



LABOUR REPORT

Labour Report Summer 2010

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UNITED TRANSPORT & ALLIED TRADE UNION UTATU CONGRESS 2010



All the delegates at Utatu's third four-yearly Congress that was held on 23 to 25 November in Boksburg, Gauteng. Read more about Congress in this issue of Labour Report.

Today we are only 52 000 people generating an income of about 170 times as much. Even taking inflation into account, that is a huge increase in productivity."

Welcoming the new Ministers of Labour and Public Affairs to their positions and assuring them of Utatu's co-operation, he reminded them that it was Transnet's workers who provided both the company's backbone and its continuity.

"Transnet's workers respect the Government, Transnet and those appointed to manage the company. All they ask is to be treated with similar respect," he said.

George applauded the billions of rands of capital expenditure earmarked for the development of South Africa's railways and harbours systems. However, he expressed his concern that, in the short-term, the investments might not alleviate the alarming increases in breakdowns, rail incidents and level crossing accidents.

"But I can assure you of one thing," he told his audience. "The days are over of our employers being able to declare 'operator error' each time a train is late or is involved in a collision. Utatu has made it publicly known that the real reasons for these incidents are:

- Inadequate government financing
- Poor management planning and priorities

- The obsolete equipment at our disposal

- The excessive hours which key people are often called upon to work."

Nationalised health care

Addressing the government's plan to nationalise health care, George said that, at face value, it was an attractive proposition. But the scheme carried arithmetical hazards that would need to be examined by Utatu members before they gave it their support.

Nationalised health care was in trouble world-wide because people were living longer and, thereby, reducing the gap between contributors and those drawing benefits to unmanageable levels.

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President set tone for clear-sighted Congress

Utatu's Congress 2010 was an unqualified success. It united members from all corners of the country and achieved what was needed to guide the union through the next four years - a clear-sighted understanding of the difficult road ahead; specific approaches to the domestic and national issues likely to impact on the well-being of rail and harbour workers and the election of a balanced and experienced Executive Committee to advance the interests of all sections of the union's membership.

Much of the inspiration for these achievements was provided by Utatu's president, George Strauss, in his farsighted speech at the start of the Congress. He divided his address into four parts:

- An appraisal of the global and national economic events affecting Transnet's viability.



- An overview of the way that the country's rail and harbours systems are being managed.

- Guidelines on the union's approach to unfolding socio-economic issues.

- How Utatu needs to manage its own affairs.

- George's economic round-up

traced the obstacles standing in the way of better growth and employment opportunities and complimented the Ministry of Finance and the SA Reserve Bank for having so skillfully steered the SA economy through the crisis, and for having South Africa ranked as best country on the African continent in which to

do business.

Government's handling of its transport responsibilities came in for markedly different treatment. George criticised it for its 'poor priorities, indecisiveness and lax management.'

"There will continue to be unrest and instability throughout the Transnet empire for as long as its executives are allowed to help themselves to bonuses at the expense of their workers," he said, adding: "It is time for those running Transnet to wake up to the value of its people and to start paying them what they are worth."

Returning to the sore point of worker remuneration, George said that a hallmark of a country's economic success is the productivity of its workers.

"The South African Government, which owns Transnet and the companies for which we work, keeps short-changing us on our productivity bonuses on the grounds that we are not being productive enough.

"Not being productive enough! In the 1970s the South African railways and harbours schemes employed some 287 000 people generating a turnover of R760 million a year.

COMMENT

NEWS



Chris de Vos



Steve Harris

As we prepare this editorial we are aware that, as a result of our union's 2010 strike actions, it will reach Utatu families who are celebrating Christmas more austere than they would have liked. We commiserate. But at the same

time, we congratulate you all. Those strikes were necessary and they were successful.

In standing together to declare 'we will be pushed no further' we have demonstrated our value to Transnet and Prasa and to the national economy.

Treat the pay sacrificed in making that statement as an investment - an investment that has already started bringing Utatu members a better deal.

With many new developments and capital investments coming the way of railways, harbours and allied industries, the future of employment in SA is looking healthier than it has for decades.

Sadly, Prasa remains the blight on what might have been a promising picture.

The problem is not one of labour's making:

For as long as Metrorail's management shoots from the hip with no regard for its employees or passengers, employees are going to be forced to retaliate.

For as long as Metrorail's management ignores ethics and agreement

and the enormous costs and inconvenience that this blinkered approach incurs, the company is going to remain an unstable rail service.

Eventually, the government that owns Prasa and the commuters who are regularly let down by the company's irrational actions are going to grasp these points.

We, who want nothing more than fair treatment and fair returns for our labours, must battle on until this is understood.

As this issue of Labour Report shows, with this being a Congress year everything that Utatu does - and has done over the past four years - has been opened to member scrutiny.

The results have been more than heartening; they have been inspiring.

Together, we comprise one of our country's best skills, race and gender

represented unions - maybe the best.

Our members are responsible, intelligent and resolute... and they have the durability and patience to keep weathering away at issues until they win the deals they deserve.

These are rocks on which we can all build.

The tide is running our way. Thanks to your sacrifices and strike effort, the merit of our cause is gaining wider acceptance. We have the skills and productivity which are vital to the industry that is the heartbeat of the South African economy. As we begin a new year and a new Utatu era, let us build further on these successes and help to create a Golden Age for South Africa's rail and harbours.

With a bit of help from our employers, it can be done. 🇿🇦

Steve's tribute moistened many eyes

It came as a surprise and shock to many of the delegates to learn that Congress 2010 would be the final congress for Chris de Vos and Louis Brockett. They had expected these two pillars of Utatu to be around forever.

The manner in which the delegates lauded Chris and Louis for their contributions to the union clearly showed the respect and affection their dedication had earned them.

But it was the tribute of co-general secretary, Steve, to his soon-to-depart colleague (Chris will retire in July 2011) that moistened many eyes.

To understand the feeling with which Steve expressed his sentiments, one needs to know the background to their relationship.

When the SA Footplate Association (Chris) and the Technical Workers Union (Steve) merged in 2000 to form Utatu, many were sceptical. They believed that the two unions were too different and proud to form a new identity.

Simultaneously, the departure of the TWU's then-secretary, followed shortly afterwards by the retirement of its president, had seen a relatively young Steve being rocketed into a position of seniority that some believed was beyond his experience at that stage.

Theoretically, the critics were right.

Practically, aided by their own ability, their faith in Utatu, the support of the union's president, George Strauss, and the backing received from their members, Chris and Steve (or Steve and Chris) set about proving the critics wrong.

The result has been a union that has - in less than a decade - bridged race and ideological obstacles to about double its membership to become Transnet's most effective trade union.

It was against this backdrop that Steve paid this tribute to his departing comrade-in-arms:

This is not part of our official report as general secretaries. It is my tribute to a colleague of more than ten years. I am sure Chris will join me when I say that we have worked well together as two general secretaries working alongside one another to build and stabilise Utatu as a trade union to be reckoned with.

Achieving that goal was not a given in the early days of the merger.

Chris was born in the Cold Stream district of Humansdorp on 24 December 1947, the son of a Railway man, who soon afterwards moved to Sidenham to join the railways.

Chris attended primary and high school in Humansdorp.

As a child taking his father's lunch box to him in the Humansdorp marshalling yards, Chris became enchanted by the magic of trains and train drivers, who seemed to him like the gods of his rail heaven.

Accordingly, when he left school in 1964, he joined the SA Railways at Sydenham, Port Elizabeth, as a learner stoker.

In March 1965 he was promoted to stoker at Noupoot and transferred back to Sydenham soon afterwards.

Later that year he was posted to Stanger on the North Coast of KwaZulu-Natal as a senior stoker.

In 1975 he was promoted to train driver.

We all know the story of the good woman behind every successful man. Well, in Chris' case, that story has been more than true. In 1968, he married Stella and over the past 42 years she has been the one who has kept the home fires burning brightly in order to free Chris to make the most of his railway and trade union careers - dedicated support that required her to spend many solitary days and nights raising their four children: daughter, Michelle, and sons, Mornay, Manne and Wayne.

During their earlier years of marriage, even when Chris was at home

he was not ideal company. His growing career required him to bury his nose in the labour law books which eventually gave him the knowledge and diplomas that have made him a match for the employers' legal heavyweights.

In 1981, after a variety of memorable experiences as a train driver, he transferred to diesel locomotives at Cambridge and became a tutor train driver.

Chris' career in the trade union movement about tracked his progress as a railwayman.

In 1979, at the young age of 32, he was elected chairman of the East London Steam branch. He also became the disciplinary representative for the Eastern Cape region.

In 1980 he was elected branch secretary and shortly after his conversion to diesel locomotives he was elected alternative executive councillor. In 1982 the executive councillor resigned and Chris was elected the executive councillor a position he held for five years until he was appointed assistant general secretary at the Footplate Staff Association head office in September 1987.

Chris excelled at rugby with various clubs. Never having lost his love of the game, he has been the president of the Kempton Park Wolwe rugby club for many years and was also involved in the Valke rugby union which has also awarded him honorary life membership.

