

# ONE

ISSUE 139/2025

TRANSNET



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF TRANSNET SOC LTD

## OLWETHU SISILANA MAKES HISTORY DOCKING THE LARGEST SHIP AT THE PORT OF NGQURA



TPT'S BOLD JOURNEY OF  
PERFORMANCE, PROGRESS  
AND PURPOSE

A DAY OF SAFETY SKILLS &  
SMARTS

CREATING DIGNIFIED  
LEARNING SPACES FOR  
MANDELA MONTH

# BE A ZERO HARM HERO



## I AM VIGILANT IN CARING FOR MY SAFETY AND YOURS

Safety incidents take away our people, assets and create unnecessary downtime, which affects our business performance.

***Take ownership and make safety part of your culture at work.***

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**Published & Printed by**  
Zoya Media Services &  
Nyalu Communications

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# **DON'T WAIT**

# **UNTIL A PROBLEM BECOMES A CRISIS**

When life challenges become overwhelming, they have the potential to interfere with your day-to-day performance. That's when you need to seek support from the Transnet Employee Assistance Programme (EAP).

## **Giving you and your family support with the following services:**

- Family challenges
- Financial advice
- Health and wellness
- HIV and AIDS
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- Trauma
- Work-related challenges
- Legal advice
- Medical advice
- Personal budgeting
- Relationships
- Stress management
- Work/life support

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**#WELLNESS@TRANSNET**

# Follow the Conversation

Here's what our colleagues had to say this month:

## Top Posts

 [facebook.com/Transnet.SOC.Ltd](https://facebook.com/Transnet.SOC.Ltd)



Russell Baatjies, Chief Executive of Transnet Freight Rail (TFR), Alan Waller, CEO of Richards Bay Coal Terminal, and Gavin Kelly, CEO of the Road Freight Association, participated in a panel discussion chaired by Ian Bird, Senior Executive in Transport and Logistics at BUSA.

The panel provided a valuable opportunity to collaboratively examine the challenges in coal transport and logistics. They discussed how Transnet Freight Rail is implementing effective solutions to enhance export capacity and address these pressing issues.  
**#energytransition #joburgindaba #mining**



With South Africa's rail sector poised for reform and freight demand expected to surge by 250 million tonnes by 2030, Transnet Engineering is gearing up to lead. From expanding rolling stock manufacturing to advancing digital maintenance and regional OEM partnerships, TE is positioning itself as Africa's rail backbone.  
**#transnetengineering #ReinventForGrowth**

## Join the conversation

Join the conversation on our Facebook and Twitter pages, or e-mail your comments and ideas to [transnet@zoyamedia.co.za](mailto:transnet@zoyamedia.co.za).



 [@follow\\_transnet](https://twitter.com/follow_transnet)



**@TransnetNPA**  
 In KZN, care-giving facilities - Hepburn Children's House, located in Umbilo and Siza Community Centre in Umlazi - received a facelift and a sustainable food system to fight poverty and hunger.

At Hepburn Children's House, volunteers from the Port of Durban rolled up their sleeves, giving the facilities a refreshing makeover through dedicated maintenance work and providing meals. Meanwhile, over 130 kids at Siza Community Centre received grocery donations and essential housekeeping equipment from the TNPA Dredging Services team.

This collective action not only uplifted these facilities but also inspired hope and resilience within the community.  
**#TNPACares #Buildingcommunities #MandelaDay2025**



**@TPT\_Transnet**  
 "A winner is a dreamer who never gives up." — Nelson Mandela  
 Mineral bulk cargo is heavy, complex and constant, but so is the spirit of the people behind the process. From bulk controllers to yard operators, their grit moves our economy.  
**#MandelaMonth #HonouringLegacies**

## DID YOU KNOW?

### SOUTH AFRICA'S FRUIT EXPORTS

Citrus fruits grow in the provinces of Limpopo, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu Natal, Northern Cape and the North West. They are exported through the container terminals in Durban, Gqeberha and Cape Town.



# Engaging THE CHROME & FERROCHROME INDUSTRY



**E**arlier this month, Transnet held a strategic engagement with its customers in the chrome and ferrochrome industry, where the company provided an update on recovery initiatives and used the session to also explore areas of collaboration and partnership.

Transnet also shared its focus areas for the year ahead, in line with our Reinvent for Growth Strategy. The session provided an opportunity for Transnet to better understand customer pain points and areas requiring improvement.

Transnet Group Chief Executive, Advocate Michelle Phillips, Group Chief Operations Officer, Solly Letsoalo, Chief Strategy and Planning Officer, Andrew Shaw, Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM) Chief Executive, Moshe Motlohi and Transnet Port Terminals Chief Executive, Jabu Mdaki, were on hand to engage customers.

Presentations of a Rail Performance Improvement Plan were made by Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) and Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM), which presented current security action plans as well as shutdown updates.

Security challenges were a shared concern by both customers and Transnet, with Advocate Phillips reiterating that the organisation had and continues to invest extensively in security, and that the damage of infrastructure was a national problem, affecting multiple key sectors such as water, electricity, energy and construction.

TRIM shared security successes recorded through the establishment of analytical centres, collaborations with communities and the memorandum of understanding with the South African Police Services (SAPS).

Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) shared developments on the Richard's Bay Port Performance Improvement Plan. Among the capacity upgrades include the ongoing upgrades of the local road network, a project that was praised by customers, who said they had been long asking for interventions.

This session forms part of continued efforts to implement plans aimed at significantly improving operations, and follows similar engagements held in Richards Bay and Pretoria in May.

# HOT OFF THE PRESS

News stories in the media.



