

Look upon your **life** and carefully consider what is **important** and what not. The coronavirus changed life as we know it. May God **protect** each UNTU member and their loved ones."

~ Hendrik Fourie, President of UNTU ~

UNITED NATIONAL TRANSPORT UNION

  WWW.UNTU.CO.ZA

FREE • QUARTER 2 OF 2020

THE LABOUR REPORT

Historical Edition

UNTU will continue to **protect members** through the coronavirus storm & **emerge stronger** than ever before

Adapt or die: The new normal

The global Covid-19 pandemic challenged the resilience of each UNTU member to protect themselves and their loved ones

while maintaining their performance, health and wellbeing. Workers in all industries in South Africa complained about employers exploiting this crisis. By 1 June, the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) had already received 28 000 cases during the national lockdown as thousands of workers were retrenched or dismissed.

Guy Ryder, head of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), said the impact of the pandemic plunged the world of work into an "unprecedented crisis".

"Let us be clear: it's not a choice between health or jobs and the economy. They are interlinked. We will either win on all fronts or fail on all fronts." Ryder said.

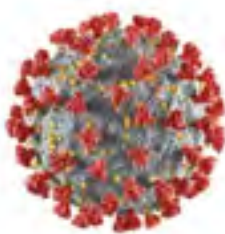
Employment and Labour Minister Thulas Nxesi said Covid-19 resulted in massive job losses in most industries in South Africa and the closure of companies. "I want to categorically state that it is inhumane for employers to withhold funds meant for workers," he said and threatened to take action.

The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) ignored the Minister. The state-owned enterprise (SOE) deducted pension and provident fund contributions from the total cost to company packages of its 14 000 employees, but failed to transfer the money to the funds due to its cashflow crisis.

Ministers Pravin Gordhan of Public Enterprises, responsible for the Transnet Retirement Fund, Fikile Mbalula of Transport, responsible for Prasa and for the Prasa Provident Fund, and Nxesi did not



bother to respond after UNTU repeatedly reported Prasa's illegal conduct to them. Not even the criminal case of fraud, theft and money laundering UNTU opened against Bongisizwe Mpondo, Administrator of Prasa, which is being investigated by the Hawks (the priority crime unit in the South African Police Service), convinced Prasa to transfer the outstanding contributions for March and April 2020.



"Let us be clear: it's not a choice between **health** or **jobs** and the **economy**. They are interlinked. We will either win on all fronts or fail on all fronts."

By the time *Labour Report* went to print, Prasa promised the Union that the contributions will be paid in several payments but could not indicate when.

Prasa also withheld the overtime payment of workers which they were

entitled to and forced workers to use their annual leave during the lockdown. This was also reported in vain to Nxesi and Mbalula.

Transnet employees working at the forefront of the pandemic experienced problems with shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE) or insufficient PPE's. They were forced to work to keep the South African economy

UNTU had to fight for the rights of its members during virtual meetings over weak connections and participants that were disconnected from time to time. The Union's repeated calls to employers not to continue with planned restructuring unless there can be constructive collective bargaining, fell on deaf ears.

Steve Harris, General Secretary of UNTU, says the intent of employers is clear: Covid-19 is going to be with us for the next eighteen months or more. It is either adapt or die.

"It has been a difficult time, but UNTU will weather the storm. The most progressive Union in the transport industry will continue to protect the jobs of our members, to protect their interests and to improve their working conditions. In the words of Pres. Cyril Ramaphosa, 'this too shall pass', and UNTU will emerge stronger than ever before," Harris said. ✨

IN NUMBERS



R13,3 BILLION

The amount paid out by the Unemployment Insurance Fund since 16 April. More than 2,4 million employees received payments.



18%

The percentage of people selling their houses because of the devastating financial impact of the corona pandemic, according to an FNB poll.



A total of 82% of all claims for Covid-19 cases submitted to the Compensation Commissioner are for women. The majority of victims in all nine provinces are women – Department of Labour.



It's time for **reflection** and making the most of every day



Hendrik Fourie
PRESIDENT SAYS

Live your life to the fullest and make the most of every moment because you might not have another day.

This is what the Covid-19 pandemic taught me after I was diagnosed with the deadly virus.

In the wink of an eye all my worst fears about the pandemic became a reality. I was thinking about the impact on patients with comorbidities and the negative social stigma associated with a virus that has already affected more than 12 million people in 213 countries worldwide.

I have always looked after my health, but suddenly, as a board member of the Transnet Retirement Fund (TRF), I had to calculate if I had made adequate provision for my wife. This is a difficult question we do not normally think of or want to confront.

By the grace of God, the virus did not

affect me severely and I managed through it in two weeks. It made me realise how easily this virus spreads even to those who take every possible precautionary step.

Look upon your life and carefully consider what is important and what not. The coronavirus changed life as we know it.

The virus increased the operational cost of companies and added additional costs as personal protective equipment had to be provided. These were costs employers did not foresee, and it had a negative impact on profit margins. Today long-term financial planning is more crucial than ever before.

According to Finance Minister Tito Mboweni a global contraction of 5,2% can be expected this year. This will bring about the broadest collapse in per capita income since 1870. South Africa will not be able to merely return the economy to where it was before the virus. The country has accumulated too much debt. For every R1 South Africa gets out of taxes, 21c goes towards paying the interest on the country's debt.

Nothing in life happens without a reason. Each UNTU member should reflect, prioritise and plan according to accommodate an unforeseeable future.

May God protect each UNTU member and their loved ones. 🙏

Pandemic created **perfect storm** to paralyse Prasa



Steve Harris
FULL SPEED AHEAD

The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) has made many enemies over the past five years and this has left its exposed infrastructure vulnerable and prone to onslaughts.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown regulations imposed by Government created the perfect storm to paralyse Prasa and to allow other stakeholders to feast.

Prasa suffered under vandalism and theft after its disbanded Board decided to suspend the contract of twenty security companies, of whom some have been working for Prasa as far back as 2005.

But nothing could prepare Prasa for the unprecedented vandalism and theft the state-owned enterprise (SOE) would experience during the lockdown.

Some of its stations are so damaged that they will not be able to reopen in 2020. Prasa did not even take this renewed destructive vandalism into account when it applied to the Department of Transport for an additional R1,2 billion just to comply with the Covid-19 protocols while running a service for 15% of its normal commuters.

On the one hand, there are disgruntled security officers who have been working for Prasa for more than a decade, but who are unemployed due to individuals who were allegedly awarded irregular security contracts more than a decade ago.

On the other hand, there is an ongoing feud between the Department of Transport and the unregulated taxi industry. The taxi industry demands more than the allocated R1,2 billion Covid-19 relief fund from Government but refuses to register as contributors to the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) or to pay tax. Their intent to hike taxi fares by 172% would fail if passenger trains are able to provide a safe and reliable service.

Last but not least is organised crime syndicates who feast on Prasa's assets in the absence of a functional Rapid Rail Response Unit of the South African Police Service whose constitutional mandate it is to protect our railway infrastructure.

The evidence of Dr Popo Molefe, former Chairman of the Prasa Board, confirmed several concerns that UNTU has repeatedly highlighted in the past few years. The top six of the ANC were aware of the ongoing corruption at Prasa during the decade of State Capture but did nothing. UNTU has always said there is no political will to alleviate poverty by ensuring that we have safe trains for workers to commute to work. Without a political commitment and only lip service, the jobs of 14 000 Prasa employees and millions of commuters are at risk. 🙏

UNTU always on the *MOVE*

UNTU never rests and handed out facial masks to members across the country.



▲ UNTU Executive Council Member Thami Kwintshi handed out UNTU facial masks to UNTU members of Prasa Windemere in Cape Town.



▲ UNTU Full-time Trade Union Representative (FTUR) Ply Wevers handed out UNTU facial masks to the Union's members at Transnet Port Terminals in Saldanha in the Western Cape.



▲ UNTU Executive Council Member Clayton du Plessis handed out UNTU facial masks to UNTU members at Transnet Engineering in Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape.



▲ UNTU Branch Chairperson Barend Verwey provided UNTU facial masks to UNTU members at Transnet Engineering in Uitenhage in the Eastern Cape.



▲ UNTU FTUR Edwin Godfrey delivered masks to UNTU members at Transnet Freight Rail in Port Elizabeth.

Your pension fund is not an ATM

In these current market conditions, if you have a job, hold on to it. This is logical. However, there is a new trend on the rise – financially desperate people resigning from their jobs without new ones lined up, just so they can access the money saved in their pension funds. Sherwin Govender, Business Development Manager at Glacier, weighs in on this scary development and examines its related financial dilemmas.