At an executive council meeting on 24 and 25 September 1992 Chris was appointed general secretary of the SA Footplate Staff Association, a position he still holds today with Utatu.

Chris served on the board of Transnet and was recently appointed to serve a second term on the board of the Rail Safety Regulator.

I am sure Chris has served on numerous other boards and committees. However, he will forgive me, for not naming them all.

Chris is due to retire in July, 2011. That makes this his last Congress as



An emotional Steve Harris and Chris de Vos.



Louis Brockett who is also retiring in the next year.

an Utatu general secretary. Therefore, I request you, one and all, to rise to applaud Chris for his dedication and committed service to Utatu and the labour movement.

Lastly, Chris, please accept - from the head office staff - our sincere appreciation for your commitment,

guidance and comradeship.

Personally, I thank you for your friendship.

Closer to your final retirement date, your colleagues will take their official and friendly leave of you.

Viva Utatu, viva Chris de Vos, viva. 🇿🇦

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Decent work the path to greater productivity



Decent work is not something you order in a restaurant. We have to fight for it - Herbert Mkhize speaking at the Utatu debate

Far from being the gripe session that some expected, the Utatu Congress' focus on Decent Work served as an inspiring manual for better management. Perhaps the most important message to emerge from it came from Simphiwe Mabhele, the senior workplace advisor for the International Labour Organisation of South Africa, when he said:

Employers should not look at decent work as a costly exercise but as a priority to creating productivity.

Leading the Congress' panel discussion on Decent Work, Simphiwe Mabhele stressed that Government, employers and workers have to accommodate their different interests in creative ways to respond to the demand for Decent Work, which he defined as 'opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive employment in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.'

"We must bring together representatives of governments, employers and workers to foster co-operation and deliver real world knowledge about employment and work," he said.

The strategic position of the ILO with regard to Decent Work was, said Simphiwe Mabhele, to create a working relationship between Workers/Government/Employers in

"We need a collective effort to fight for decent work. Being organised is one of the best advantages when it



Members of the panel listening to questions from the delegates. Simphiwe Mabhele, the senior workplace advisor for the ILO, George Strauss, Utatu president and Herbert Mkhize, executive director of Nedlac.

comes to worker-related matters."

Utatu's leaders placed the stress on practical manifestations of Decent Work.

When workers help to bake the cake they want to be in the front row when that cake is cut.

George Strauss, who was re-elected Utatu's president at the Congress, placed the focus on working conditions. After showing slides of unhygienic, unsafe and uninspiring Transnet facilities, he posed the questions:



which:

Governments would establish healthy, productive and decent work environments

Employers would provide decent work and foster productive workforces

Workers would be given the ability to work and job security

"Does decent work mean that employees should be subjected to having to work in these sub-standard circumstances?"

"Is this management and government's standard of a decent working environment?"

"In future this union will not allow such conditions! We will fight

for our members' rights to decent working conditions," he said.

Also making a passionate appeal for better working conditions, Utatu general secretary, Steve Harris, said that Utatu was in the forefront of attempts to persuade Freight Rail to change its mindset with regard to its employees' working conditions.

"Management has already committed itself to start replacing certain equipment in Central Region such as microwaves, plastic water bottles, gas burners, electric stoves, fridges, chemical toilets - all this at a budget of just over R900 000.

"Management says it's going to make big difference to their budget. We say to hell with their budget! We must have conditions acceptable for work so that better productivity can

lead to more money so that their budgets can work again!

"That is what we expect - to be treated as human beings.

"We have a commitment from management that it will verify the numbers of employees' items to be purchased for each sub-depot by the end of 2010 - that the end of March 2011 all these items will be purchased and distributed. We are going to hold them to that."

The last of the speakers on the panel to make his presentation, Herbert Mkhize, the executive director of Nedlac, was equally forceful and severe on employer approaches to Decent Work.

"Decent Work have become swear words for employers. They joke about it, saying there is not work in the first place. We must first create more jobs before creating decent work," he told the Congress.

"The biggest problem is that they expect workers to take part in baking the cake, but to be left out when the cutting of the cake takes place.

"When we workers help to bake the cake, we want to be in the front row when that cake is cut!

"Employers say our labour laws are too rigid and need more flexibility. If anyone in this room says they are happy with the gap between their salaries and their boss's, or if they say they are not overlooked in promotions, then I will agree our labour laws are too rigid and need more flexibility.

"The primary reason for Nedlac's existence is to create decent work. A



Newly elected vice-president, Tiekie de Jager, and president, George Strauss.

Delegates show trust in Executive Committee

At Congress, the delegates - who represent the views of members in all corners of the country - had the opportunity to change the composition of their union's Executive Committee.

The fact that the outgoing Exco was re-elected almost in totality (Matthys Booyens and George le Roux, both previously representatives for Transnet Freight Rail did not stand again as they are soon retiring) provided further evidence of the members' faith in the Executive that oversees their union's affairs.

The two retiring Exco members have been replaced by Luvuyo Mdyogolo - TFR Central Zone and Henk Smith - TFR Western Zone.

Utatu's president, George Strauss, and vice-president, Tiekie de Jager, were also re-elected to their leadership roles. It was the first time that George Strauss, who has now entered his third term as Utatu's president, was elected unopposed. He was clearly moved by the trust placed in him.

To ensure better member representation, three new executive zones have been added to the Executive Committee.

Maritime has been divided into two executive Zones - Eastern and Western - and Prasa now has three

executive zones instead of the previous one.

At Maritime, veteran ports specialist, Wyndam Evans, becomes responsible for the Eastern Zone. Newly elected Trevor Wasserfal will look after the Western Zone.

At Prasa, André Bester, previously the lone Utatu crusader, will be responsible for the Central Zone. Rodney Blom and Brian Davids will look after members' interests in the Eastern and Western Zones, respectively.

Transnet Freight Rail still has six representatives, but there are now three Central Zone representatives, one Eastern Zone and two Western Zone.

Newly elected members on Exco are:

Luvuyo Mdyogolo - TFR Central Zone

Henk Smith - TFR Western Zone

Trevor Wasserfal - Maritime Western Zone (a new portfolio)

Rodney Blom - Prasa Eastern (new portfolio)

Brian Davids - Prasa Western (new portfolio)

For the complete picture of the new Exco, see page 15 of this issue of Labour Report. 🗨️

challenge for a union such as Utatu is to stand up and lead and some day you might have to go to other unions and help them with their skills. Experience and skills training is essential for our country so that we can lift the level of sophistication to that of the people in this room.

"Decent work is not something you order in a restaurant - we have to fight for it. The best manager, according to the employer, is the one who contains costs. Decent work costs money. When a union demands decent work, they are aggravating the employer. So, we have to fight for it.

"The point that employers miss is that Decent Work and productivity are interlinked. It is a chicken and an egg scenario. If there are no decent working conditions, it is nonsense to expect productivity to rise. For

workers it is decent work first before all else. Decent work now - productivity will follow.

"Employers these days are educated. Most companies have IR specialists who give good advice. They choose the strongest shop stewards and make them part of management. We need to up our level. We must always be ahead in the game as they must follow us.

"What is the use of the best labour law if you cannot enforce it? I haven't seen any employer being fined for breaking a labour law. We need to make more noise.

"We need to call the government to account. We need to write to the Department of Labour to ask them why they were not a part of this debate." 🗨️

Utatu's gala evening of glamour, entertainment and important messages

The gala banquet held on the first evening of Utatu's Congress was one of the highlights of the event. The delegates dressed up for the occasion and were treated to delicious food, amazing entertainment, uplifting words from two distinguished guests and the presence of an Utatu legend.

The distinguished guests were Malusi Gigaba, the new Minister of Public Enterprises, who was performing his first official engagement, and Chris Wells, acting Transnet CEO.

The Utatu legend was Oom Wiets Botes, a previous general secretary of the union and the inspiration for one of the union's most prestigious trophies.

The entertainment was provided by Mabutho 'Kid' Sithole, who acted as master of ceremonies; Nadine, with the honeyed voice, and Stan Sussman, a magician who amazed the audience with his tricks.

Addressing the audience, Chris Wells thanked Utatu for the way the

union conducts its relationship with Transnet management. He said that although they do not always agree with the union, there was mutual respect at all times.

"We support Utatu in its congress and wish you wisdom and clear thinking in your deliberations.

"Transnet has achieved a lot with your support. The World Bank said in a recent report that growth is only possible with superior logistics – Transnet has that. There will be a R5 billion investment by Transnet over the next five years and many new permanent jobs will be created.

"There will also be a quantum leap to improve safety and benefits. As our group's growth is paramount to the growth of the country, we need to find a common purpose between labour and management."

Malusi Gigaba's address spurred hopes of a closer and more productive relationship with government. He began his speech by warning Utatu that as a former youth league leader he was not scared of the threat

of strikes – "I've been there."

"The labour movement provides solutions with government for our future generations," he continued. "It is a vital partner for growth and infrastructure development.