## EAST LONDON MULTI-PURPOSE TERMINAL WELCOMES ITS FIRST TRANSHIPMENT VESSELS

**T**he East London Multi-Purpose Terminal achieved a historical milestone as transshipment vessels, Hoegh Jeddah and Hoegh London, arrived on Thursday 17 July 2025. It's the terminal's first transshipments in 13 years. The vessels each handled a significant amount of 1 183 fully built units (FBU) transshipment units namely, BMW and Nissan models. Additionally, the vessels handled 39 FBU pure exports – totalling 2 405 FBU combined.

The recent East London N-Berth upgrade, completed in April 2025 at a cost of R60 million, involved deepening and reinforcing the berth to a uniform depth of 10.5 m. The upgrade now allows the simultaneous docking of two new-generation pure car carriers (each over 200 m long). The two berths N were used to dock both vessels and do direct transfers onto the other.

"This achievement reflects our unwavering commitment to regional economic growth and to positioning East London as a pivotal player in the maritime and automotive logistics landscape," says Ms. Wandisa Vazi, Managing Executive at the Eastern Cape. "It sets the stage for new volumes, diversified lines of business, and excellence in service delivery."

With this milestone, the East London Multipurpose Terminal is boldly charting a new course, embracing innovation and efficiency in pursuit of sustained relevance and growth in the highly competitive transshipment and automotive markets.



Transnet Group CE, Michelle Phillips and UMK CEO, Malcolm Curror.

## TRANSNET SIGNS A MAJOR CONTRACT WITH UNITED MANGANESE OF KALAHARI

**O**n 16 July 2025, Transnet and United Manganese of Kalahari (UMK) signed a 10-year contract for the transportation of manganese by rail from UMK's mine in the Northern Cape to ports for export markets.

Through the Manganese Export Capacity Allocation (MECA) 3 agreement, Transnet allocates rail and port capacity to manganese producers in South Africa for their export volumes. The contract with UMK signifies the company's confidence in Transnet's ability to ensure efficient access to global markets.

Transnet Group Chief Executive, Michelle Phillips said: "We are encouraged by the vote of confidence expressed by UMK through their long-term commitment as part of the MECA programme. This agreement is a clear demonstration of our customers' confidence in the efficiency and reliability of our services. It also bodes well for Transnet's growth and sustainability, which is underpinned by our ambitious Reinvent for Growth Strategy amid various reform initiatives within the freight logistics sector."

Malcolm Curror, UMK Chief Executive Officer, said that reliable rail freight services remain a key contributor to South African industry. "By enabling the efficient movement of bulk commodities such as manganese, MECA not only positively adds to our national export capability but also to a greater competitive revitalisation of the country's logistics network."

He added that this is essential for sustaining economic growth and attracting further investment across all sectors.

Curror further noted that the MECA agreement holds significant and broader relevance to current national dialogue regarding the mining sector in South Africa.



# TPT'S BOLD JOURNEY OF PERFORMANCE, PROGRESS AND PURPOSE

Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) has hit its stride, with five of its 16 terminals achieving volume targets. Richards Bay Terminals, Durban Container Terminal (DCT) Pier 1, Durban Multipurpose Terminal, and Port Elizabeth Container Terminal have all delivered standout performances. Strategic resourcing at the Durban Multipurpose Terminal has not only boosted its own output but also eased pressure on DCT Pier 1 and 2 — a win-win for customers and TPT alike. We spoke to TPT's Chief Executive, Jabu Mdaki, to find out what is driving the steady performance and growth, positioning the national terminal operator on its path of evolving into a full-spectrum logistics solutions provider.

## A CHANGE OF TACTICS

As a starting point, the Operating Division embraced the need to do things differently in order to prime themselves for better performance. "We've gone back to basics and levered up innovation. From refurbishing our fleet to filling critical vacancies and retooling our operations. This includes a new shift pattern, long-term original equipment manufacturer (OEM) partnerships and smart technology adoption — including automation and predictive analytics. These are driving a leaner, faster and smarter TPT," Jabu explains.

## REWARDING EXCELLENCE TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM

Achieving and sustaining peak performance requires high levels of engagement and buy-in from employees and TPT has been deliberate about creating an environment that rewards excellence. On 1 April 2025, they launched a Board-approved Bargaining Unit Incentive Scheme as a tangible way to say 'thank you' to their frontline heroes.

Jabu says, "Performance is now measurable and meaningful. In containers, it's about moves per shift. In bulk, break-bulk, and automotive, it's about stretch targets — and our teams keep rising to the occasion".

To rally the troops on the ground he adds, "We keep the energy high with visible leadership, weekly performance updates, and a culture of recognition. Our 'Words To Live By From The Customer' initiative shares real-time praise across the business. Add to that, robust wellness programmes and on-site health facilities — and you've got a workforce that's resilient and ready."

## INVESTING IN EQUIPMENT AND EMBRACING INNOVATION

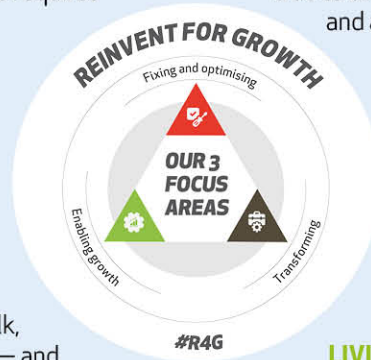
Having an ear to the ground has enabled the business to gain direct insights about the day-to-day operational challenges facing frontline employees and to solve these collaboratively. "Our people are our power. Even when equipment falters, they deliver. That's why we fast-tracked new equipment acquisitions and strengthened union engagement. We're building a business we're all proud to lead — together," Jabu states.

While acknowledging the pivotal role that increased investment in equipment plays in the improvements at the terminals, he insists that there is more to the formula for success. "Performance is a three-legged stool: people, planning, and equipment. We've added a fourth leg — innovation. A new shift system, global best practices, and annual equipment investments are fuelling our momentum across all sectors," he says.