The size of the unemployment problem

It seems logical, especially in light of the current unemployment statistics – if you have a job, try not to lose it. According to Stats SA, the unemployment rate was around 29.1% in the third quarter of 2019. Some argue that it's closer to 36%, which equates to around 10 million working-age South Africans.

Nobody knows for sure what the actual count will be in 2020 in the context of COVID-19. As a result of the pandemic, the subsequent market turmoil in its wake, and the unrelated investment downgrade that followed, many industries in South Africa will shrink this year. It is likely that many companies in those industries will close and thousands of jobs will be lost. These numbers provide a stark reminder that jobs are scarce and finding a new one will not be easy if you lose the one you have.

Steer clear of your pension fund

When you resign from your job, you are allowed to cash out the total of the savings accumulated in your employer's pension fund, but you will pay a hefty sum in taxes. The tax laws around cashing out your pension fund are in place to dissuade you from doing so, and with good reason. **You may be financially desperate, but here is a summary of why you need to stay put in the job you have, and step away from your pension fund:**

1. Don't play Russian Roulette with your financial future.

Resigning from your job purely to access your pension comes with huge risks and costs. There is way too much uncertainty in the job market, so don't be confident about getting hired elsewhere soon. Also, consider what resigning could mean for you and your family if you are a breadwinner.

2. Don't rob your retired self. Retirement savings is your money, but it belongs to you when you retire. Spending it now could mean that you won't have enough saved to live on when you retire. Not having enough retirement savings means you will need to find income-generating employment after you retire. If jobs are scarce now, what will the job market look like when you're 60?

3. Cashing out your pension fund is taxing, literally. You can only cash out your pension fund if you withdraw from the pension fund i.e. when you resign. Resigning and retiring are two completely different scenarios.

- If you retire, you can only cash out up to one-third, and the balance must be used to purchase an annuity.
- If you withdraw, (ordinarily this typically happen when you find a new job and resign), you would transfer as much of your funds as possible to a preservation fund at a registered financial services provider. However, you can cash out the full amount, but the tax you pay on the cash lump sum would be more than if you retired from the fund.

The tax payable when cashing out your pension fund is calculated as follows:

- the first R25 000 is not taxed;
- the balance up to R660 000 is taxed at 18% of the amount over R22 500;
- the balance up to R990 000 is taxed at R114 300 + 27% of the amount over R660 000; and
- the remainder is taxed at R203 400 + 36% of the amount over R990 000.

4. Consider all the money you will be losing in compound interest.

You are giving up a lot of the "magic" of compound interest, especially if you cash out 100% of your pension fund now. In the table below is an example of the financial outcomes of two people, Chris and Thandi, who both have resigned and withdrew money from their pension funds

	Chris	Thandi
Age at resignation	45 years	45 years
Employer pension fund value	R1.5 million	R1.5 million
Amount cashed out	R1.5 million	R20 000
Tax paid on cash-out	R387 000	R0
Amount transferred to preservation fund	R0	R1 480 000
Age when contribution to the new employer pension fund starts	46 years	46 years
Monthly contribution to a new employer pension fund	R2000	R2000
Growth rate	10% p.a.	10% p.a.
Age at retirement	60 years	60 years
Total retirement savings	R728 000	R 6.7 million
Tax-free lump sum that can be cashed out at retirement	R0	R480 000

5. If you need the money to pay your debts, consider other options first. Investigate debt counselling or consolidation before dipping into any of your savings or investments. A debt management programme will help you create a debt repayment plan that gets you back onto a healthy financial path.

6. Look at your big financial picture with a qualified friend.

It's human nature to make financial decisions that seem good now but turn out to be regrettable in future. Seek financial advice from an accredited financial adviser to guide you through difficult financial times.

*Glacier's Capital Enhancer is set up in a sinking fund policy underwritten by Sanlam Life.

**The returns are indicative and subject to local and international interest rates and markets, and may therefore change, although not materially. Final levels will be confirmed at the inception of the investment.

Glacier Financial Solutions (Pty) Ltd and Sanlam Life Insurance Ltd are licensed financial services providers.



Leon Abrahams
Financial Planner
021 947 5001 | 082 445 0909
leonabrahams@sanlam4u.co.za



Madlé Abrahams Bcomm (Stell)
Investment Specialist
021 947 5001 | 082 476 8359
madle@sanlam4u.co.za



Labour Report is the official publication of United National Transport Union (UNTU) and is published quarterly

UNTU - HEAD OFFICE

Street Address

UNTU House,
182 Louis Botha Avenue, Houghton Estate

Postal Address

P.O. Box 31100, Braamfontein, 2017

Telephone

011 728 0120

Fax: 011 728 8258

DURBAN OFFICE

Street Address

206 Che Guavara (Moore) Road, Durban

Telephone

011 728 0120

E-mail: untudbn@untu.co.za

CAPE TOWN OFFICE

Street Address

12 Scharmberg Street, Parow, Cape Town

Telephone

011 728 0120

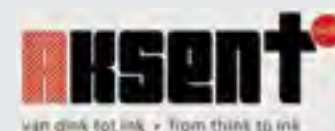
EDITORIAL QUERIES

Editor: Sonja Carstens

E-mail: enquiries@untu.co.za

Tel: 011 728 0120

Cell: 082 463 6806



LAYOUT, DESIGN, EDITING & PRINTING
Aksent Media

aksentmedia@vodamail.co.za

Additional photographs
istockphoto.com



Corona crisis: UNTU cares

Members' safety and well-being of employers our priority

Crisis management calls for extraordinary leadership to carefully balance the rights and safety of workers while ensuring that their employers keep the business afloat to protect their jobs.

This is what the leadership of UNTU had to do since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in South Africa by investing in high quality cloth facial masks for each of our 36 000 members while assisting their employers with communication campaigns to ensure that they are well informed.

The Constitution of UNTU, a registered non-profit organisation, does not allow the Union to make donations as it is accountable to you, our valued members, the shareholders of the Union.

Hendrik Fourie, President of UNTU,

says the Executive Council of UNTU, the Union's elected leadership, decided to let the majority of members decide if they wanted UNTU facial masks or UNTU shirts this year.

"The Union got an overwhelming response in favour of the UNTU facial masks from our members. UNTU delivers on its promises and the Union have just delivered the UNTU facial masks to UNTU Trade Union Representatives nationwide to ensure that each member receives his or hers."

The roll-out was an enormous administrative task and the leadership of the Union realised that it had no time to waste as the coronavirus was spreading like a wildfire through the country.

The leadership of UNTU also wanted to assist its members' employers to empower each member with all they needed to know about the virus.

The Union started its social responsibility outreach project, #UNTUCares, four years ago to contribute to uplift our society and alleviate poverty.

"The leadership of UNTU believes charity starts at home. The Union needs to ensure that the jobs of its members are protected as far as possible from the devastating impact of this pandemic," said Fourie.

UNTU offered each of the employers, whose employees are represented by the Union, a free full-page advertisement in our quarterly newspaper, *Labour Report*. They accepted and you will find their pages in this historic edition.

This edition is dedicated to this traumatic period in our lives for us to keep as a reminder to generations to come. Remember our slogan: Phambili. UNTU will survive, the Union will prosper and flourish and grow stronger. 🌱



CASH IN YOUR POCKET IF YOU RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS

UNTU members get a **R100 once-off canvassing fee** when they recruit permanent employees of Transnet, the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa), the Railway Safety Regulator (RSR), the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) or the Bombela Operating Company (Gautrain) to the most progressive Union in the transport sector. All you need to do, is to recruit new members to UNTU, complete the section "Enrolled by" on the **UNTU Stop Order Form (page 10)** with your details and submit it to members@untu.co.za. The money will be paid into your bank account. A canvassing fee of R50 per new member is applicable for the recruitment of contract employees. 🌱



Numbers to know

- ▶▶ **UNTU Palms** – Tel: 039 681 3325
- ▶▶ **Transmed Call Centre** – Tel: 0800 450 010
- ▶▶ **FNB Home Loans** – Tel: 0860 33 44 55
- ▶▶ **FNB Smart Bond** – Tel: 0860 644 644
- ▶▶ **Transnet Pension/Retirement Fund (Metropolitan Life)**
Tel: 011 774 5444

CALL CENTRES FOR:

- ▶▶ **Transnet Second Defined Benefit Fund**
Tel: 011 587 8000
(select option 1)
- ▶▶ **Transnet Retirement Fund**
Tel: 011 587 8000
(select option 2)
- ▶▶ **Transnet Pension Fund**
Tel: 011 587 8000
(select option 3)
- ▶▶ **Aon Consulting**
Tel: 011 944 7000
www.aon.co.za





Creative plans to combat Covid-19

“Transnet Engineering is all about innovation and thinking out of the box”

Transnet Engineering is known globally for its manufacturing, repair and maintenance of railway rolling stock, but during the Covid-19 pandemic this advanced manufacturing division developed workable solutions to combat the spread of the coronavirus in the workplace.