"I will make sure that we arrange a meeting with Utatu as soon as possible. An effective transport system is very important in our country and Utatu is part of our vision in this regard.

"We have a long way to go and we acknowledge the need to create decent jobs to achieve our goal. We must improve the stakeholder relationship and communication. Our combined vision must be clear and we must work together to achieve this.

"It is important that we be part of the solution and fight corruption.

"I wish you all the best for your congress and look forward to working with you." 🇿🇦

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Nadine in action.



Stan Sussman, the magician with his assistants on stage.



Beautiful setting at the Gala evening.



Nadine with master of ceremonies, Mabutho "Kid" Sithole



Nadine signs autographs..



Chris Wells.

Lucky's encouraging message

Lucky Montana, CEO of Prasa, was due to have been one of the guest speakers at Utatu's gala dinner, but was prevented from attending by an important meeting of which he was the chairperson. Nevertheless, he did attend the second day of the Congress to deliver this encouraging message:

'Utatu is an important voice in the transport sector. We do fight, but we take your voice seriously – your union represents skills and experience.

Transport has been at the top of our country's agenda for the past three years, largely because of the World Cup – an event that made many people use the railways for the first time in their lives.

2010 was good. We achieved a lot for our country and for our company. But there have been, and still are, shortcomings.

Transport is at the heartbeat of SA's infrastructure development. The last three years were spent on solving one problem – arresting the decline in commuter numbers. We saved Metrorail from possible collapse and saved our jobs. All of us can take collective ownership of these achievements.

It is now more important to move trains and spend money than to save money with the trains stand still. We must bring as many of the coaches back in service as possible.

It is very important to bring balance sheet back to profit. The next step for Prasa is to modernise the system. A lot of money has to be spent. We need a new electronic signalling system. Government has agreed that we need new trains for Metrorail as our current fleet averages 40 years of service.

A big problem that Utatu needs to reflect on is this: while we are modernising there will still be difficult



Lucky Montana.



Lucky Montana poses with some of the congress delegates

times ahead. But saving jobs is very important. We don't want to retrench any more employees in our company. Many of our railway operations in their current form will not survive modern times. The challenge we cannot run away from is that this cannot be done at the expense of

our workers. We must build a railway company that will be the pride of all South Africans so that trains can become part of all travel plans.'

Lucky Montana's job preservation commitment has brought hopes of a healthier future to all Prasa employees. 🇱

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President set tone for clear-sighted Congress

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"Even in Europe, where such schemes have been long-established; where workers earn far higher salaries and pay far greater taxes; where unemployment is below 10% and where administrations have sound administrative and ethical track records, nationalised health care is facing serious difficulties.

"Seeing what is happening elsewhere, what chance will we have in South Africa when:

Some 25% of our citizens are unemployed (some economists say 41%).

60% of those working earn under R5 000 a month.

More than 80% are not yet paying income tax.

We have a civil service with little experience in managing such a scheme.

"When we ask those promoting the scheme how the country will afford it, some – who should know better – say 'the rich must pay.'

"What determines who is 'rich'? How many so-called rich people are

there? How much will each one of them have to pay? Will that be enough?

"These are points about which we hard-pressed workers need to be wary. Why? Because when such schemes go wrong, governments change their minds about what determines 'rich' and we could find ourselves paying through the nose and getting very little in return."

To fully understand these risks, Transnet employers needed only to see how the group's pensioners were now suffering financially and having to live on dog food because previous administrations had got their pension calculations wrong, George stressed.

Expressing similar scepticism about the calls for nationalisation that were becoming fashionable, George questioned whether government had the business and management skills to manage the country's mines, banks and factories better than they were presently being managed.

"2010 has been a year of industrial unrest. Most of the striking workers have been State employees. Should we be wishing similar problems on

the rest of the country's workforce?

"Those calling for nationalisation need to look more closely at the practicalities of the situations they are inviting . . . and be able to come up with some hard and fast facts."

Transnet workers were not immune to this trend, George warned. There was a vigorous political drive aimed at removing Transnet from the control of the Department of Public Enterprises and placing it under the wing of the Department of Transport.

"Were that to happen, Transnet's capital projects, pipelines, port terminals and national port authority could all be sold off to private corporations.

"Because that could rip the guts out of Utatu members' bargaining strength, we must:

Fight to preserve Transnet as an integrated rail and harbours network.

Be ready to fight to remain represented by Utatu in any new dispensation that might emerge.

Continue to recruit, recruit, recruit to sustain Utatu's strength and influence."

Congress 2010: GS's report unveiled the action in Utatu's engine room

In his address to Congress, union president, George Strauss, said that managing a union the size of Utatu required a complex range of skills and efforts. Just how complex those skills and effort are became clear to the Congress delegates when general secretaries, Chris de Vos and Steve Harris, delivered their 41-page report on the union's activities over the past four years.

Spare a thought, too, for the Congress delegates – all Utatu leaders in the field. They have had to absorb the mountain of information imparted in order to keep their members up-to-date on what is happening at the employment, benefit and union levels.

The two general secretaries reported in detail on:

Their union's efforts to secure members better deals from their tangled, and often troubled, medical aid benefits.

The remuneration policies of Transnet and Prasa.

Changes to Utatu's Executive Committee over the past four years.

Attendances at Exco and Management Committee meetings.

Branch activities and elections.

Utatu's involvement with the Federation of Unions of South Africa

(Fedusa), the body that deals at the national level with problems affecting workers.

Utatu's involvement with the Transport Education Training Authority (Teta).

Recruiting and membership growth.

The benefits offered to members by Utatu's unique Discretionary Fund.

Reports on the activities of the union's Death Benefit and Education Bursary funds.

Legal matters, including a history of the disputes that the union has handled on behalf of its members over the past four years.

The ongoing training that Utatu provides to its office-bearers around the country.

The maintenance of Utatu House. A progress report on Voetplaat Park, the union's own holiday resort on the Natal South Coast.

Staff movements.

Over-arching all of these detailed reports was their report on Utatu's own financial management. The result was a unanimous vote of approval for Utatu's top-level administration and service provision. 🇱



Saying goodbye - these delegates are retiring and will not be returning for another congress.

Domestic matters

Setting the scene for the debates on domestic issues, George reminded the delegates that Utatu was a democratic union in which every viewpoint was given a fair hearing and all decisions taken by the majority were supported by the minority who lost out on that particular debate 'this time around.'

Running a union the size of Utatu required a complex range of skills and efforts. The union needed to continue to be well managed financially and in human terms in order to adequately serve its members.

Utatu's president concluded his address by reminding the assembly of 130 union leaders of their responsibility to make the decisions that would guide their union through the difficult situation confronting it.

"A way to describe who and what

we are is to visualise a crew of oarsmen battling to steer their canoe through swirling rapids," he said.

"Utatu – your union – is that canoe. At this Congress, you are the people who must select the crew most capable of bringing your canoe safely through those rapids."

George's speech was loudly applauded. But the real applause came from the response to his leadership that followed.

During its three days of intensive – and sometimes emotive – debating, the Congress achieved unity on all key issues, adopted resolutions whose implementation will improve the all-round circumstances of the union's 22 000 members and elected a well-balanced team of executive officers to steer the union along the paths mapped out for the next four years. 🇱

Anticipating SA's new Social Security System

The suggested South African Social Security System has become an issue of concern to all of the country's citizens – more particularly to workers who are worried that they might end up having to pay more for inferior benefits. To keep Utatu members abreast of developments and to reinforce their input to the national debate on the issue, Prof. Marius Olivier, Director Institute Social Law and Policy (ISLP), provided Congress with an overview of the situation. Here is a summary of his message to Congress:

The new National Social Security Fund NSSF

In the current context in South Africa there is a particular need for a national scheme with compulsory membership. A National Fund is way overdue as South Africa is one of the few countries that does not have such a fund in place.

This fund is not only to cover retirement but also to provide risk benefits – in particular for disability and death, and to provide for unemployment. Currently more than 70% of old people are dependent on the State to survive.

The idea is to extend the protection to low-income workers and

their dependants and to consolidate (but not replace) existing retirement arrangements. There are currently too many existing schemes – about 11 000 – but there are no plans to get rid of them.

In retirement provision there exist different levels/tiers

First tier: Social assistance (the old age grant) which is currently in action.

Second tier: Mandatory – pay as you go – defined benefit schemes which are compulsory up to a minimum threshold. This is the new proposal.

Third tier: Supplementary earnings which are related to the defined contribution framework. This can be voluntary or quasi-mandatory and approved funds or automatic enrolment in default scheme with tax incentives can apply. Many existing arrangements will fall here.

Fourth tier: Voluntary, discretionary provision such as annuity funds.

To implement these, there are some issues that need to be addressed:

- What is the definition of 'worker'? The law doesn't make provision for this.
- What happens to self-employed and informally employed workers?

There is a proposal for a special basis for higher income self-employed workers, but currently there is no

plan for the informally employed.

- Does the second tier exclude lowly-paid employees?
- What about sickness and adoption benefits?
- What about non-citizens?