## THE MOST FRUITFUL CITRUS SEASON YET

July marks the halfway point in the citrus fruit season, which is one of the busiest items on TPT's calendar. They have stayed true to their commitment of making the season successful and are upbeat about progress being made.

"We're doing fairly well this citrus season. Volumes are up 18% year-on-year. The Durban Terminals alone have moved 980 refrigerated containers by rail — already surpassing last year's total. New equipment — from cranes to carriers — is now in play across Durban, Gqeberha and Cape Town. We're geared up and going strong," Jabu says.



## LIVING OUT REINVENT FOR GROWTH

For TPT, the new company strategy isn't just a slogan — it's their operating system and is central to their plans for future sustainability and growth. They have been proactive in embracing it and have seen firsthand how it has turned their ship around.

Jabu says, "We have had no vessel backlog in a year, even with bad weather. We're optimising container handling, embedding technology and evolving into a full-spectrum logistics solutions provider. Recovery was just the beginning — we are now scaling."

## SHOWING UP, STEPPING UP AND STANDING TALL

Jabu's parting shot as we wrap up is an inspirational message about embracing a high-performance culture and making an impact in turning the company's fortunes around. "To every TPT colleague: thank you for showing up, stepping up and standing tall. We have a rare chance to shape South Africa's future. Let's stay the course and build a legacy worth inheriting," he concludes.



# INVESTING IN EMPLOYEE WELLNESS WITH THE **HEAL THE HURT** INITIATIVE



**Nolivalo Nyamandi**



**Humphrey Khunou**

**Research has shown that companies that prioritise employee well-being and experience gain a competitive advantage. Wellness is not just about physical health; it encompasses mental, emotional, and social wellbeing.**

In an effort to prioritise and elevate employee well-being and experience, Transnet has embarked on the Heal the Hurt training workshops. According to Transnet's Specialist Culture and Employee Experience, Dr Adele Janse van Rensburg, the Heal the Hurt initiative is designed to acknowledge and address the wrongdoings of the past by creating awareness of Transnet's position on bullying and victimisation. Dr Janse van Rensburg explains that since the start of the company's culture transformation journey in 2023, various initiatives have been introduced to encourage greater participation across the Transnet community.

"The highlight of this journey has been the Finger on the Pulse Survey, where 47% of our employees took the opportunity to share their experiences - openly, honestly and courageously. The feedback, whether positive or challenging, has provided valuable insights and helped shape our next steps," adds Dr Janse van Rensburg.

The Finger on the Pulse survey is part of Transnet's broader strategy to measure and manage employee engagement and organisational health. The survey provided direct insights into the thoughts and feelings of employees and assisted in forming a baseline of how Transnet employees feel about the culture and employee engagement within the organisation. Dr Janse van Rensburg acknowledges that the Heal the Hurt training workshop was a culmination and in response of the Finger on the Pulse Survey outcomes.

"We are introducing three culture training programmes, which will be rolled out in phases throughout 2025. The first one is the Heal the Hurt. It is a mandatory one-day workshop for all employees in Job Levels C-G. The programme will however be extended to additional levels in the future.

She notes that by investing in employees' wellness, Transnet is not only creating a more compassionate workplace but also enhancing productivity and innovation.

"I strongly believe that by creating a positive environment, employees can bring their best selves to work, and they will be able to contribute positively to the business of Transnet," adds Dr Janse van Rensburg.

One Magazine spoke to two of the training workshop participants, Nolivalo Nyamandi and Humphrey Khunou, both from Transnet Engineering.

Nolivalo says the workshop has helped her to be able to stand up for herself and to be able to stay calm in situations that are not good for her health, be it physical or mental.

"After attending the workshop, I am trying to do things differently. It helped me to be more of a giver than a receiver. I learnt that it is okay to say no to certain things that I am not comfortable doing even if it's my boss asking," notes Nolivalo. She says that the workshop covered topics ranging from stress management, sexual harassment in the workplace, working abnormal hours, bullying and undermining lower-level employees and, leave, among other things.

Some of the key lessons Nolivalo took from the Heal the Hurt workshop are to always be responsible for her actions, and to always be professional when dealing with colleagues, regardless of their level.

Nolivalo is grateful that this workshop took place and hopes the organisation will continue to treat everyone with respect and discourage the culture of bullying.

"This applies to everyone in the organisation, from management to lower levels, especially those on the production line, cleaners and security personnel. We can learn that we need each other in life no matter what. Treat other colleagues with respect and offer your assistance whenever it's needed.

I would like to encourage other colleagues to attend these workshops when the opportunity comes. The Heal the Hurt workshop was more in line with teaching us on how to balance our personal life and work life. They also trained us to be able to control our emotions when coming to certain situations in the work/personal space," emphasises Nolivalo.

She has also learnt that it is important to accept certain things that one has no control over. "Most importantly the workshop taught us to be more of ourselves than pretend to be someone else," she says. She concludes by adding that she strongly believes that Transnet embracing the outcomes of earlier surveys and implementing these types of workshops is a positive step that will make a real difference to team morale and productivity.

Her colleague, Humphrey Khunou, shares the same sentiments that the workshop was very insightful and helpful on how to handle day-to-day conflicts in the workplace and how to balance work and personal life in general.

"I can now engage positively with my teammates, and I can communicate with them better than before," says Humphrey. Another important lesson he says he took from the workshop is to always treat coworkers with respect.

"Everyone in the workplace must be treated with utmost respect regardless of the position they hold. The workshop was truly eye-opening on so many things that we usually take for granted, like showing compassion to others, especially towards female colleagues.

As male workers we were taught about things like sexual harassment. It could be a simple hug or unwelcomed complement, if your female colleague is not comfortable with it you should not do it," Humphrey explains.

He notes that these things might seem simple but can have a negative effect to female colleagues and their lived experience in the office.