At Transnet Engineering in Uitenhage, UNTU members heard about the idea to develop spray booths.

“We decided that, if spray booths are what we need to combat the spread of the coronavirus, we will do it first. We used our skills and components that we have in-house,” says George England, Electrical Superintendent, about the teamwork between himself, millwright Clayton Nooman, acting Civil Supervisor Shaun Basson, and UNTU Executive Council Member and electrician Clayton du Plessis.

They transformed a container into a spray booth, with a water tank. They installed the plumbing so that mist will start spraying in the middle of the container after you have entered. There are even lights in the container to indicate where you should walk.

“Everything from the control panel to the ramps to make it wheelchair-friendly for disabled employees are components we use daily. Transnet Engineering is all about innovation and thinking out of the box and that is what we did.”

Unfortunately, they were not allowed to use the booths after the World Health Organisation (WHO) had concerns that it might potentially be harmful. However,

some manufacturers in the private sector continue to market them.

According to Minette Meiring, UNTU Full-time Trade Union Representative at Transnet Engineering in Bloemfontein, one of the teams at Wagons Business, manufactured sanitizer stands for the business and administrative areas.

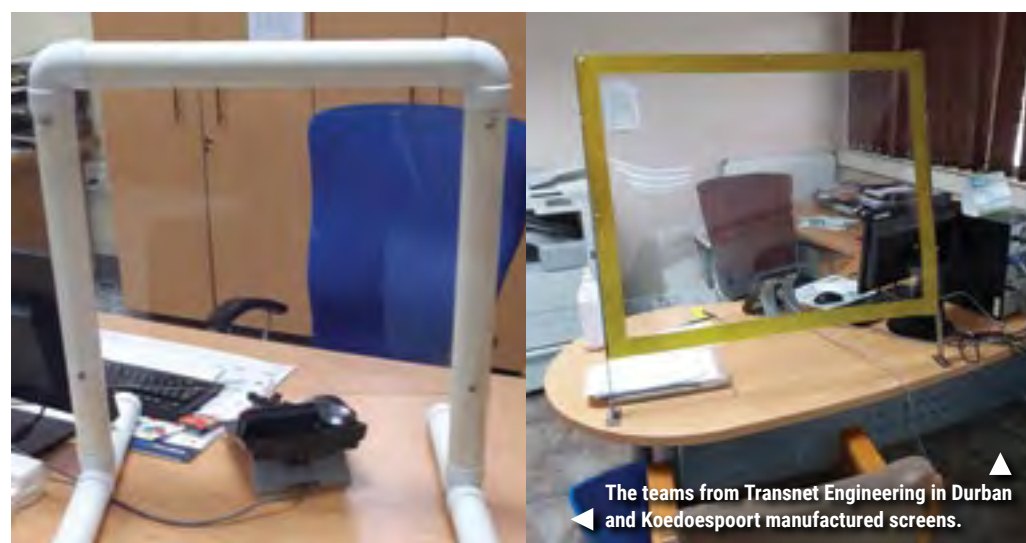
Wielligh Meyer, UNTU Executive Council Member for Transnet Engineering, said teams at Transnet Engineering in Durban and Transnet Engineering in Koedoespoort manufactured screens to use in administrative buildings and other areas to help employees to adhere to social distancing regulations.

Thabang Modise, UNTU TUR at Transnet Engineering in Phalaborwa, considered one of the remote depots, realised that someone had to take responsibility to ensure that all UNTU members are safe at work. He bought two 5 litre pressure sprayers out of his own pocket to use in the workplace.

“We use it to spray our safety boots before we enter the workplace and to spray off the wagons we need to work on before we start. The wagons come from all over, even from Swaziland where there are Covid-19 cases, and we wanted to feel safe before we commence work.

“In Phalaborwa it is always a struggle to get attention. The head office is located in Koedoespoort in Pretoria, so if we need something, we must take initiative. I have been an UNTU member forever and for me it is important that all of us are not only safe at work, but that we are able to keep our beloved families safe at home,” says Modise.

One of his supervisors heard about what he did, and Transnet Engineering refunded him. 🌟



Coronavirus prevents Coetzee from working last days before **retirement**

Japie Coetzee (62) dedicated 45 years of his life to working for Transnet and wanted to continue doing so until he retires in October.

“But the Covid-19 pandemic prevented me from working as a yard official for Transnet Freight Rail in Kroonstad because of my age. I hate every minute of it. I am so bored at home. I miss my job.”

He started his career in Queenstown in the Eastern Cape and wanted to become a train driver. Instead he started as a fireman

on steam trains. “I was always fascinated by trains, especially the steam trains. They were so beautiful. I worked hard. After five years the steam trains were replaced by diesel locomotives and I enjoyed that also.

“The past few decades it was my job to ensure that everything in the yard is ready before the train arrives or departs. I never had a dull day. There was always a new challenge. But at the rate of the spreading of the coronavirus, I don’t know if I will go back to work before my retirement.”

Coetzee was extremely excited to hear that he qualifies for a payment of R6 000 from the UNTU discretionary benefit. “My colleagues at work told me about this benefit UNTU pays to their loyal members when they retire. My wife will invest the money for us so that we can use it toward a holiday.”

While Coetzee is at home, he spends time with his two grandchildren, aged 6 and 8. “Covid-19 made all of us realise to be grateful for what we have.” 🌟



DOING SAFETY DIFFERENTLY AT TRANSNET



Dr Jessica Hutchings,
Executive Manager:
Health and Safety (Human Factors)

There is no doubt that Safety should be a priority in an organisation such as Transnet, but do we ALL take safety seriously?

As we grapple to deal with a pandemic that has changed the way of working, Safety is even more critical than it has even been before. Covid-19 has impacted on operations and we need to be cognizant of how this disease is going to affect the way we are able to work safely. Safety cannot be forgotten nor comprised, to manage Covid-19. The safe way of working MUST continue.

Factors such as supervision, fitness for duty, rest periods, equipment functioning safely, maintenance schedules and shift cycles should not be comprised during Covid-19. Failure to do so will result in further lives lost, injuries to our employees and add to the constraints in operational environments. Safety is a MUST and is not negotiable.

As the pandemic has caused much chaos, it also provides us with an opportunity to look at how we can do things differently. To most people Safety means the absence of unwanted outcomes such as incidents or accidents. Because the term 'Safety' is used and recognised by almost everyone, we rarely bother to define it more precisely. As part of the company's Be Positive Campaign, it is an opportune time to define Safety more precisely. Safety is actually a POSITIVE part of any organization. Too often safety is only associated with negative issues, such as reporting on fatalities, injuries and incidents i.e. when something fails. While these are important performance indicators, we need to also share the positive stories.

Doing Safety Differently is about looking at Safety in a POSITIVE way, where the majority of the time, things actually go right. If it wasn't, we wouldn't be able to operate. Therefore we need to emphasize on ensuring that as much as possible goes right. Safety management should therefore move from ensuring that 'as few things as possible go wrong' to ensuring that 'as many things as possible go right'. An understanding of how things usually go right, serves as the basis for explaining how things occasionally go wrong.

Focusing on the lack of Safety does not show us which direction to take to improve Safety. The solution to this is surprisingly simple: instead of only looking at the few cases where things go wrong, we should look at the many cases where things go right and try to understand, and learn, how that happens. Safety is one of the 5 pillars that Transnet has identified as a priority. Doing Safety differently is a refreshing way of managing Safety, and it is intended to be proactive, continuously trying to anticipate developments and events. A key message to conclude is that Safety should be about looking at what goes right as well as what goes wrong, and learn from what works as well as from what fails.

If you would like to contact me about Safety at Transnet, drop me an e-mail: Jessica.Hutchings@transnet.net

BE POSITIVE

Transnet EAP Toll-Free Number:
COVID-19 HOTLINE:
Transnet COVID-19 Mobile Platform:

0800 000 408
0800 029 999
Message *134*105# from your
mobile phone and follow the prompts.