We need adjudication – a simple, streamlined process so that workers can follow up on claims.

Alignment of risk benefits in South African social security

Social security reforms should also encompass equivalent benefits currently provided by the different schemes. Some benefits are similar in type; others overlap.

There are six broad benefit types:

- Loss of income due to breadwinner disability (Compensation Fund (CF) and Road Accident Fund (RAF))
- Loss of support due to breadwinner death (CF, RAF, • Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF))
- Medical aid resulting from work-related injuries and diseases, and injuries resulting from MVAs (CF, RAF)
- Loss of income due to unemployment (UIF)
- Loss of income due to maternity



Prof Marius Olivier

- or adoption (UIF)
- Loss of income due to illness (UIF)

A benefit review revealed the following:

- No consistency exists in the specification of the key definitions of funds.
- Reforms could focus on an initial phase of benefit alignment and operational consolidation followed by full consolidation within a single fund.
- A single dependant benefit makes sense.

Active labour market policies (ALMPs): the UIF; the Skills Development Act and the new Employment Services Bill

Active labour market policies aim to influence the employment prospects of the unemployed by encouraging or man-

dating participation in job-search assistance programmes and skills training, or by directly increasing the returns to labour (for example, through wage subsidies).

Job-search assistance: registration as work-seeker

Direct job creation: creating economic opportunities through public works

Increasing employment through wage subsidies – this could be effective at raising employment probabilities when preceded by or including on-the-job training, but can this address the phenomenon of an unavailability of sufficient jobs in the (formal) labour market? Careful design is required in this regard – it should be focused on bringing new people into employment, rather than merely benefiting those already employed.

Low-income groups (experience greater periods of unemployment, more frequent changes of employer, higher mortality and disability rates and more unstable households)

Unemployment insurance reform proposals

In South Africa unemployment has become an epidemic – people who become unemployed stay so for quite a while. We must combat unemployment. Focus should not be merely on compensation, but also on prevention and reintegration. There is a need for coverage extension. Reform proposals have already been submitted to the UIF and some of these already contained in 2010 Amendment Bill. 🗳️

Resolutions passed by Congress

Utatu's Congress 2010 passed seven far-reaching and multi-faceted resolutions that stand to influence a better national rail service, more rail jobs and improved service conditions for rail workers. The resolutions, which will be pursued by the union's secretariat in its interactions with government, Transnet and the individual operating divisions, are as follows:

Resolution 1:

Decent Work and Issues Facing Utatu Members

Congress resolves that:

Utatu will, through Fedusa and structures like Nedlac, apply pressure on government and our employers to ensure that our members realise their aspirations for opportunity and income; rights, voice and recognition; family stability and personal development; and fairness and gender equality.

Utatu wholeheartedly aligns itself with the four strategic objectives of decent work, namely:

Fundamental principles and rights at work and international labour standards;

Employment and income opportunities;

Social protection and social security, and

Social dialogue and tripartism.

Utatu will continue to fight for the promotion and conservation of our members' rights and interests at the workplace, focusing on challenges such as:

Racism at the workplace;

Training for workers; Occupation, Health & Safety; Proper and fair Performance Management systems;

Overtime abuse due to lacking income;

Rest Book-offs leading to time away from families, and

Income disparities after restructuring of Transnet.

Resolution 2:

Casualisation & Privatisation Congress resolves that:

Utatu will, through Fedusa and structures like Nedlac, continue to lobby government and Transnet to limit the neoliberal strategies that challenge decent work for our members;

In this light, Utatu will utilise Fedusa to call for a Nedlac review of section 179 and 189 of the Labour Relations Act as it is employer-biased towards change of ownership (restructuring) and retrenchments due to operational requirements;

A stronger emphasis needs to be placed on artisan training – both for rail workers and the wider labour market in South Africa;

Utatu supports Fedusa's call for the major expansion of passenger rail commuting services in and around metropolitan areas. Depending on the province in question, Fedusa proposes that there should be speed trains linking major centres such as Johannesburg, Bloemfontein, Durban and Cape Town with bordering towns within a 200 km radius. This would increase the employment generation in the cities while

regenerating investment in the local economies of rural communities, while ultimately creating more jobs at stations and lessening the burden on cities' roads and infrastructure.

Resolution 3:

Social Security & Benefits Congress resolves that:

Utatu will support the compulsory retirement / savings fund as proposed by government and endorsed by Fedusa, on the condition that it does not threaten in any way the hard-earned savings of our members who duly provided for their retirement through funds and annuities;

Utatu will continue to educate its members about the risks of premature withdrawals from their pension and savings funds for short-term needs;

During wage negotiations, Utatu will start to include non-wage benefits such as improved conditions of employment and innovative ideas such as increased education support for the families of Utatu members.

Resolution 4:

Unemployment

Congress resolves that:

Utatu supports the Fedusa strategy of collective agreements (between employers and trade unions) outlining short time work and temporary lay-offs, in the case of companies in distress. The definition of such companies should be agreed upon through Fedusa in Nedlac and legislated as such.

Companies should provide training support for workers in employment to avoid retrenchments and temporarily ease the burden on the payroll. Such support programmes should be funded by the SETAs involved in the respective sectors.

The reduction and deferral of non-wage costs, such as bonuses for senior managers, pension and provident contributions, and other benefits.

Direct enterprise support through public loans / guarantees, direct subsidies and risk-capital schemes, including the reduction / deferral of company tax payments or bringing forward tax reimbursements.

Indirect enterprise support through public investment in infrastructure such as aviation, road and rail networks, energy provision, information technology and telephony, basic utilities, health services, safety and security as well as education programmes. This indirect enterprise support could include incentives such as tax relief for expenses falling within particular sectors (e.g. a car-scrap scheme to benefit the sales of new cars) or subsidies for expenses within earmarked for new technology (e.g. solar panel energy products).

Resolution 5:

Local Manufacturing & Maintenance

Congress resolves that:

Utatu will continue to lobby, through Fedusa and the Ministries of Transport and Public Enterprises, to ensure that the manufacturing and maintenance of locomotives and carriages remain local, and that they conform to the Rail Safety Regulator's rules in this regard, and

Utatu will support its members employed in the manufacturing and maintenance of locomotives and carriages in preserving and increasing their skills and job opportunities.

Resolution 6:

Transformation

Congress resolves that:

Utatu fully aligns itself with the objectives of transformation in the South African society, and at workplaces in general, to address the inequalities created by previous policies such as Apartheid and separate development and give a fair chance to all South Africans to advance their social and economical aspirations;

Utatu will keep on putting pressure on Transnet and PRASA to ensure that transformation (both in terms of racial demographics and gender equality) is both effective and fair;

To this effect, Utatu will appeal to Transnet and PRASA to:

Keep the transformation process as simple as possible;

Set reasonable and attainable targets for transformation;

Show a willingness to review and rework their transformation plans on a regular basis, and

Involve employees and trade unions in the entire process – either by means of individual consultation or through consultative structures in terms of the Recognition Agreement.

Furthermore, Utatu will recommend to Transnet and PRASA to:

Set clear numerical targets for the workforce profile;

Identify affirmative action barriers, i.e. those things that are hampering the transformation process, and

Devise strategies for overcoming barriers and meeting targets.

Utatu will increase pressure on Transnet and PRASA to ensure sound career-pathing, succession planning and mentoring programmes to tap into the skills reservoir of older generation workers and managers, thus balancing transformation with productivity and recognition for



Connie Vermaak, winner of the Wiets Botes trophy.



The Neels Botha trophy was won by Metrorail Pretoria.



Transwerk Swartkops walked away with the Gert Otto trophy.



Kroonstad won the Bob Perry trophy.

Trophies to deserving winners

The Neels Botha Trophy goes to Metrorail Pretoria, the Bob Perry Trophy goes to Kroonstad and the Gert Otto Trophy to Transwerk Swartkops.

All three these branches functioned exceptionally well and are indeed worthy winners of this great honour.

Branches with more than 400 members compete for the Neels Botha Trophy, branches between 200 – 399 members for the Bob Perry Trophy, branches between 100 – 199 for the Gert Otto Trophy, and branches with 99 members and less for the Steve Harris Trophy.

Points for all four trophies are allocated on exactly the same basis as follows:

30 points for every meeting held during the year; (maximum 15)

Evaluation of minutes of monthly meetings of branches based on a scale of 1 – 10, which include agenda, minutes sequence, signed by the Chairman, etc. (maximum 15 meetings).

Unfortunately no branches qualified for the Steve Harris Trophy.

The prestigious Wiets Botes trophy for individual performance went to Connie Vermaak chairman of Prasa Metro Liesbeeck. 🍷

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Delegates give Congress their thumbs-up

Utatu's Congress 2010 has been widely applauded by the attending delegates - union members drawn from all races and both sexes from Transnet situations around the country. Their comments show that the camaraderie and team spirit touched them as deeply as the high levels of organisation and Congress debate did. Chris de Vos also received the following letter of appreciation from Chris Wells, Transnet's acting CEO:

Dear Chris

On behalf of Debbie and me we thank you for the wonderful evening, your graciousness and consideration for our bereavement. We both thoroughly enjoyed the evening and also wish to express how pleased we are that the current office bearers were all returned to office unopposed. We believe it is good for the sustainable progress of the union and we wish you well. Kind regards Chris Wells.