He wishes that the workshop be cascaded to all levels, especially to general workers so that they can also be well informed on the important issues regarding all forms of wellness in the workplace.

"I can safely say that the Heal the Hurt workshop has really created and fostered a sense of community and demonstrated the organisation's commitment to our well-being," concludes Humphrey.

# OLWETHU MAKES HISTORY DOCKING THE LARGEST SHIP TO CALL AT THE PORT OF NGQURA

*In a world where giants sail, she steered her course with excellence, her name is Olwethu Mtsewu-Sisilana. She recently made history, as the first female pilot to dock one of the world's largest container ships at the Port of Ngqura in the Eastern Cape.*



**B**orn and bred in the rural village of Qanda in the Eastern Cape, Olwethu says her love and passion for travelling fuelled her career choice. After finishing her matric, she went to study Maritime Studies at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology. She is currently one of the open license pilots at the Port of Ngqura.

"I am from Middledrift, in Qanda village in the Eastern Cape. My parents bought a house in Mdantsane to get us closer to better schools, so I grew up between Mdantsane and Middledrift. From Monday to Friday, we stayed in Mdantsane for school, weekends and school holidays we were back home in the village," she explains.

Olwethu feels free when she is piloting. "I love being out at sea, seeing the sunrise and sunset on the horizon, the moon and the stars on a clear sky at night. Once I board the ship, I have learned to become one with the vessel and feel how each vessel responds to different manoeuvres and weather conditions," she says with a smile.

## Successfully docking the fully laden, 400m long MSC Nicola Mastro

She notes that the docking of the fully laden, 400m long MSC Nicola Mastro was only confirmed three days prior to its arrival and that its docking fell under her shift. She started researching these vessels and getting information on their characteristics and handling in different conditions.

“Because of the buzz and anticipation of the arrival of this vessel, I had to keep myself grounded and calm. I prayed, played some music and kept reminding myself that I am capable and I will do it successfully,” says Olwethu.

She admits that it was a nerve-wracking experience but believes that the ship chose her to be in the driving seat to dock it safely and break records. She says the docking took more than three hours but with the help of her copilot, who is also a woman, they managed to dock the ship safely.

## Working with the dream team

Olwethu gives credit to a wonderful team she worked with. “I had to be very patient with her. The bridge team was the best; we were all calm taking it one leg at a time. Everyone was on their A game. Tugs and berthing made my job easier,” she says.

Upon boarding the ship, Olwethu and her team were welcomed by the captain and his team. She says immediately after all the handover processes were done, she took control of the vessel and made the approach to the channel.

The vessel came tidal and at a deep draft of 16,1m, they could feel that the ship was heavy, but surprisingly handled very well. She notes that for the first time, they used four tugboats for this operation and a third mooring gang was on standby.

“It could have easily become very intimidating and overwhelming as we have never handled this size vessel before or had any simulation prior, but I had planned to take it one leg at a time until I reached the berth,” says Olwethu.

Before docking the MSC Nicola Mastro, the most challenging job she did was shifting a 336m long and 14,5m deep container ship in strong winds with only 2 tugboats. The vessel had called in after it lost containers overboard passing a storm, and some stacks of containers were still listing over. It was a highly stressful job, but they managed to do it safely.

She says if she were to dock the MSC Nicola Mastro again, she would not be worried about anything as they would be working from experience. She insists that she would only use three tugboats instead of four and try out different conditions to test their capabilities as the port to see what is possible.

Olwethu’s motivation comes from a sense of pride in being an important part of the Maritime industry.

“I am also motivated by the role Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) plays for the economy of the country and understanding how it influences and affects other businesses at large. By me simply docking a vessel, businesses get to receive their goods and people get to make a living,” says Olwethu beaming with pride.

## Her family is her biggest support structure

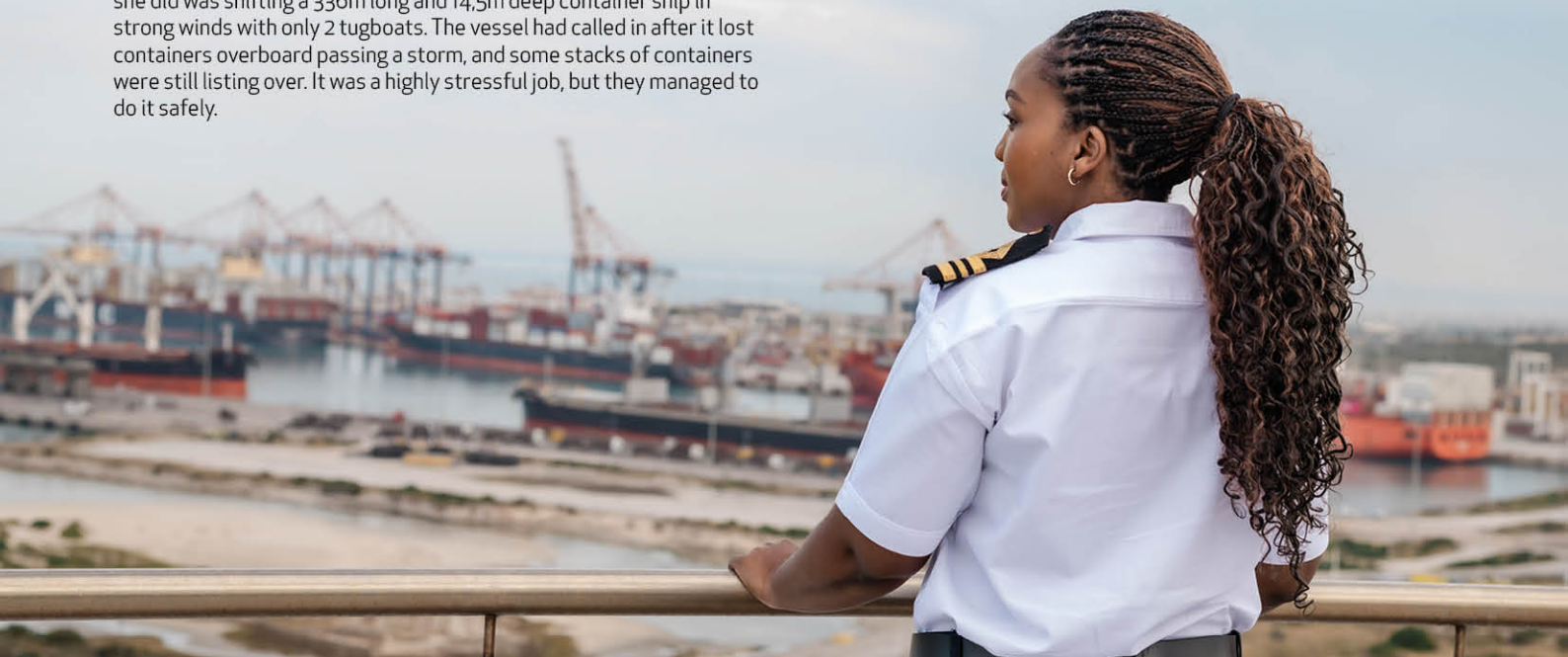
She says her parents have always been her biggest influence, especially when she was growing up. They always pushed her to dream big. They believed that their children must get an education and experience a better life than they did growing up.