**STAY
SAFE**
PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

Silent **victims** of Covid-19

Police receives 87 000 **gender-based violence** calls during the first week of lockdown

South Africa's lockdown to combat the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic hit victims of domestic violence the hardest as they were stripped of means to escape the conflict and violence at home.

The harsh reality of this is seen in the dramatic drop in the reporting of and seeking of court protection orders against the perpetrators, as victims felt helpless and left with nowhere to turn to due to a lack of knowledge.

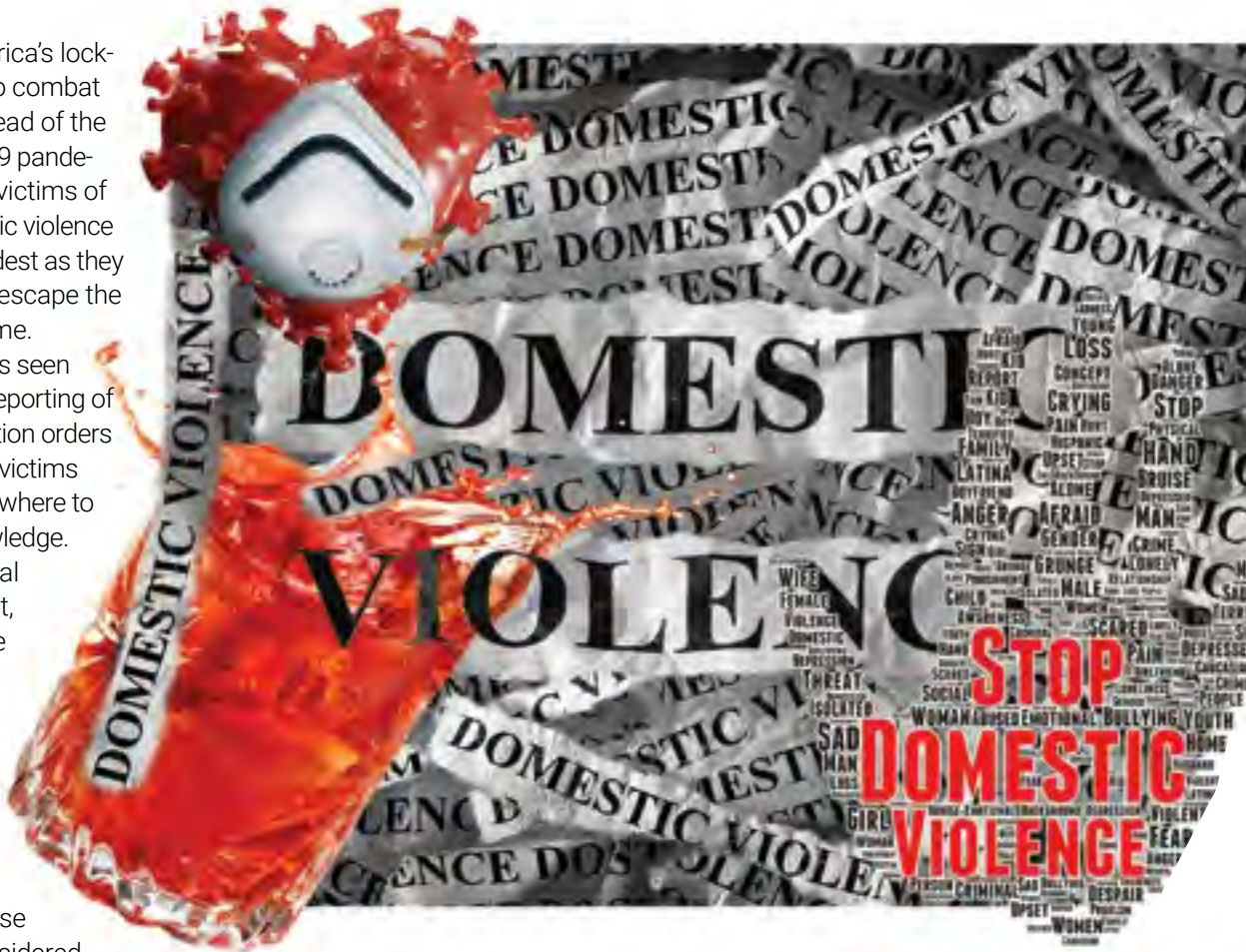
Dr Eugene Viljoen, clinical psychologist and sexologist, says the drop highlights the fact that victims do not have faith in the police to protect them. During the lockdown, several non-profit organisations that were established to assist victims, were closed because their services were not considered to be essential.

"Families were paralyzed with fear and isolated themselves. Where relationships were already strained, the lockdown aggravated the situation and caused more strain and conflict," Viljoen explains.

According to him, individuals were anxious, uncertain, and frustrated because they found themselves being threatened by a virus they had no knowledge of and could not predict or control.

Colleen Strauss, social worker and chief executive of the Sinoville Crisis Centre in Pretoria, says normally a victim could seek safety for her and her children at a relative. This was forbidden during the lockdown.

Dr Diana Zoccola, clinical psychologist, agrees. Initially the South African Police Service (SAPS) reported that it received 87 000 gender-based violence calls during the first week of lockdown. But



this declined as the media reported about more and more incidents of police brutality and abuse.

"Victims felt intimidated by the lockdown regulations and were too afraid of the police to even attempt to report an incident. The ban on alcohol resulted in more people making their own brews at home. The alcohol volume in these brews were higher and people became intoxicated faster.

"Where the victim would for example only have returned home after the perpetrator fell asleep, during the lockdown the victims were not allowed to go out except to buy food and had to be home before 20:00 or face possible arrest."

According to Zoccola the emotional impact of the lockdown resulted in such an abnormal situation and severe stress that even people who had no history of

violence, would become so irritated that they had an outburst.

"Even if the domestic violence was an isolated incident, there is reason to be concerned. It means that in a severe stress situation it can happen again due to other underlying issues that might not be addressed," she said.

Strauss gives the following advice for victims of domestic violence:

- ➔ Learn by heart the **cell phone number** of someone you can depend on.
- ➔ Hide away some **cash** to be able to pay a taxi fare or an Uber in case of an emergency.
- ➔ Pack a bag with all the **emergency essentials** and leave it at the person you depend on for safekeeping.
- ➔ Have an **action plan**, especially if teenagers are involved. Plan scenarios and prepare them to be alert. 🌟



Coronavirus no match for Kekana's **project for girls**

Maria Kekana (38) did not allow the Covid-19 pandemic to kill her dream of ensuring that girls do not miss school because they do not have money for sanitary towels.

"I had to think beyond Covid-19, whenever that may be. The reality is that millions of South African girls skip school at certain times to save themselves from being teased by boys. This will remain a problem as long as Government do not adhere to its promise of providing girls

with free sanitary towels." Kekana, a train control officer at Transnet Pyramid South Depot in Pretoria and a loyal UNTU member, started in 2018 with her project of donating sanitary towels to girls in her former high school in the most rural part of Limpopo.

In 2019 she expanded her project with the help of colleagues, family and friends and included more high schools and primary schools in the same area.

"The national lockdown made me realise that it is not enough to donate

sanitary towels to the girls once a year in September. They need this essential item every month. Some of these girls don't have parents who can buy it for them."

Kekana encourages girls to focus on their studies as she believes education is the key to the future. "I continued focusing on my project. I believe everyone should try and make a difference and to improve the lives of each other, irrespective of how big or small the contribution is. We can all make a difference," says the mother of two boys. 🌟

DEVELOPING **STORIES**

149 KM



The plans for a 149 km expansion of the **GAUTRAIN**, which will see it reach Soweto, Lanseria and Mamelodi eventually, are still awaiting approval from Treasury. The first phase of the expansion – which is supposed to start in 2024 - will see the network expand by 32 km from Marlboro to Little Falls in Roodepoort, **News24** reported. When the expansion is completed, the network will have 18 new stations and stretch into Boksburg, Lanseria, Irene and Mamelodi. The expansion project is expected to create over 170 000 direct jobs.

R700 MILLION

PASSENGER RAIL AGENCY OF SOUTH AFRICA (Prasa) administrator Bongisizwe Mpondo is determined to undo the damage caused by corruption at the parastatal in the next three years. Mpondo said 12 senior employees – most of whom worked in Prasa's supply chain management office – were suspended in March on charges relating to corruption amounting to over R700 million. Prasa has begun the disciplinary process, and they are being investigated by the Hawks and could face criminal charges.