Here are delegates' comments:

Greetings from Lions Head Branch in Culemborg, situated at the foot of beautiful, world-known Table Mountain, the pride of the Western Cape. We are a recently established branch with 125 members, but after two months we are

running close to 200 members and growing. Soon we'll be electing more shop stewards to help us with the influx of new members. Recently myself as Chairman of the branch, and Jakob Delafontyn had the privilege of attending Congress. What an experience that was. I want to congratulate all the staff at head office for a job well done. The place where all the delegates stayed was super and everything was done very professionally. It was great meeting all the delegates from the different regions, and of course making new contacts. I wish to congratulate all those who were elected as Executive Council members. You all have been elected to represent your regions at national level and we, the branches, place our trust in you to do what you have been elected for. On a serious note, guys, I want to say to all shop stewards nationally keep your Exco members on their toes. For the next four years let's all pull together and make Utatu a force to be reckoned with and the only union within Prasa and Transnet. As the song goes, Solidarity forever! Viva Utatu viva. William Cook, chairman of Lions Head Branch.

The congress was superb and well organised and I learnt a lot! It is a privilege to belong to a union like

Utatu. Keep up the good work in favour of all our members. Regards, Manie Neethling, chairman, Pretoria.

The Utatu congress was 100% well organised. I learn a lot at the congress about Utatu union, especially the way they do manage the funds. Peter Njowa, Heidelberg.

Congress arrangements were in the high status and very professional. I congratulate our EXCO members on their election. Let's work together to make Utatu the best of the best. Cosmas Doncabe.

One of the best Congresses that I have attended. A big 10/10 for this one. Thank you. Carl Gibson.

Wat die kongres betref was alles baie goed beplan ons kon nie vir beter gevra het nie. VIVA Utatu VIVA. Alfred Brown, OLE/Union Rep, Transnet.

Regarding the election, the problem that I had was that the boxes where we put the voting forms were not sealed. We had to put them in an open A4 box. Regarding the venue, the only problem was that sometimes there were no knives, forks and glasses available. The other thing was that the queue was at times very long, especially during lunch. I just want

Continued on page 11



Christmas messages from Utatu's leaders

It is my privilege and pleasure to greet you as we come to the end of what has been an extremely eventful year.

I salute you all for standing together when the need arose. Painful though that was - and still is - you taught a lesson to those who thought that we could be ignored and pushed around. Your effort was not wasted. Utatu's message of good sense, solidarity and power is already paying off and is going to bring us further dividends in the months and years ahead.

I salute you also for your loyalty to your union and the sensible ways in which you conduct your union's affairs. Your approach has made Utatu Transnet's biggest and most effective trade union (not to mention the most economic in terms of subscriptions and the benefits they bring) and your best guarantee of fair play and security at every level of the employment relationship.

I wish I could promise you an easier time in the year ahead. I cannot. The pressures on our pockets and jobs and the damage to our social infrastructure being caused by the global economic meltdown, central and local governmental mistakes and poor priorities will continue to have a negative impact on our being. Our best defence will be to continue doing what we are already doing - standing together to add muscle to our ability to influence events.

I encourage you to treat the

Christmas period in the manner most meaningful to your personal beliefs and customs, and to use it to give yourselves the rest, joy and rejuvenation that you so richly deserve. Happy Christmas. George Strauss, Utatu president.

Numerous people in the know are telling us that Utatu's Congress 2010 was the best ever. Having been part of many union conferences over the past 30 years, I agree.

The reason why it was so good goes far beyond the issues, the ways they were debated and the decisions taken. Our conference was so special because of the spirit and fellowship of our members - the men and women who form the heartbeat of South Africa's rail and harbour systems.

You are the best. And you select the best to represent you.

Although it has been the busiest and most pressured single year of my three decades as a trade unionist, 2010 has been my most rewarding year. Why? Because that intangible - but very real and wonderful - Utatu spirit and fellowship that unites genders and races made it a privilege to serve you. Thank you for your support and co-operation.

For most of us, the Christmas period will bring the opportunity to get some rest and spend quality time with our nearest and dearest. Enjoy the break. You deserve it. Chris de Vos, general secretary.

You don't need me to tell you

how tough the past year has been. But from my vantage point overlooking all the problems and action, what I can tell you is how well you handled it.

Like champion boxers, you absorbed whatever punishment was handed out and fought back to survive and win the day.

It is largely thanks to your combined - and often undervalued and unappreciated - efforts that our rail, harbour and pipeline systems have a healthier future than at any time in the recent past.

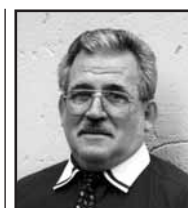
Now, also like champion boxers, you need to make the most of your break between rounds so that you can return to the fray refreshed. You will be able to do so with the reassuring knowledge that, thanks to your good sense in developing and sustaining a strong union to serve your needs, you will have a committed and capable Utatu team fighting alongside you.

Wherever you might be, and whatever you might be doing, I wish you a happy Christmas and a 2011 that will realise your dreams for yourselves and your loved ones. Steve Harris, general secretary.

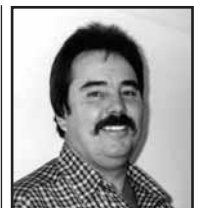
I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new executive officers and to congratulate the president and the vice president on their re-election. I wish all Utatu members and staff a safe, blessed Christmas and New Year. They must



George Strauss



Chris de Vos



Steve Harris

Labour wins long health-care battle

Labour has won the long Utatu-lead battle for employees who opt out of Transmed to be granted medical aid subsidies. Employees now have five medical funds to choose from - Transmed, Bestmed, Bonitas, Discovery Health or Sizwe.

However, they must register their preference via Aon, the Transnet accredited broker.

Below is a summary of the new conditions governing health care provision. The full document can be found on the Utatu website.

In line with the 2010 wage agreement, consultations between management and the two recognised unions has resulted in agreement on the expansion of the medical aid subsidy along the following lines:

Transnet has embarked on a process to accredit additional medical schemes to supplement Transmed.

Transnet has appointed Aon as its official medical broker to provide bargaining unit employees with tailored medical aid advice and assist those wishing to move onto a Transnet accredited scheme to get accepted. Only applications processed through Aon will qualify for the Transnet medical subsidy.

The Transnet accredited medical schemes are Transmed, Bestmed, Bonitas, Discovery Health and Sizwe.

Employees already on Transmed will continue to receive their current

subsidy.

Transnet and Aon are currently engaging with Bestmed, Bonitas, Discovery Health and Sizwe on issues such as penalties, underwriting and waiting periods.

Please do not resign from your current medical scheme until you have spoken to an Aon consultant. If you resign before being accepted onto an accredited medical scheme then you risk not having any medical scheme cover. You can speak to an accredited Aon consultant by calling 0860 835 272.

Aon roadshows to employees will start on the 17th January 2011. Detailed information on joining Transmed, Bestmed, Bonitas, Discovery Health or Sizwe will be provided at the roadshow and you will be assisted in this process. An Aon consultant will be available to give you individual advice.

The Aon call centre will be available to provide you with more information. Please call the call centre on 0860835272.

You can also access information from the Aon website on www.howcanweprotectyou.co.za/ by clicking on the link that you will find on the Transnet Intranet.

Communiqués and information will be made available on notice boards and on the Transnet Intranet from the beginning of January 2011. 📢

Utatu to the Rescue

Over the past year, Utatu has helped numerous members through difficult situations with their employers. Many jobs have been saved and much lost income retrieved.

One of the more dramatic recent cases involved Durban-based André Zeeman, a Metrorail traction linesman, who had been dismissed in 2006 for allegedly lying about his health after he had injured his back

at work. Zeeman had still been on probation at the time.

Metrorail claimed that Zeeman had a previous back condition that he had fraudulently omitted to disclose during his pre-employment medical examination.

Zeeman denied this and cited the clean bill of health given him by Metrorail's medical examiner.

After Zeeman's discharge - apparently to suit the needs of the execu-

tive seeking the traction linesman's dismissal - the doctor had offered a different story about Zeeman's examination.

Utatu's detailed defence of Zeeman caused the Commissioner to question the ethics of the medical examiner involved.

Thanks to Utatu, André Zeeman was reinstated with back pay. 📢

Re-launch of artisan training 'vital 11th-hour skills transfusion' - rail union

The United Transport and Allied Trade Unions (Utatu), Transnet's largest trade union whose core members are artisans, train drivers and allied employees, has welcomed the launch by Higher Education and Training Minister, Blade Nzimande, of the National Artisan Moderation Body (NAMB) to co-ordinate countrywide artisan training.