After achieving this milestone, Olwethu’s family has been celebrating her. “My family has been amazing, they surprised me with a dinner party. They are very proud of me and have been celebrating since. In addition to my family being proud, my colleagues believed in me, and they are all happy and proud to have been part of the team that docked the first 400m vessel in the port.

“I am humbled and honoured by the love I have been receiving from the public. People from the Eastern Cape and South Africa at large are very proud and I am grateful to everyone,” she notes, adding that she is slowly recovering from the buzz and all the interview requests from different media houses.

Her only advice to boys and girls who are inspired by her story is to work hard and believe in themselves. “If someone else can do it, you can also do it. Do not be discouraged by your background and circumstances. Choose your subjects well at school and grab the opportunities that are offered with both hands,” she says.

To relax and unwind, Olwethu loves travelling and being one with nature





# TRANSNET SAFETY PROFICIENCY PROGRAMME FOSTERS A CULTURE OF SAFETY AND RESILIENCE

Ensuring a safe working environment and working towards zero harm are key priorities at Transnet. Safety influences how we work, how we dress, and directly influences our productivity as an organisation.

Early this month, colleagues descended upon Esselen Park for the final leg of the Transnet Safety Proficiency Programme, which followed the year-long operating division proficiency programme.

The Safety Proficiency Programme, commonly referred to as Safety Competitions, is a flagship initiative by Transnet, through the Safety 10 Point Plan. Designed to uphold the company's "Zero Harm" vision, this programme aligns with the Occupational Health and Safety Act 85 of 1993, fostering a proactive safety culture across its operations. By engaging employees in structured training, certification, and competitive activities, the Safety Proficiency Programme empowers Transnet's workforce to identify, manage, and mitigate workplace risks. This initiative ensures compliance with legal safety standards, and enhances operational reliability, protecting employees, contractors, and stakeholders.

The main Programme saw more than 200 participants compete and showcase their skills, as part of Transnet's commitment to promote the best safety practices.

The mood was electric on the first day of the finals, as the teams arrived for registration.

It was the first Transnet Safety Proficiency Programme in more than six years, and the excitement warmed the chilly Johannesburg afternoon. The teams walked in the arena for the day with song or dance, and some operating divisions were accompanied by their mascots.

Sipho Mlaudzi, General Manager for Group Safety, welcomed the teams and spoke about the journey of launching the Safety 10-Point Plan, which the programme falls under.

The big day started as early as 6am with warm up exercises before the action began.

Employees demonstrated their capabilities in three categories:

- **First Aid** – where they displayed life-saving techniques and emergency response.
- **Firefighting**– which tested their knowledge of fire safety protocols and extinguishing techniques, and
- **Health & Safety Representatives**, highlighting the vital role of health and safety leaders, with the focus on evaluating their competencies in hazard identification, risk assessment and accident prevention.

Once the day's festivities ended, the colleagues went to freshen up for the special gala dinner, where the winners would be announced.

Sipho spoke about how the programme also served as a mass team building initiative, mobilising thousands of employees and breathed new life into our safety committees across all workplaces and operations.

**"The chants and war cries that are synonymous with this programme, are a call to action for selfless Transnetters, who have chosen to put their safety and that of their colleagues first. This evening, we salute your kind acts of selflessness, leading from the front where many dare to go. You embody the values of Transnet, and your actions epitomise what it means to care for your colleagues, your workplace, and the communities we serve. We recognise each and every one of you as champions of safety."**

Before the winners were announced, a moment of silence was held for the colleagues who lost of their lives on duty.

Transnet Pipelines Chief Executive, Sibongiseni Khathi, delivered a speech on behalf of Group Chief Executive Advocate Michelle Phillips, who was unable to attend the gala dinner.