R200 MILLION



Delays and bottlenecks at **CAPE TOWN'S HARBOUR** are costing fruit exporters millions. In July some shipping companies began to levy congestion surcharges on freight as a result of the delays, which was made worse when many of the harbour's personnel contracted Covid-19. In many cases, fruit producers had to divert their export products to the Port Elizabeth harbour, where there were no delays. The extra costs caused by the delays ran up to \$1 000 per container, **City Press** reported. When you multiply the additional cost by the number of containers shipped, it becomes a substantial amount – in the region of R200 million in additional expenses for apples and pears.

PENSIONERS

After a legal battle of nine years, **TRANSNET PENSIONERS** are finally assured of better pension benefits. Judge Sue Potterill in July rejected objections to the settlement between Transnet, its pension funds and some 52 000 pensioners. She also ratified the settlement as a court order. This means Transnet pensioners will receive the second and third bonus payments of R10 000 each promised in the settlement at the end of December 2020 and December 2021. There are also increases of 11% this year, 7% in 2021 and 4% in 2022, after pensioners have in many cases received only 2% per annum since the early 2000s, **Netwerk24** reported.

DIESEL SHORTAGE



The South African Petroleum Industry Association said the availability of diesel had improved after diesel tankers begun arriving in Durban. From there, fuel is transported via **TRANSNET'S FUEL PIPELINE** – but this has been sitting idle due to theft. We may face a maize meal crunch as diesel shortages start to affect food production. South Africa has been rationing diesel since June. Fuel producers said the sharp increase in demand following the lockdown had caught them by surprise. During lockdown half of the country's six oil refineries were mothballed and some are still busy coming online, while others ran into technical problems, **Business Insider** reported.



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	Heijmans	Jacobus	078 282 3237	–	–	–
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	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
Ermelo	Chairman	Msweli	Mthokozisi	083 346 0206	017 801 2206	–	IM.Msweli@gmail.com
	Secretary	Mpofu	Kuhle	073 474 8728	017 801 2286	–	kuhle.mpofu@yahoo.com
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	Dunn	Ashmerelda	083 273 0985	035 905 3807	035 905 3189	ashmerelda.dunn@transnet.net
	Secretary	Dunn	Daryll	082 262 4360	035 905 3160	035 905 3189	daryll.dunn@transnet.net
Newcastle	Chairman	Van Der Hyde	Willem	083 308 5375	034 328 7202	–	Willemdude49@gmail.com
	Secretary	Potgieter	Reginald	078 076 5595	–	–	reginald.potgieter@transnet.net
Pietermaritzburg	Chairman	Thwala	Thembeka	072 536 5798	–	–	Thembeka.Thwala@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mnengela	Muzi	083 366 5200	033 897 2727	033 897 2773	utatupietermaritzburg@transnet.net
Metro Durban	Chairman	Luthuli	Bhekinkosi	084 256 1146	061 563 6128	–	Bhekinkosi.Luthuli@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	Lutchiparsad	Niresh	083 980 0143	035 905 4314	–	Niresh.Lutchiparsad@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	071 618 5320	034 989 9310	–	alexander.ndwandwe@transnet.net
	Secretary	Malinga	Nkosinathi	083 444 0386	034 989 9430	–	Nkosinathi.Malinga2@transnet.net
Piet Retief	Chairman	Nxumalo	IBM	083 341 4228	–	–	IBMNxumalo@gmail.com
	Secretary	Mazibuko	Siphamandla	079 650 2892	–	–	Siphamandla.Mazibuko@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 Nqgura	Chairman	Venter	Anton	082 465 6686	041 507 8326	041 507 8328	anton.venter@transnet.net
	Secretary	Simayile	Nonkosazana	078 311 6613	041 507 6015	–	Simayilesn@gmail.com
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	Verwey	Barend	076 882 4789	041 507 5194	041 507 5224	barend.verwey@transnet.net
	Secretary	Dickson	Michael	072 827 8461	–	–	dicksonmichaeljames@yahoo.com
TRE Uitenhage	Chairman	Smith	Donavin	072 446 0200	–	–	donavin.smith@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	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–

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	Soobramoney	Chantal	072 220 2882	–	–	chantal.soobramoney@transnet.net
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	Meintjies	Reginald	078 907 2184	023 449 2140	023 449 2177	reginald.meintjies@transnet.net
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	–	chantel.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	Soobramoney	Chantal	072 220 2882	–	–	chantal.soobramoney@transnet.net
Lions Head	Chairman	Malek	Calvin	081 036 0072	–	–	Calvin.Malek42@gmail.com
	Secretary	Matsepe	Moitheri	081 562 6650	–	–	mmatsepe@metrorail.co.za
Metro Disa	Chairman	Cupido	André	083 429 0161	–	–	Andreocupido@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	Booyesen	Danfred	083 327 9624	021 449 2924	–	DanfredB@prasa.com
Saldanha Orex	Chairman	Saul	Lutwena	079 225 9168	022 703 2347	022 703 2229	Lutwena.Saul@transnet.net
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
TRE Cape Town	Chairman	Slabber	Shawn	082 723 3490	021 507 2388	–	Shawnslabbera99@gmail.com
	Secretary	Xolani	Mbolekwa	079 394 3907	021 507 2039	–	mbolekwax1@gmail.com
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	Van Rooyen	Pieter	079 526 9228	051 408 2663	–	pieter4901@gmail.com
	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	Ratshibaya	Suzan	065 875 8843	–	–	radzilanisuzan6@gmail.com
	Secretary	Grimsell	Kenneth	083 675 7619	011 365 7361	–	kgrimsell@gmail.com
BRANCH	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
Braamfontein	Chairman	Nkotwe	Martin	081 036 0098	–	–	martin.nkotwe.martin@gmail.com
	Secretary	Ratshibaya	Suzan	065 875 8843	–	–	radzilanisuzan6@gmail.com
Esselenpark	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	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	066 043 6574	–	–	Rendani.Mathivha@transnet.net
Heidelberg	Chairman	Njowa	Peter	083 399 9626	016 340 7227	–	peter.njowa@transnet.net
	Secretary	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
Isando	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	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	Kalimashe	Ronald	083 574 6766	011 950 1238	–	Ronald.Kalimashe@transnet.net
	Secretary	Ramalete	Kelebouile	072 307 2529	011 950 1271	–	Kelebouile.Ramalete@transnet.net
Leeuhof	Chairman	Rossouw	Morne	084 504 0407	016 420 6246	016 420 6352	morne.rossouw@yahoo.com
	Secretary	Mathume	Ratau	073 843 0813	016 420 6278	–	msratau@webmail.co.za
Metro – Central	Chairman	Swart	Peet	071 462 2307	–	–	peet@untu.co.za/paswart@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	Phoshane	Thabiso	071 248 6355	011 960 2197	–	Thabiso.Phoshane@gmail.com
Springs	Chairman	Malahlela	Sphiwe	078 180 2519	011 365 7361	–	sphiwekga@gmail.com
	Secretary	Grimsell	Kenneth	083 675 7619	011 365 7361	–	kgrimsell@gmail.com
Standerton	Chairman	Mthembu	Sibusiso	072 117 0882	083 748 3616	–	sbusisomthembu54@gmail.com
	Secretary	Letsoalo	Maredi	064 940 2217	076 279 9170	–	letsoalo727@gmail.com
TRE Germiston	Chairman	Mudau	Phindile	071 134 3906/076 540 0458	011 820 2716	–	Audrey.Mudau@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mudau	Shelton	072 228 8469	–	–	Shelton.Mudau@transnet.net
TRE Sentrarand	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	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	Maphike	Sipho	073 842 6747	018 632 0894	–	sipho.maphike@transnet.net
	Secretary	Jass	Mbulelo	072 454 8350	018 632 0274	–	Mbulelojass1@gmail.com
De Aar	Chairman	Manziwa	Yandiswa	083 480 1613	053 632 8303	–	Ymenziwa.yaya@gmail.com
	Secretary	Oliphant	Lesley	074 226 5676	053 632 8231	–	Lesley.oliphant@transnet.net
Kimberley	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	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	Mooketsi	Constance	073 647 2278	018 283 7617	–	Malebogomooketsi58@gmail.com
Postmasburg	Chairman	Mdiniso	Nandipha	081 003 2311	–	–	Olwethu.Mdiniso@gmail.com
	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	Schamboua	Julius	083 938 5694	054 338 3408	054 338 3440	jjschamboua@gmail.com