"The move comes as a vital 11th-hour transfusion to the skills drain threatening to cripple the country economically," says Utatu training officer, Eddie de Klerk. "As one of the nation's largest reservoirs of skilled workers, our union will be ready to give Mr Nzimande and his

department all the help we can.

"What he is now doing is what we have been campaigning for over the years as we have watched the age profile of our members rising and the loads on them becoming almost untenable.

"The country has always needed a properly funded and co-ordinated national approach to technical training. Fragmenting training by shifting responsibility for it to the individual setas was a strategy that was never going to work.

"Presently, South Africa is producing only about a third of the 20 000 to 25 000 new skilled workers it needs annually," says Eddie de Klerk.

"When it can meet its full quota of skilled personnel, the country will be better geared for economic growth and more able to offer its school-leavers worthwhile employment opportunities."

Also expressing the view that each industrial and business sector going off in different directions was 'very confusing,' special ministerial advisor, Dr Floris Prinsloo, has warned against expecting overnight results.

"There are certain deliverables that have to be met. But we hope to have a single system in place by the end of 2011," he told a media briefing. 📢

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have a good rest and be ready to prosper in 2011 - Wyndham Evans, executive officer Maritime Sector.



Wyndham Evans

I would like to thank all of the members in the Eastern Region for their support through the last term and the trust in me at congress. We had a 'tuff' previous term and I feel that it will be even more difficult this next term. However, our trust is in God and also in you as our members in this region to make the next term better than the last one. Our goal will be better service to our members in the Eastern Region. Enjoy the festive season with your family and may God bless you all in 2011 - Jannie Breytenbach, executive officer, Eastern Zone



Jannie Breytenbach

It is a great pleasure for me to take this opportunity to send a Christmas message to all of our members. Like me, I am sure that you are proud to be a member of the union that represents its members with dignity, truth and efficiency. I wish you and your members a warm Christmas and a

prosperous new year. Please don't forget the sixteen days of activism. Don't abuse your partners or children. Cosmos Doncabe



Cosmos Doncabe

Hierdie jaar was nie maklik nie en volgende jaar gaan ook nie beter wees nie. Kom ons vat hande saam as Utatu en met ons oë na bo dan kan ons met gemak die nuwe jaar aandurf. Baie dankie vir die lojale ondersteuning gedurende die verkiesing. Mag dit vir u 'n vreugdevolle Kersfees en 'n baie voorspoedige 2011 wees. Die wat op reis gaan, bestuur asseblief veilig - Douw Dreyer



Douw Dreyer

The best Congress I have ever attended was the Utatu Congress 2010. I congratulate the personnel of head office for the excellent job they have done. You really made us proud and thankful to be part of a union such as Utatu.

The recession thankfully is slowly beginning to leave us and the financial markets are returning to normal. The strike of 2010 left its financial mark on all our members. But sometimes one has to stand up for what you believe in.

To everyone who has lost a loved

one during 2010, our prayers to you are to find comfort in Him during these difficult times.

The people who are going on holiday, enjoy your much deserved time with your family and friends. When on the road, please drive safely.

To the unfortunate ones who have to work during the festive season, please try your best to work safely and in a good spirit.

To each and every one of you we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2011.

May all your wishes come true and may you once again experience the love of God during the festive season. Henk Smith, executive officer Western Region.

Nog 'n jaar het verby gevlieg waar daar groot uitdagings aan Utatu gestel was en ons as lede kan se dit was 'n goeie jaar vir die vakbond in ag genome die staking die goeie salarisverhoging en ander ooreenkomste wat bereik is waar ons lede baat gevind het. Dit alles so nie moontlik gewees het as ons verteenwoordigers nie hulle harde werk en ondersteuning gegee het nie. Each and every one of you I salute you and want to thank you out of my heart for a job well done. I also want to thank your partners for allowing you to work so hard for this union. I wish



Henk Smith

you all a blessed Christmas and a prosperous 2011 and may you all have a well earned rest. Aan my mede-Exco kollegas en ons kantoorpersoneel, baie dankie wat julle vir my beteken het deur 2010. Julle is sterre en ek is baie trots om deel van hele te mag wees. Laastens baie dank en eer aan my Skepper wat my pad bepaal en my altyd die wysheid en ondersteuning gee. Frans Crause, executive officer, Western Zone.

Another year has come and gone; this year has passed at such a rapid pace if one had to have blinked you would have missed it. If in the past year I had the privilege to have crossed your path in any way and I disappointed you, I hereby would like to apologise. May 2011 be a blessed year and all our dreams and aspirations come true. A Merry Christmas and a prosperous new year for all our members and their families, George le Roux, executive officer Western Zone.

Dear loyal members of our rainbow union, another year has gone by - a year of deliverance. As we look back, we can see all the hard work that's



Frans Crause



George le Roux

been done through the grace of God. Throughout the year great events took place like the Soccer World Cup and of course our third Utatu congress. Yes, there were also huge challenges like wage negotiations, unilateral changes to working conditions, etc. where support was called upon you as the union. Yet, everything was a success because of your loyal support.

I would like to take this great opportunity to thank each and everyone for their support and trust in me. At the same time thanks to all my family members and friends for their support throughout 2010. Those who go on holiday, have a safe trip and remember don't drink and drive. Those who need to work, please keep the trains moving. May you all have a blessed festive season with your family and loved ones and have a prosperous new year, Brian Davids, executive council member, Prasa Rail, Western Cape.

Ek wil net van die geleentheid gebruik maak om aan al ons lede en Hoofkantoor wat familie lede aan die dood afgestaan het my innige meegevoel betoon. Ook aan ons lede wat siek is, hoop ek dat die Here sy Hand van genesing oor hulle sal bring.

Ek wil ook aan al die TUR'e wat so hard vir die



Brian Davids

Fedusa opens dialogue with new labour minister



Utatu general secretary, Chris de Vos, who was a member of the Fedusa delegation that visited Pretoria to meet new Labour Minister, Ms Mildred Oliphant, reports that the relationship between the two parties has got off to a good start.

"Labour was encouraged by the fact that it was the Minister who requested the meeting and the interest she showed in labour's views," says Chris.

Putting Fedusa's concerns, general secretary, Dennis George, told the

Minister that it was important that collective bargaining be strengthened. Dennis stressed that this should include a review of the dispute resolution subsidy of R400 per case. He also emphasised the issue of thresholds and bargaining units to ensure that all workers have a voice in the collective bargaining process.

Other issues singled out by Dennis George were the need to:

Protect vulnerable workers in areas where minimum wages are not always effectively implemented,

specifically where permanent jobs are outsourced.

Prioritise the Legislative Amendment Process with particular attention to closing the loopholes that still allow workers to be exploited.

Use the Unemployment Insurance Fund to train unemployed persons.

"Dennis also urged the Minister to use her influence to bring the debate on the recently announced New Growth Plan into the NEDLAC arena to avoid it becoming a parallel issue," Chris reported. 🐾

Pensioners' windfall delayed

There will be no Christmas treat for Transnet's pensioners. The extra-payment windfall equal to five months' pension that was expected on 15 December has been delayed until the new year – probably after April. However, the once-off increase of 3,21% in their basic pension, and the deal that accords future increases equal to 75% of the inflation rate, will go ahead as planned.

These increases were recommendations accepted by the parliamentary portfolio committee on public affairs.

Despite rumours that Treasury has no plans to fund shortages in Transnet's Second Defined Benefit Fund, Ms Vytjie Mentoor, chairperson of the portfolio committee, said

it is Transnet's, the Treasury's and the Department of Public Affairs' problem to find the R1,963 billion that is needed to finance these increases. Transnet pensioners have been short-changed for years since they have been receiving only a 2% increase per year.

Ms Avril Halsted, an official of the Treasury, said that they are still talking to Transnet and the Department of Public Affairs on where the finance should come from but, according to Ms Halsted, Treasury believes that it is an affordable amount.

According to Ms Mentoor, she received numerous letters from Transnet pensioners thanking her that the portfolio committee is doing

something about their case.

The recommendations will be applicable to both the Defined Benefit Fund and the Transnet Pension Fund

Dr Manie van Dyk, DA-LP and also a member of the task team, said this is a breakthrough and a commendable gesture of humanity. According to Dr van Dyk, it is now in the hands of the trustees of the Defined Benefit Fund to change the rule which determines that pension increases are capped at 2% per year.

According to Ms Halsted there is enough money in the Transnet Pension Funds to implement these adjustments in the interim. 🐾



vakbond gewerk het deur die jaar baie dankie sê vir hul ondersteuning want sonder julle is daar nie 'n vakbond nie. Aan al ons lede wil ek net sê geniet julle vakansie, julle verdien dit. Ek dink die volgende paar jaar gaan moeilike jare wees en ons sal moet saamstaan teen bestuur. Aan die nuut gekose uitvoerende raadslede baie geluk, maar daar lê harde werk voor vir ons.