**Sipho Mlaudzi,**  
General Manager for Group Safety,

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF THE EVENING ARRIVED WHEN THE WINNERS WERE ANNOUNCED. **BELOW IS THE LIST OF WINNERS:**



**Sibongiseni Khathi**  
 Excellence in Safety Visible Felt Leadership:  
 Transnet Pipelines Chief Executive,



**Sheldon Moonusamy**  
 Health & Safety Representative:  
 2nd place -Transnet Pipelines (TPL)



**Novia Reddy**  
 Health & Safety Representative:  
 3rd place -Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)



**Deesholen Chotoo**  
 Safety Leadership:  
 Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM)



**Calvin Mdaki**  
 Best Solution for Occupational Hazards:  
 Transnet Engineering (TE)



**Zenovia Willemse**  
 Health & Safety Representative:  
 1st Transnet Port Terminals (TPT)

*“Today, we gather not just to celebrate achievements, but to reaffirm the commitment that lies at the very heart of our organisation, a commitment to safety. In our line of work, the stakes are extraordinarily high. When we don’t do our job, people die. Both our employees and the public that we serve. The stark reality underscores the critical importance in everything that we do.” Sibongiseni Khathi*



Team Hazard Hunters



Transnet Properties

Team Front Wheel

Team Warriors

Team Property Warriors

**Best Solution for Occupational Hazards:**  
Calvin Mdaki, Transnet Engineering (TE)

**Safety Leadership:**  
Deesholen Chotoo, Transnet Rail Infrastructure Manager (TRIM)

**100 Days of Incident Free Safety Milestone:**  
Transnet Property

**Excellence in Safety Visible Felt Leadership:**  
Transnet Pipelines Chief Executive, Sibongiseni Khathi

**Best Mascot:** Transnet Pipelines

**HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE:**

- 1st - Zenovia Willemse - Transnet Port Terminals (TPT)
- 2nd - Sheldon Moonusamy Transnet Pipelines (TPL)
- 3rd - Novia Reddy - Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)

**FIRST AID:**

- 1st - The Warriors- Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)
- 2nd - First Wheel – Transnet Engineering (TE)
- 3rd - Ngqura Pioneers – Transnet Port Terminals (TPT)

**FIREFIGHTING:**

- 1st - Blazebusters - Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA)
- 2nd - Property Warriors - Transnet Property (TP)
- 3rd - Hazard Hunters Transnet Academy (TA)



# CREATING DIGNIFIED EARLY CHILDHOOD ENVIRONMENTS DURING **MANDELA MONTH**

Volunteerism is taken seriously at Transnet, as a company that gives back to the communities it operates in. This year's Mandela Day was a reminder of the power of teamwork in changing lives, as 200 Transnetters gave more than 67 minutes to their activities. The Transnet Foundation organised two Mandela Day events, under the theme 'A Dignified Early Childhood Environment.'



The first was on July 15 at Isekelo Primary School in Tembisa, where staff volunteers took part in the construction of an assembly shelter, painting the zinc roof and helping to build the walls. The employees were divided into teams whose names were related to the late great statesman, such as his village of birth (Mvezo), childhood home (Qunu), year of birth (1918) and his clan name (Madiba). Even after hours of hard work, spirits were high and it was all smiles as the day wrapped for lunch.

Irene Ramaphosa from Transnet Corporate Centre said it was the first time she had volunteered for Mandela Day after many years at Transnet. "I have no regrets for signing up to help. It was such a great experience working with the colleagues at this school, ensuring that we leave a lasting memory for the children. I want to come back next year," she said.

On July 18, the globally recognised day of Mandela Day, Transnet GCE Adv Michelle Phillips joined employees in her hometown of Gqeberha, for the construction of seven ablution facilities at a non-fee-paying public school and six Early Childhood Development Centres – all located at Zwide and KwaZakhele townships.

At the Lillian Ngoyi Community Sports Centre in KwaZakhele, the mood was electric as employees convened as early as 7am to take part in the day's activities. At some of the preschools, the small children watched on in awe as the people dressed in red worked tirelessly to build structures that would ensure their dignity.

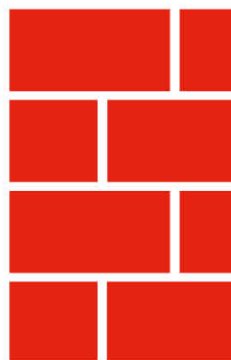
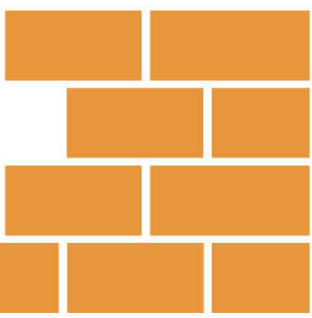
Adv Phillips said, "We have built toilets in seven educational institutions, preschools as well as primary schools as part of our initiatives to uplift communities where we were born. It is our way of giving back to those communities. Our employees come from these communities. They see on a daily basis what the children are going through. We understand the obligation that we have as a country to ensure dignity for all and to ensure that our children go to schools that are conducive to learning. We are absolutely passionate as Transnet to ensure that the generations to come will not go through what we have gone through."

Molatwane Likhetha, the head of the Transnet Foundation, was present as well wearing his red overall and hard hat, getting his hands dirty for a special cause.

*"As Transnet, we understand that we have an obligation of making our country work. We are here in Gqeberha today with one intention: to make sure that we uplift the lives of our people through a portfolio called Livelihoods amongst the other portfolios of Transnet Foundation. Like the title says, livelihoods, it means the intention here with Translate is to ensure that we assist the communities to also uplift themselves," he said.*

Amanda Aliva from Transnet Port Terminals in Port Elizabeth shared what the day's activities meant to her: "I am here with my colleagues to volunteer for Mandela Day. The small children here still use the bucket system, which is not ideal for anyone. We are helping to build them toilets, which makes me happy, we are busy mixing cement, layering the bricks, all the work required to bring the structure to life."

Lungisa Gwayi who is principal of Lukhanyo Creche in KwaZakhele, which takes care of babies to five-year-olds, and is one of the beneficiaries of the new toilets said, "It's tata Mandela's birthday and we are getting new flushing toilets built by Transnet. It is a joyous occasion for us and the parents. Thank you so much Transnet. We have been using potty toilets for the children to relieve themselves and now we will have dignified flushing toilets. It is a blessing from God that will change our lives for the better."