AREA 7 – GAUTENG NORTH

AREA COMMITTEE	POSITION	SURNAME	FIRST NAME	CELL PHONE NO	TELEPHONE NO	FAX NUMBER	E-MAIL ADDRESS
	Chairman	Muleya	Alfred	074 676 2136/078 261 6594	015 781 9035	–	alfredmuleya47@gmail.com
	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	Sambo	Rudolph	076 840 9392	–	–	RZSambo@gmail.com
	Secretary	Mbuyane	Mandla	082 745 7847	013 793 9986	–	Mandla.Mbuyane@transnet.net
Lydenburg	Chairman	VACANT	–	–	–	–	–
	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	Khoza	Menzi	073 311 3420	013 752 9236	–	Khovane@gmail.com
	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	Mashinya	Loyce	082 216 9251	015 781 9035	–	Loyce.Mashinya@transnet.net
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	Seattholo	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
Pyramid	Chairman	Tajane	Gabaikanngwe	073 405 2108	012 521 9415	012 521 9497	Gabaikanngwe.Tajane@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mhlongo	Charles	071 869 9229	012 521 9573	012 521 9526	charles.mhlongo@transnet.net
Rustenburg	Chairman	Motlhabi	Tebogo	073 974 7074	–	014 590 2064	utatu.rustenburg@transnet.net
	Secretary	Mothibe	Elias	071 926 1779	014 590 2226	–	elias.mothibe@transnet.net
Thabazimbi	Chairman	Mathebula	Hlayisela	073 854 5673	014 590 2206	–	Hlayiseka.matheb@gmail.com
	Secretary	Mahlaudi	Julius	072 759 6031	014 590 2223	–	t.mahlauli@gmail.com
TRE Pretoria	Chairman	Nkambule	Lynette	072 368 5222	–	–	Lynette.Nkambule@transnet.net
	Secretary	Molaisana	Edward	071 533 9371	–	–	edwardmoloisana@gmail.com
TRE Koedoespoort	Chairman	Brink	Izak	082 827 9151	012 842 5317	–	izak.brink@transnet.net
	Secretary	Oosthuizen	Hannes	079 081 0907	012 842 5273	–	Johannes.Oosthuizen@transnet.net
Waterval-Boven	Chairman	Mmola	Evince	079 602 8585	013 257 5028	–	haizelmmla@gmail.com
	Secretary	Mhlongo	Oupa	073 420 7505	013 257 5024	–	doctoroupa@gmail.com
Witbank	Chairman	Mudalahothe	Obert	076 262 0674	–	–	avhatakali26@gmail.com
	Secretary	Mnguni	Jappie	082 213 9952	–	–	jappie.mnguni@transnet.net

IF YOU HAVE A PROBLEM, PHONE US ON TEL: 011 728 0120

Pandemic “stole” protection official’s graduation ceremony

The Covid-19 pandemic cost Masenyani Baloyi (51) his graduation ceremony, but it did not prevent him from enrolling for his diploma in Labour Law for 2021. “My ambition is to become a labour law expert and in time qualify myself as an advocate. “My goal is to prove to people who undermine the protection services of the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) not to underestimate us. I might not be in a top position, but that does not

mean that I am uneducated.” He started working for Prasa in 2009, but it was only in 2017 that he decided that the employees working for protection services needed someone to represent them during disciplinary hearings. “We had no UNTU Trade Union Representative (TUR) because everyone was too afraid to stand up for their rights. I decided to make myself available and was elected as a TUR. I want to assist others in ensuring that they are treated fair.”

In 2019 he was appointed as a leading protection official at JOC in the Johannesburg CBD and enrolled at the University of Johannesburg to study his National Higher Certificate in Criminal Justice and Forensic Investigation. “I passed and the graduation ceremony was withheld, but I enrolled for the post-graduate diploma.” Baloyi has been married for 29 years and is blessed with three children and a grandchild.



Masenyani Baloyi



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



Tabisa Mtati



Lebogang Saku

TUR’s want to see positive changes at RSR

The first two UNTU Trade Union Representatives (TUR’s) at the Railway Safety Regulator (RSR) want to see positive changes to the working conditions of their colleagues. Tabisa Mtati and Lebogang Saku became the first two UNTU TUR’s who have been elected electronically during the corona pandemic.

“It is time that RSR employees have a voice when they engage with management. “I realise that being a TUR is hard work and that I will need to serve UNTU members to the best of my ability. I am confident that I will not disappoint,” says Mtati.

Saku used to represent workers at a workplace forum the RSR used to have, but this is the first time that he will be serving workers on behalf of a union.

“I believe I have leadership skills and set an example. I also know that I have the ability to address difficult work-related issues when the need arises,” says Saku.

They will both be trained by UNTU in labour relations to better equip them. Steve Harris, General Secretary of UNTU, says he has confidence that UNTU’s membership at the RSR will prosper and grow with Mtati and Saku steering the interest of the Union’s members.

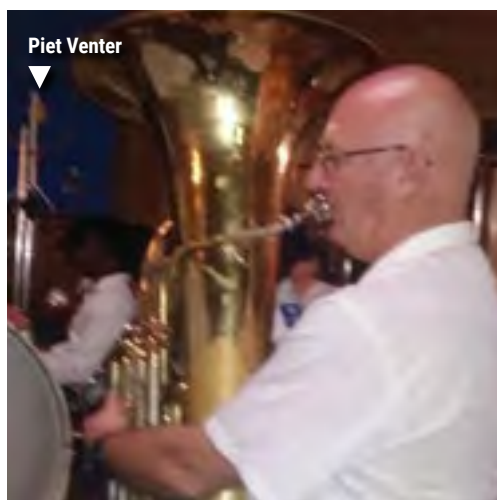
IT wizard plays tuba in the Salvation Army band

UNTU member Piet Venter (58) is an IT network administrator at the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) during the day, but in his spare time he plays the tuba to unwind.

Venter, a father of two boys, is a member of the brass band of the Salvation Army, a Christian Church and an international charitable organisation which follows the philosophy of "Heart to God, Hand to man" with a special concern for the poor, the neglected and the marginalised in society.

"Through music I am able to unleash my feelings and to make a difference," says Venter, who started playing the tuba, the lowest-pitched musical instrument in the brass family, in high school.

He started working for Prasa on a contract basis in 2005 and got a permanent appointment at Metrorail in Pretoria in



2006. Venter has been a satisfied and loyal UNTU member ever since.

He loves his job and describes the IT environment as challenging and satisfying.

"I never have a dull day. I love working with people, implementing projects, finding faults, and making a difference. My customers are my fellow employees.

"My greatest compliment was being

called to a Prasa executive meeting to attend to a problem. When I walked in, one of the executives said, "Piet IT is here, now everything will work."

In his career he has seen it all. From elderly users who are too afraid to use a computer to the younger generation who think they know it all and cause a network error.

Venter says he will continue working for Metrorail beyond his retirement age of 63 if he can, but admits that he has a growing concern in his heart. The Prasa of today is no longer the Prasa he started working for in 2005.

"We are trying our utmost best knowing that the modernisation of the business is our future. But only if we can stop the onslaught in vandalism and theft of our infrastructure."

When he is not playing in the band, he loves developing his own knowledge and reading. He also loves spending time outdoors. 🌿

DID YOU KNOW?

ZOOMING IN

The relatively unknown video conferencing application **ZOOM** became very popular during the global lockdown restrictions. UNTU's leadership as well as our members was quickly forced to get used to this new means of conducting meetings. The Zoom application has grown from 10 million users in December 2019 to 300 million daily Zoom meeting participants at the end of April 2020.



WORK @ HOME

Working from home has become part of the new normal as many companies encourage their employees to stay safe at home, even with lockdown restrictions being lifted all across the globe. **TWITTER** was one of the first companies to say its employees may work from home permanently, even after Covid-19. **FACEBOOK** said as many as 50% of its employees could be working remotely within the next five to 10 years. The notion of putting hundreds of people in the same building might be a thing of the past. This is also evident from the number of commercial properties nationwide that is suddenly empty.



Up to R20 000 cover

Funeral plan from as little as R25.00



Most comprehensive FUNERAL BENEFIT for UNTU members

We as Transafrica Group Schemes are proud to provide this unique high paying superior benefit funeral scheme to UNTU members. Our wide range of benefits make this a very affordable and superior product.