Ek wil ook aan my vrou en kinders sê baie dankie ook vir hulle liefde en ondersteuning, want daarsonder is ek verlore. Dankie ook aan my Hemelse Vader vir die krag en wysheid deur die jaar. Aan julle almal 'n Geseënde Kersfees en 'n Voorspoedige nuwe jaar en as julle weg gaan kom veilig tuis, Ben Jonker, executive member, Western Zone, engineering.

Weer het ons 'n verskriklike jaar beleef. Ons het weer van ons ouers, familie en vriende aan die dood moes afstaan. Aan almal wat verliese gely het wil ek net sê julle moet sterk wees. Glo in Hom wat altyd daar is vir vertroosting en hulp in gebede. Vir die wat kinders en kleinkinders ryker geword het, baie geluk. Ons het een van die land se grootste stakings beleef en oorleef.

This year we also had our Congress and a few people were elected. To those who were successful

to be elected I can say well done and welcome. The next four years will be very busy. I personally want to thank all those HQ staff, the Executive Council, the President, Vice President, members and their families. I wish you a joyful and peaceful festive season and prosperous New Year. To those who go on holiday please be careful, drive safely and come home safely, God bless you all, Nick Els, FTUR.

I want to make use of this opportunity to thank everyone for the support, guidance, input and trust during the past year and especially for those who made it possible for me to be re-elected as an Executive Council member for the next term. People normally see the person in front but never those at the back pushing and working hard to achieve the success, which is why I want to make use of this opportunity to thank those people working behind the scenes for their hard work because without them Utatu and Prasa would not have managed the successes they enjoyed.

Vir die persone wat op vakansie gaan geniet dit met die passie wat dit toekom. Die persone wat moet werk, doen dit asseblief net so goed soos wat die persone dit gedoen het terwyl julle op verlof was. Aan my liefdevolle vrou (wat my steunpilaar is) en familie

baie dankie vir die ondersteuning en die feit dat julle verstaan plig kom voor plesier, al was daar familiepligtinge wat nagekom moes word.

To the newly elected Executive Council members and their alternates, you will now realise this is not 'Pap en Vleis' and there are many challenges lying ahead of us. I believe in you and together we will survive the onslaught of management against the members. Greetings, Groete. André Bester, Prasa Exco member. Ek wil aan elkeen wat my ondersteun het baie dankie sê vir die ondersteuning.

Al die personeel in hoofkantoor baie dankie vir die hulp en raad.

Aan my lieue vrou baie dankie vir jou hulp en ondersteuning, daarsonder sou dit maar moeilik gegaan het. Mag almal 'n vreugde volle feestyd geniet. Hou matigheid voor oë reis veilig en kom uit gerus terug vir die uitdagings van 2011.

Geseënde Kersfees en mag al u wense vir die nuwe jaar waar word. Matthys Booyens, Exco member, Rail freight, Eastern Zone 🐾



André Bester



Nick Els



Matthys Booyens



Ben Jonker

GLOBAL

GLOBAL TRANSPORT ROUND-UP

Transport union unification in Germany seen as positive step forward

The creation of a brand new transport union in Germany was a crucial step in tackling the impact of the global reach of state-owned railway companies, says the International Transport Federation.

The ITF-affiliated unions, Transnet and GDBA, inaugurated the new railway and transport union Eisenbahn- und Verkehrsgewerkschaft (EVG) in Fulda, Germany, on 30 November. Alex Kirchner (also vice president of the ETF) was elected president and Klaus-Dieter Hommel and Regina Rusch-Ziembra vice presidents.

Commenting on the establishment of the new union, ITF general secretary, David Cockroft, said: "The foundation of the EVG is a positive step forward particularly as railways are becoming ever more central to the whole process of promoting sustainable transport; major state-owned rail undertakings like Deutsche Bahn have gone global now owning two international operators, Shenker, the logistics company, and Arriva, a bus and rail operator."

Eduardo Chagas, general secretary of the ITF's European arm, the European Transport Workers' Federation (ETF), speaking at the founding congress welcomed the new union. The ITF and ETF were determined to ensure that the European trade union movement fought any attempt to compromise on fundamental rights and principles, he said.

He added: "Workers across Europe and beyond are being confronted with neo-liberal policies, which see free-market competition as the single objective that must be pursued, irrespective of any social considerations."

"In a challenging moment for the European and international trade union movement, we count on EVG to help deliver the strategy to counter the progress of neo-liberal policies and deregulation of the internal market."

Leaders of all major German unions attending the congress, including the ITF-affiliate, Verdi, applauded the decision to promote further unification amongst transport unions in Germany.

Unions campaign to stop violence against women

Transport trade unionists around the world have been campaigning alongside other unionists and activists in support of the United Nations (UN) international day for the elimination of violence against women today.

The ITF has urged unions to dedicate the campaign day to the memory of a young South African cadet, Akhona Geveza, who died on 24 June this year at sea after she made allegations that she had been raped.

In Australia the Maritime Union of Australia has committed to run several initiatives as part of the cam-

paign – it has distributed t-shirts and flags bearing the slogan 'Not silent, not violent.' Among other activities, the union is working with the White Ribbon Foundation, an organisation that campaigns on the issue, on a country-wide initiative to change attitudes and behaviours that support or excuse violence against women.

Activities include: airport visits to distribute information by representatives from Brazilian union, Federação Nacional de Trabalhadores da Aviação Civil, and research on women's experiences by a journalist working for the Seafarers' Union of Croatia. In addition, in India, the Paradip Port Workers' Union is holding a joint procession with a non-governmental human rights organisation to raise awareness of the issue.

Alison McGarry, ITF women's co-ordinator, said: "Women are vulnerable to violence in different ways than men are, particularly because they risk being sexually assaulted. That's why we decided to dedicate the day to the memory of Akhona Geveza. We want to see justice done by her and an end to the atrocities committed against women."

Namibian protest grabbed Aids Day headlines

On 1 December – World Aids Day – a convoy of trucks organised by The Namibian Transport and Allied Workers' Union travelled through Windhoek and on to the Brakwater weigh bridge as a part of the union's efforts to spread the word about safer sex and HIV/Aids prevention.

From there the truckers drove to all the city's main railway stations. During the trip, unionists distributed male and female condoms and HIV/Aids awareness material. They also ran condom demonstrations and awareness-raising sessions for all drivers.

The demonstration captured international attention.

Other activities as part of World Aids Day included the dissemination of information, posters and condoms in subway stations to drivers and near the railway station in Caracas, Venezuela, by the railway union Federación de Trabajadores Ferroviarios de Venezuela; and a meeting in Zanzibar to inaugurate workplace policies at five sites, including port and aviation services, the department of road transport and the department of aviation organised by the Communication and Transport Workers' Union of Zanzibar.

ITF HIV/Aids co-ordinator, Dr Asif Altaf, commented: "We are very pleased that unions around the world are committing to this issue by organising World Aids Day activities. The challenge is to keep up the activities all year round, not just on 1 December."