# MULTI-PASSIONATE AND WELL-ROUNDED: HOW GARTH APPOLLIS FINDS FULFILMENT BEYOND HIS JOB DESCRIPTION

In the town of Vredenburg, raised by a single mother who personified strength and humility, a young Garth Appollis grew up with a simple but powerful dream: to build a life of purpose. That dream took shape in 2007 when, fresh out of high school, he joined Transnet as an apprentice. Today, nearly two decades later, Garth is an Electrician at Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA), a respected safety leader, and a proud ambassador for transformation and growth.

His journey began at Transnet Port Terminals in Saldanha, where he trained as an apprentice. By 2009, through the Transnet Bursary Programme at Kumba Iron Ore Mine in Kathu, he had qualified as an Electrician. The following year marked a turning point, not only was he formally appointed to his role at TNPA, but he also became a SHE Representative, laying the foundation for a lifelong commitment to safety.

"For me, safety isn't a checklist, it's care in action," says Garth. "It's knowing that one good habit can protect someone's life." That conviction took root after a serious injury on duty in 2009 led to the insertion of a plate and six screws in his hand. What could have ended his momentum instead ignited a deeper sense of purpose. "That metal in my hand isn't a limitation, it's a reminder of resilience, and of what is at stake when safety fails."

Throughout his career, Garth has pursued growth with quiet determination. While his job title has remained consistent, his impact and capabilities have expanded dramatically. From obtaining a National Diploma in Electrical Engineering to completing an Advanced Diploma in Project Management and a Postgraduate Diploma in Programme Management, Garth's academic journey reflects his belief that true leadership begins within. He's also a certified Internal Auditor and brings a systems-thinking mindset to every project he touches.



But technical knowledge is only part of the story. In 2023, Garth was appointed to the Transnet Employment Equity Committee and began serving as a youth representative on the National Employment Equity Forum (NEEF). These platforms gave him firsthand insight into the structural challenges that impact transformation, and the collective power needed to change them.

"Equity isn't just a policy, it's a commitment to opportunity, fairness, and building a workplace where everyone is seen and supported," he explains. "And transformation isn't a side project, it's part of my DNA." This sense of responsibility extends deeply into his role as a SHE Representative. In recent years, Garth has competed in multiple safety competitions, initially in the fire category as part of Team Ignite. In 2023, he entered the SHE Rep category for the first time in the National Virtual Safety Competition and won. In 2025, he did it again, taking top honours at both the TNPA Western Region and National levels.

*"These wins were affirmations, not just of what I know, but of the consistency I've lived by for years," he says. "Even when no one is watching, your preparation matters."*

Outside of work, Garth nurtures balance through prayer, gardening, and chess, activities that allow him to slow down, reflect, and maintain perspective. "Chess helps me think strategically, gardening reminds me that growth is slow but steady. Both keep me grounded." His most memorable experience? Winning the SHE Rep National Competition. "It wasn't about the trophy," he says. "It was about knowing that my preparation, my passion, and my purpose aligned at the right time."

Recognition has followed him throughout his career. He was named a Culture Ambassador at the 2018 Port Managers Awards, received a Customer Excellence Award with his team, and was ranked in the Top 10 for Service Delivery in the 2023 Rising Stars South Africa programme. Still, he remains humble, attributing his success to those who've supported him, and to his faith, which keeps him anchored. "My relationship with God gives meaning to everything I do. When I feel pressure, I pray. It keeps me focused on serving with integrity." His advice to younger colleagues? "Be committed to your growth, even when it's unnoticed. Don't tie your worth to a title. Lead by example. And always remember, we are stewards of this moment at Transnet. Let's make it count."

To the greater Transnet family, Garth's message is: Invest in yourself and stay open to growth. Learn something new even when no one is watching. Seek mentorship, and when you're ready, offer it to someone else. Don't wait for opportunity to knock – prepare for it before it arrives.

As the current generation of Transnetters, we have a responsibility. We've inherited a legacy from those who came before us, and we must build on it to leave behind a stronger, more inclusive organisation for those who come next. That's how you build a career – and a legacy.

After months of diligent preparations, Garth recently attended the National Safety Proficiency Programme held at Esselen Park in early July, where he took part in a series of competitive challenges aimed at fostering a robust safety culture at Transnet.

As for the road ahead, he remains clear-eyed about the future saying, "This isn't just about me. It's about leaving something better behind. That's the legacy I want to build, quiet, steady, and rooted in purpose."

## SNAPSHOT QUESTIONS:

### What's something simple that never fails to lift your mood?

A meaningful conversation or a song that speaks to where I am in the moment always lifts my spirits. And then there's laughter that catches me by surprise.

### If you could escape to anywhere for a weekend, where would you go and why?

A quiet stretch of coast or a mountain retreat – places where silence speaks and the mind can reset.

### What's a song lyric or quote that really resonates with you right now?

"Still waters run deep." It reminds me that strength doesn't need to be loud.

### If you could instantly pick up a new hobby or craft, what would you choose and why?

Painting. It reminds me of when my mother and I used to sit and paint together on weekends - sometimes canvases, sometimes miniature coastal scenes inside shells. It connects me to her, and to a quiet creative part of myself.

### What small habit or ritual keeps you grounded during busy days?

I take five minutes to pause, pray, and set my tone. It brings order before the noise begins.





# TEAM PLAYER ON AND OFF THE PITCH

**Alfred Makola, Wagon Fitter at  
Transnet Engineering, Germiston**

**Soccer is a big part of Alfred Makola's life. Not only is he a huge fan of the biggest sport in the world, but he also plays regularly as part of the soccer team at Transnet Engineering. He credits the sport for bringing like-minded colleagues who have a shared passion for sport and keeping fit together.**

## **When did you join the TE soccer team and why?**

I joined the Transnet soccer team in 2012, a year after I joined Transnet as a student trainee. Before that I played in the township for Real Tigers, and my interest and love for soccer never left me. I was happy when I joined Transnet and found that there was an opportunity to play soccer.

