aligning with the industry and reviewing operating models to improve capacity.