Our Funeral plan includes the following benefits:

- Funeral cover for the whole family
- As many extended family as you please
- Transportation of the deceased anywhere in SA to the value of R20 000 per member
- Information, counselling and assistance on bereavement, trauma, HIV/Aids, other medical matters and finance
- Ambulance and other transport in emergency
- School-work assistance to children
- Assistance with admission to medical facilities
- Disability cover for up to R25 000
- Family income benefit of R1 000 per month included for 6 months
- Accidental death
- Member may continue with this policy after retirement

Optional benefits may be included (to add these benefits to your plan, an additional monthly premium will be payable)

SMS "funeral" to 33282 for more information • E-mail: untu@trans-africa.co.za



Underwritten by SAFRICAN



Let us continue to protect our rail icons

The campaign has been received very well by rail operators who responded by sharing photos of rail employees wearing masks, maintaining



Covid-19 reminds Thuputhela of the importance of family time

The global corona pandemic made Vusi Thuputhela (48), Chief Shedman at Transnet Capital Park in Pretoria, an even better person.

"It changed my relationships with people, my outlook on life and my perceptions. Every time I must go to work, I have a fear at the back of my head of getting sick. Not because of myself, but because of my family at home," says Thuputhela.

During the lockdown, his three children loved the fact that he could play with them at home and assist them with home schooling.

"I have always been a family man spending 80% of my spare time with them and the rest of the time at church. But I now appreciate my family even more and realise how precious our time is together."

Thuputhela grew up in Winterveld north of Pretoria and he wanted to become a doctor. He was accepted at Medunsa (today known as the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University) but could not manage to raise enough money to pay his registration fees.



Vusi Thuputhela

"I was angry. I questioned God for some time. A pastor spotted me and asked me if I did not want to apply for a job at Transnet. I did not even have a phone. He put his number on the application form and helped me to get it faxed. A few weeks later he came to tell me that I had to write an examination at Sentrarrand next to Daveyton on the East Rand. Another pastor offered to take me. The rest is history," says Thuputhela.

Between 2013 and 2019 Thuputhela was seconded to the National Command Centre where he learned a lot about network development. His eyes are set on becoming a system analyst.

He used to be a SATAWU member until last year but waited in vain for the union to attend to an issue he had. He discussed the matter with John Pereira, UNTU Deputy-General Secretary, who gave him advice although he was not an UNTU member.

He decided to join UNTU and does not regret his decision for a second.

Demoralising and disturbing to watch Prasa bleed – member

Fhumulani Mukwevho (34) find it's very demoralising and disturbing to witness the unprecedented vandalism attacks on the infrastructure of the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (Prasa) since the start of the Covid-19 lockdown.

"It is painful every time we have to replace a stolen cable. It is not sustainable for Prasa to continue replacing everything. It is not only the commuters who are suffering. We, the employees of Prasa, realise that these thieves are putting our jobs at risk."

Prasa's lack of security is the reason why its infrastructure is vulnerable to organised crime syndicates. "There is no one guarding the infrastructure. When suspects are caught, they say they were stealing the cables to buy food. We are living in desperate times."

Mukwevho grew up in Venda in Limpopo and dreamt of becoming an electrician but could not afford his studies and could not get a bursary. He got a job in the electrical division of a contractor for Prasa and managed to get employed in Prasa's electrical department.

Mukwevho joined UNTU in 2017 and was elected as a Trade Union Representative soon afterwards. He was re-elected recently to serve another term.

He wants to make a difference to the working conditions of his colleagues. "Dan Khumalo, UNTU Deputy-General Secretary, always motivates us to strive to improve ourselves and our representation of workers."



Fhumulani Mukwevho

He likes his job and enjoy the challenges that comes with it. According to him he never has a boring day.

"But this lockdown was very difficult. Everyone who had to work, was afraid of getting sick. It was a struggle to get sanitizer and personal protective equipment and to do screening of employees when they report for work."

When he is not working, he loves spending time with his wife and to exercise outdoors.



Julian Vadi and his colleagues started a feeding project for families in need.

Train driver, colleagues feeds hungry families

UNTU member Julian Vadi (40) was so touched by the poverty and hunger amongst ordinary South Africans due to the

Covid-19 pandemic, that he started a feeding project for families in need.

This Transnet Freight Rail train driver at the Golela border post to Swaziland, travels to Pongola to buy his groceries. While he was working through the lockdown, he realised that the normal street vendors he used to see on the streets were gone.

"The streets were empty, and instead I saw people begging for food, not money. They were hungry. Parents had no means to feed their families. I was heartbroken. I discussed this with my supervisor, Rocky Myemi. We started a WhatsApp group and we asked colleagues if they would contribute whatever they could. Everyone opened their hearts and contributed. We fed nine families in May and continued helping

them where the need arises."

According to Vadi, he believes that all South Africans have a moral responsibility to help each other. "Even if you can only buy a needy person a loaf of bread, you are making a difference and showing kindness."

Growing up in Richards Bay, Vadi wanted to become a mechanical engineer but did not have the finances to do so. He joined Transnet as a train assistant in 2001 and later became a train driver. He resigned in 2012 to start his own trucking business. In 2016, Transnet recalled train drivers as they had a shortage of this scarce skill. Vadi was informed of this thanks to an UNTU Trade Union Representative who went out of his way to get hold of him.

"I joined the Union again and I have been a happy member ever since."

Vadi does not fear the deadly global Covid-19 pandemic. "I serve a God that is greater than any disease or virus. We must have faith," says this father of four children who spends his spare time with his family.

"God gave me a special talent to minister through music"

Sbusiso B Mtshali (39) was so moved by the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic that he decided to record his second Gospel CD *Bayede (Hallelujah)*.

"At first I thought this coronavirus is just a flu. But then it got closer to home and people started dying. It became traumatising for everyone.

"But God is always with us. He protects us, and we must keep our eyes on Him and focus on Him," says Mtshali, an UNTU member and a father of three children.

Labour Report wrote about Mtshali in 2018 when he released his first CD with his own hard-earned money. Back then he was a welder at Transnet Engineering in Germiston. Mtshali now works at Transnet Welgedacht in Springs on the East Rand. He is a welder and does planning. He started working for Transnet in 2011.

"I love working at Welgedacht. It is challenging and I get more exposure. The team pushes the production in the workshop by worshipping while working."

Mtshali grew up extremely poor in Nongoma, the home of King Goodwill Zwelithini. He is one of five siblings of a single mother who had to fend for her children alone after his father passed on when he was younger.

He was in his primary school's choir when he started getting compliments about his voice. "After school, I joined a group, and I also worked as a backing vocalist for other artists," he says.

As the praise and worship leader of his church, Mtshali started doing his own thing. "I use my voice to bring people closer to God. God gave me a special talent to minister to people."

Mtshali can also play the piano, but he is unable to read sheet music.



Sbusiso Mtshali

"THE NEW NORMAL"

Covid-19 pandemic is affecting thousands of people and their families understandably, there is a great sense of unease everywhere. However, I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well.

This is an unprecedented time for everyone, and the situation is changing daily. There is a lot of work we have to do, but I have faith that we are up to the challenge. I am convinced that we will get through this, if we do not lose our self-confidence and our energy.

Now more than ever, we must do the right things and be prepared to take steps beyond what we're typically required to do. The new normal requires us to do things differently and at PRASA the health and safety of our employees and commuters remains our top priority.

Together we can get through this. It is literally in our hands.