## **O bapala ka lehlakoreng lefe lebaleng, le gona ke maemo afe a mangwe ao o nago le ona sehlopheng?**

Ke bapala morago ka lehlakoreng la go ja (right back) gomme ka dinako tše dingwe ke bapala pele ka go la go ja (right wing). Ebile ke mongwaledi wa sehlopha sa rena sa kgwele ya dinao. Re bopile sehlopha se sa boithabišo se go sona o mongwe le o mongwe a ntšhago R200 ka kgwedi. Maikarabelo a ka ke go sepediša dilo sehlopheng se, bakeng sa go mediro ya go swana le go ngwala dirasiti tša bao ba patetšego. Gape ke nna yo a fetišago melaetša go tšwa go ba league go ya sehlopheng.

## **How has the team grown over the years?**

Our team is not necessarily big, but we have managed to form a formidable team. It is not easy for colleagues to avail themselves on Fridays, which is when we play most of our games. This is because of personal commitments, and we understand fully. Our strategy has been to recruit the young people who have joined our plant. We host social events such as braais, to recruit and get them in a relaxed setting.

The time we spent on the field has helped us to build strong friendships with each other and we help each other at work and with life matters. We share a common passion and even after experiencing budget cuts, we have dug from our own pockets to keep going because of how important the club is to us.

## **Ke sehlopha sefe sa gago sa mmamoratwa sa mo gae le sa boditšhabatšhaba?**

Sehlopha sa ka sa mmamoratwa mo gae ke Kaizer Chiefs. Le ge se na le mathata, eupša ke sona. Sebapadi sa ka sa mmamoratwa go Chiefs ke Yusuf Maart. Ke mmopalagare yo matla, ebile o nwešitše kgwele yeo e thušitšego sehlopha go thopa Nedbank Cup kgahlanog le baphenkgišani ba rena ba bagolo, Orlando Pirates. Go tša ditšhabatšhaba, ke thekga Manchester City gomme sabapadi sa ka sa mmamoratwa ke Kevin de Bruyne.

## **What do you enjoy the most about playing soccer?**

Soccer needs concentration and it builds you physically. You benefit a lot physically as it keeps your body fit. It keeps you away from bad habits such as drinking alcohol. It also encourages teamwork and for us as colleagues to trust each other on the soccer field, which translates to the workplace as well.

## **O ka kgothaletša bašomimmogo le wena ka goreng mabapi le go tšea karolo go tša boitšhidullo? Ke ka baka la'ng se se le bohlokwa?**

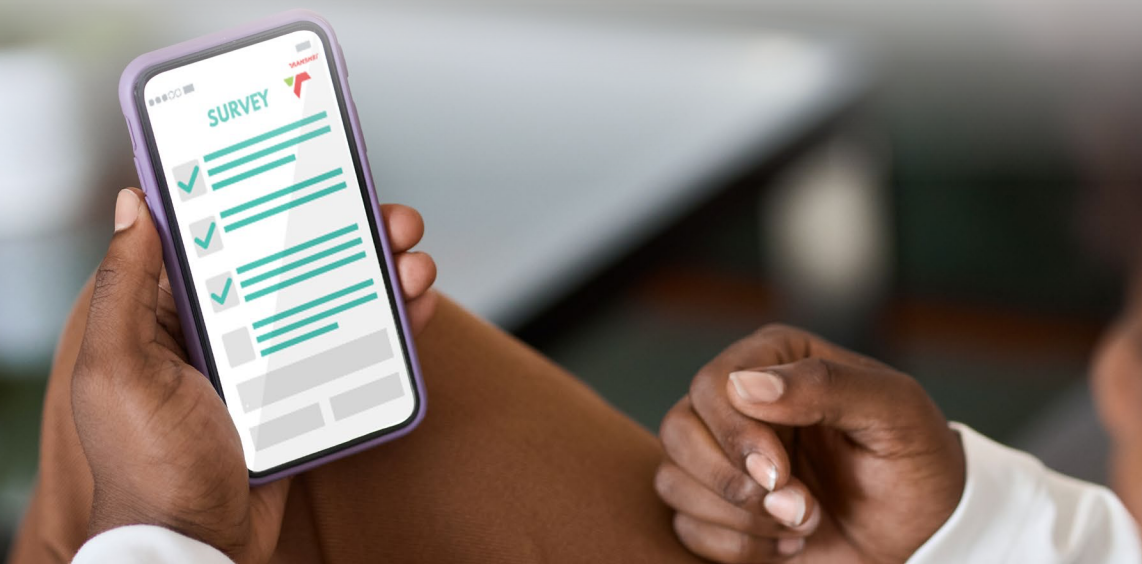
Go itšhidulla go bohlokwa kudu. O ka kitimakitima, wa kitima mabelo a dimarathone, le go no itshepelela ka maoto. Go bohlokwa gore re dule re phetše gabotse mmeleng gomme re fokotše go ya dipetlele goba dingakeng. Ebile re šoma gabotse ge re le mošomong ge eba re itekanetše gabotse kudu. Ge ke sa bapale kgwele ya dinao, le nna ke kitima le mabelong a dimarathone.



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TRANSNET



# **NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**

**9 August 2025**

## **WHEN SHE LEADS SOCIETY SUCCEEDS**

*Transnet walks the talk in advancing inclusive leadership in the business sector by investing in the future of women leaders. Through initiatives like Women In Leadership Development (SheLeads) Programme, we equip women with essential leadership skills, knowledge and confidence, preparing them for significant roles within Transnet and the wider business community.*