Mr. Bongisizwe Mpondo
ADMINISTRATOR

safety is our number one priority

Sneeze and cough into
your arm or a tissue



Please do not touch
common surfaces



Wearing a mask in
public spaces is
now mandatory



How to use a mask

- Cover nose and mouth and secure the mask
- Do not touch the mask while wearing it
- Remove the mask from behind and discard
- Once dry, wash the mask, or discard it and wash your hands

STAY INFORMED OF COVID-19

Employees are urged to join the [Department of Health's Covid-19 WhatsApp group](#) by dialing [0600 123 456](#) and type the word "Hi" in order to get more information on Covid-19. In addition, PRASA encourages staff to contact our [Wellness Call Centre 0800 202 952](#), or emailing: Covid-19@prasa.com



UNTU EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



PRESIDENT
Hendrik Fourie
~ Pretoria ~
Cell: 083 283 7482
pote@untu.co.za



VICE-PRESIDENT
Trevor Wasserfall
~ Cape Town ~
Tel: 021 449 2148
Cell: 071 362 6219
trevor@untu.co.za



SUPPORT SERVICES
Douw Dreyer
~ Kroonstad ~
Cell: 082 920 9450
082 378 3130
douw@untu.co.za



MARITIME
EASTERN ZONE
Douglas Emery
~ East London ~
Cell: 082 315 9826
douglas@untu.co.za



MARITIME
WESTERN ZONE
Careston Damos
~ Port Elizabeth ~
Cell: 081 722 3011
careston@untu.co.za



PRASA
CENTRAL ZONE
Casper Botha
~ Johannesburg ~
Cell: 063 687 4002
cl@untu.co.za



PRASA
WESTERN ZONE
Thamie Kwintshi
~ Cape Town ~
Cell: 082 737 8922
thamie@untu.co.za



PRASA
EASTERN ZONE
Hardhaw Tikum
~ Durban ~
Cell: 083 756 4484
tikum@untu.co.za



RAIL FREIGHT
EASTERN ZONE
Steven Leshabana
~ Witbank ~
Cell: 083 559 9419
leshabana@untu.co.za



RAIL FREIGHT
CENTRAL ZONE
Fisani Mabaso
~ Ladysmith ~
Cell: 078 738 7296
fisani@untu.co.za



RAIL FREIGHT
CENTRAL ZONE
Linda Biljoen
~ Durban ~
Cell: 082 852 9478
linda@untu.co.za



RAIL FREIGHT
CENTRAL ZONE
Scott de Koker
~ Johannesburg ~
Cell: 082 046 6815
scott@untu.co.za



RAIL FREIGHT
WESTERN ZONE
Lutwena Saul
~ Saldanha ~
Cell: 079 225 9168
lutwena@untu.co.za



RAIL FREIGHT
WESTERN ZONE
Henk Smith
~ Cape Town ~
Cell: 071 363 3938
henk@untu.co.za



RAIL ENGINEERING
CENTRAL ZONE
Wielligh Meyer
~ Pretoria ~
Cell: 063 687 3661
wielligh@untu.co.za



RAIL ENGINEERING
WESTERN ZONE
Clayten du Plessis
~ Port Elizabeth ~
Cell: 078 212 6211
clayten@untu.co.za



RAIL ENGINEERING
EASTERN ZONE
Zonke Cebekhulu
~ Richards Bay ~
Cell: 082 567 6637
zonke@untu.co.za

UNTU SECRETARIAT



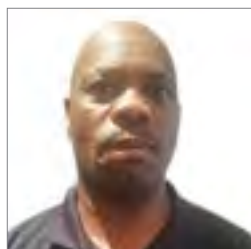
GENERAL
SECRETARY
Steve Harris
Cell: 082 566 5516
steve@untu.co.za



DEPUTY GENERAL
SECRETARY
FINANCE & ADMIN
Chris de Vos
Cell: 082 857 7471
finance@untu.co.za



MEDIA LIAISON &
COMMUNICATION
OFFICER & EDITOR
Sonja Carstens
Cell: 082 463 6806
sonja@untu.co.za



DEPUTY
GENERAL
SECRETARY
Cosmas Doncabe
Cell: 082 922 3960
cosmas@untu.co.za



DEPUTY
GENERAL
SECRETARY
John Pereira
Cell: 079 501 6883
johnp@untu.co.za



DEPUTY
GENERAL
SECRETARY
Neels Haasbroek
Cell: 082 904 2215
neels@untu.co.za



DEPUTY
GENERAL
SECRETARY
Dan Khumalo
Cell: 082 685 2799
dan@untu.co.za



ORGANISER
DURBAN
Lucas Sabela
Cell: 073 025 0102
lucas@untu.co.za



NATIONAL
ORGANISER
JOHANNESBURG
Maria Chonco
Cell: 082 920 5305
maria@untu.co.za



ORGANISER
PORT ELIZABETH
Liam MacKay
Cell: 072 603 9515
liam@untu.co.za



ORGANISER
RICHARDS BAY
Alfred Mthethwa
Cell: 079 220 3444
alfred@untu.co.za



NATIONAL
ORGANISER
CAPE TOWN
George le Roux
Cell: 079 527 3087
georgele@untu.co.za



ORGANISER
CAPE TOWN
Tembile
Mgqolozana
Cell: 082 751 2165
tembile@untu.co.za



UNTU
PALMS
JEWEL OF THE SOUTH COAST

NEWS

Tel: 039 681 3325 • E-mail: reservations@untupalms.co.za

Sun, sea & friendly staff await you!

Are you looking for a romantic getaway or that well-deserved family holiday after the lockdown? Look no further than UNTU Palms. Make new memories! Book your stay today at the famous and affordable Jewel of the South Coast.

UNTU Palms, the Jewel of the South Coast, in all its glory, cannot wait to welcome our loyal and beloved guests back to our cabanas, chalets and 54 stand tent and caravan park.

Our friendly staff was privileged to enjoy the beauty of our seashore family holiday resort in Sunwich Port in KwaZulu-Natal while the rest of South Africa was under lockdown regulations, but they also worked very hard.

UNTU Palms used the lockdown period, to combat the spreading of the Covid-19 pandemic, to our advantage to continue making strides with our renovation project which started two years ago to modernise the resort.

You might have missed a few cold fronts, the annual Sardine Run and whales and dolphins coming around to say hello, but there are still plenty of fish in the sea. Our lovely tidal pool on the beach and the best spot for surfing and rock fishing in the ocean have not seen new faces in recent months. Ample playgrounds for children, a volleyball court, swimming pool, putt-putt course and a games room, also await our guests.

The South Coast with its sub-tropical forests and stunning birdlife is blessed with perfect weather all year around so you know that you will hardly ever be disappointed.

You will find your favourite café and pub and grill is still around. Kayshenie and her husband, Clint Dippenaar, is still preparing some of the best curry dishes, typical United Kingdom style fried fish, mutton, chicken and vegetable biryani, battered calamari, pap, gravy and boerewors, a variety of burgers and rolls, salads, sandwiches, breakfast and snack platters at Auntie Betty's Café.

Situated on the beachfront is Joey Roberson, who did not let the lockdown influence the great atmosphere at Orca's Pub and Grill. They also used the lockdown to their advantage to renovate the restaurant. Orca's is famous for their variety of breakfasts, light meals like salads, toasted sandwiches, rolls and burgers, chicken cordon blue, Eisbein, schnitzels, a seafood platter, prawns, hake and fish, rump, T-bone and ribs and beef, chicken or vegetable curries.

UNTU Palms is fully in compliance with the lockdown regulations, we have trained our staff, and adjusted our reception and communal areas for the new normal to ensure that our guests can be safe and at ease.

• **For any assistance in making a reservation or for any enquiries, please do not hesitate in contacting your favourite seashore family holiday resort on 039 681 3325/96 or on 082 480 6069. Or send an e-mail to reservations@untupalms.co.za** 🌴



▲ The Sardine Run is an annual phenomenon sparked by the entry of large shoals of sardines into the waters of southern KwaZulu-Natal during the winter months. This year was no exception with a bumper Sardine Run.



▲ Our lovely tidal pool is the best spot for rock fishing or surfing!



▲ Breathtaking views and walkways are abundant.



▲ We offer lots of activities. From putt-putt to volleyball, a games room and swimming pool.



▲ Enjoy one of our famous cocktails or feast at Auntie Betty's Café or Orca's Pub and Grill.

Management team postpone wedding on the beach

After a relationship of five years, the management team of UNTU Palms, Cobus van Aswegen (50) and Nicolé Coertze (39), was set to tie the knot in front of their friends and family on 4 April at the Elysium on the South Coast.

"When Pres. Cyril Ramaphosa announced the lockdown from 26 March, I cried my heart out. We were very excited to celebrate our special day, so we were very disappointed when we realised the wedding couldn't

go ahead.

"But Cobus and I quickly adapted to the idea of postponing the wedding. We want our family to be present, it simply will not be the same without them. Our new date is set for 5 September 2020, depending on the lockdown regulations," says Nicolé.

According to her they decided that it will not matter to wait another couple of months. "We were not prepared to let go of our dream. We love each other and we will be spending the rest of our

lives together, so we want our marriage to start with the special wedding day that we have been planning for a long time."

During the lockdown, UNTU Palms could not welcome guests. Cobus and Nicolé used the time to focus on renovation projects at the resort and to ensure that the staff of UNTU Palms are trained to adapt to the new normal and to assist guests in doing the same.

"We missed all the familiar faces and can't wait to welcome them back." 🌴