CCZ962Q

UTATU AREA COMMITTEE & BRANCH DIRECTORY

Area 1 – Kwazulu-Natal

POSITION	NAME	TEL	CELL/HOME	FAX	E-MAIL	
Chairman	John Short	031 361 4114	083 561 1393	031 361 4870	john@utatu.com	
Vice-Chairman	VACANT					
Secretary	Jabulile Madonsela	035 905 3807	083 365 4621	035 905 3181	Jabulile.Madonsela@transnet.net	
POSITION	NAME	TEL	FAX	E-MAIL	CELL	
Durban Infra	Chairman Linda Biljoen	031 361 4108	031 361 4107	031 361 4107	Linda.Biljoen@transnet.net	071 322 7439
	Secretary Raymond Johns	031 361 5730	031 361 4731	031 361 4731		083 468 6010
Ermelo	Chairman Egbert Olivier	017 801 2266	017 801 2217	017 801 2000	egbertoliver@vodamail.co.za	082 612 8519
	Secretary Rinus Jansen van Rensburg	017 801 2217		017 801 2000	Danie.terblanche2@transnet.net	082 373 2521
Ladysmith	Chairman Bob Corringham	036 271 2036	036 271 2109	036 271 2298	Bob.Corrynham@transnet.net	083 387 8914
	Secretary Henry Jooste	036 271 2109		036 271 2298	hfjooste@telkomsa.net	083 225 2275
Metro Durban	Chairman Rodney Blom	031 361 7821	031 361 7587	086 543 7660	rbjom2@metrorail.co.za	083 659 3089
	Secretary D Brand	031 361 7587		031 361 7798	mbrand@metrorail.co.za	083 501 2006
Newcastle	Chairman Willem van der Hyde	034 328 7202	034 328 7201	034 328 7254	Annolien.Scholtz@transnet.net	083 308 5375
	Secretary Annolien Scholtz	034 328 7201		034 328 7242		083 462 2844
Pietermaritzburg	Chairman JJ Wahl	033 897 2772	033 897 2460	033 897 2773	Charlesh@vodamail.co.za	082 443 5876
	Secretary CL Holtzhausen	033 897 2460		033 897 2460	Steven.marais@transnet.net	082 336 2708
Maritime Durban	Chairman Steven Marais	031 361 3029	031 361 8766	031 361 3028	Ristha.Joga@transnet.net	083 382 2083
	Secretary Ristha Joga	031 361 8766		031 361 8766		0835773506
Maritime Richards Bay	Chairman Frans Potgieter	035 905 3398	035 905 3807	035 905 3180	Frans.Potgieter@transnet.net	083 284 1649
	Secretary Jabulile Madonsela	035 905 3807		035 905 3181	Jabulile.Madonsela@transnet.net	083 365 4621
Richards Bay	Chairman Carl Gibson	035 905 3227	035 906 7382	035 905 3534	Carl.Gibson@transnet.net	083 504 6329
	Secretary Paul van der Berg	035 906 7382		035 906 7453	Paul.vanderberg@transnet.net	083 336 4200
Transwerk Durban	Chairman A Abraham	031 361 5536	031 361 4196	031 361 5702	utaturwag@transnet.net	084 207 4044
	Secretary Rowan Smit	031 361 4196		031 361 5702	k.Lnewsom@gmail.com	083 272 8782
Transwerk Traction Durban	Chairman Kevin Newsom	031 361 4610		031 361 4701		084 404 4460
	Secretary Avinash Sookrim	031 361 4610		031 361 4701		082 663 3825
Transwerk Richards Bay	Chairman Zonke Cele	035 906 7372	035 905 2009	035 906 7015	zonke@utatu.com	082 567 6637
	Secretary S. Luthili	035 905 2009		035 906 7015		083 505 5074
Umbilo	Chairman A Parmasur	031 361 5205	031 361 4033	031 361 4355		082 376 8074
	Secretary A Smit	031 361 4033		031 361 4033		083 439 7078
Vryheid	Chairman R Symes	034 989 9351	034 989 9376	034 989 9392	utaturvhd@transnet.net	083 980 0778
	Secretary AM Ndwandwe	034 989 9376		034 989 9349	Alexander.Ndwandwe@transnet.net	083 710 4031
Wentworth	Chairman A Janse van Rensburg	031 361 5346	031 361 5346	031 361 4350		079 890 0125
	Secretary Reagan Govender	031 361 5346		031 361 4350		072 690 0706

Area 2 – East London – Port Elizabeth

POSITION	NAME	TEL	CELL/HOME	FAX	E-MAIL	
Chairman	Chris Greyvenstein	043 700 4317	083 558 4430	043 700 4216	Christian.greyvenstein@transnet.net	
Vice-Chairman	Ampie Strydom	041 994 2325	083 441 0455	041 994 2233	Albert.Strydom@transnet.net	
Secretary	Rob Lottering	043 700 4233	083 409 8688	043 700 4575	bugle@mweb.co.za	
POSITION	NAME	TEL	FAX	E-MAIL	CELL	
Burgersdorp	Chairman Christo Meyer	051 653 9231	051 653 9219	051 653 9232/9205		082 412 5510
	Secretary PH Wheeler	051 653 9219		051 653 9205		083 409 8689
Cradock	Chairman ND du Preez	049 802 8224	049 842 1426	048 801 8227	Basie.Pain@transnet.net	082 591 9826
	Secretary					083 295 0307
East London	Chairman Chris Greyvenstein	043 700 4371	043 700 4233	043 700 4344	Christian.greyvenstein@transnet.net	083 558 4430
	Secretary Rob Lottering	043 700 4233		043 700 4575	bugle@mweb.co.za	083 409 8688
Mossel Bay	Chairman Marius Prinsloo	044 604 6236	044 801 8265	044 604 6209	BepVoor@transnet.net	084 582 5932
	Secretary Nico Nel	044 801 8265		044 801 8265	Nico.Nel@transnet.net	083 742 8700
Port Elizabeth	Chairman Wynand van Tonder	041 507 5204	041 507 5167	041 368 2793	Wynand.vantonder@transnet.net	071 671 3523
	Secretary Edwin Godfrey	041 507 5167		041 507 5006	Edwin.godfrey@transnet.net	084 807 9351
Maritime East London	Chairman Bill Hart	043 700 2237	043 700 2068	086 630 7920	Bill.Hart@transnet.net	083 287 4234
	Secretary Keith Hoffmann	043 700 2068		043 700 2044	Keith.Hoffmann@transnet.net	072 154 8818
Maritime Port Elizabeth	Chairman AJ Enslin	041 507 1527	041 507 1958	086 631 0832	Alphonso.Johannes.Enslin@transnet.net	084 451 5451
	Secretary Lareece Rensburg	041 507 1958		041 507 4869	Lareece.Volkwyn@transnet.net	083 961 2910
Metro East London	Chairman Margaret Ndima	043 700 2118	043 700 2708	043 700 2622	pmbombo@metrorail.co.za	082 921 0790
	Secretary Phumeza Mbombo	043 700 2708		043 700 2622		083 340 3765
Transwerk Swartkops	Chairman Andre Kock	041 507 5194	041 507 5194	041 507 5224	Andre.Kock@transnet.net	072 306 2291
	Secretary Adriaan Grobler	041 507 5194		041 507 5224	Grobler9@yahoo.com	084 236 1902
Transwerk Uitenhage	Chairman Ampie Strydom	041 994 2325	041 994 2288	041 994 2233	Albert.Strydom@transnet.net	083 441 0455
	Secretary Clayton du Plessis	041 994 2288		041 994 2477	Clayton.duplessis@transnet.net	078 212 6211
Queenstown	Chairman Brian Taylor	086 520 7240	045 808 2022	086 520 7240	Brian.Taylor@transnet.net	084 679 0844
	Secretary Leon van Heerden	045 808 2022		045 808 2150		083 944 9385

Area 3 – Western Cape

POSITION	NAME	TEL	CELL/HOME	FAX	E-MAIL	
Chairman	C Vermaak	021 507 2509	084 600 3304		Vermaak007@telkomsa.net	
Vice-Chairman	H Smith	023 348 4262	083 293 7523	023 348 4260	Henk@breede.co.za	
Secretary	L Saul	022 703 2229	079 225 9168		Lutwena.Saul@transnet.net	
POSITION	NAME	TEL	FAX	E-MAIL	CELL	
Beaufort West	Chairman Sakkie Janse van Vuuren		023 449 2177	023 449 2177	Jacques.JansevanVuuren@transnet.net	082 355 1166
	Secretary Lillian van Niekerk		023 449 2402	023 449 2402	Lillian.vanniekerk@gmail.com	083 557 8210
Cape Town	Chairman Barry Liebenberg	021 940 2303	021 940 2174	021 940 2141	Barry.Liebenberg@yahoo.com	083 288 4877
	Secretary Marietha Honiball	021 940 2174		021 940 2141	Marietha.Honiball@transnet.net	083 774 1935
Lions Head	Chairman William Cook	021 449 3781	021 449 5330	021 449 5524	William.cook@transnet.net	082 405 2198
	Secretary D Dove	021 449 5330		021 507 2025		082 690 5055
Metro Disa	Chairman Brian Davids	021 449 5879	021 940 2586	021 449 2236	Bdavid@metrorail.co.za	082 043 0515
	Secretary Eldridge Cleophas	021 940 2586		021 940 3512	ECleophas@metrorail.co.za	072 384 3670
Metro Liesbeeck	Chairman Connie Vermaak	021 507 2509		021 556 4018	Vermaak007@telkomsa.net	084 600 3304
	Secretary Sandra Freeks				sfreeks@metrorail.co.za	083 286 9327
Metro Tafelberg	Chairman Owen Hudson	021 449 5532	021 449 5879	021 449 2236	Utatu_to@metrorail.co.za	083 490 4049
	Secretary Nkosinathi Bence	021 449 5879		021 449 2236	nbence@metrorail.co.za	073 649 3006
Maritime Cape Town	Chairman Trevor Wasserfall	021 449 2148	021 449 3657	086 631 0348	Trevor.wasserfall@transnet.net	083 225 0023
	Secretary Gwyn du Plessis	021 449 3657		021 449 6172	Gwyn.duplessis@transnet.net	071 861 9822
Maritime Saldanha	Chairman David van der Merwe	022 703 4312	022 703 4714	022 703 4360	David.vandemerwe@transnet.net	072 841 1522
	Secretary Ricardo van der Merwe	022 703 4714		022 703 4360	Ricardo.vandemerwe@transnet.net	078 497 8145
Saldanha Ores	Chairman Walter Smith	022 703 3467	022 703 2229		Walter.smith@transnet.net	074 143 4301
	Secretary Lutwena Saul	022 703 2229			Lutwena.Saul@transnet.net	079 225 9168
Sishen	Chairman PJ Mostert	053 723 9201			Sonmos@absamail.co.za	073 149 2224
	Secretary N Kleynshans	053 723 9201			Nickleynhan1@hotmail.com	078 542 8796
Transwerk Cape Town	Chairman Heinrich Laubscher	021 507 2966			utatusrx@transnet.net	071 565 0303
	Secretary TJ Capes	021 507 2966			utatusrx@transnet.net	072 064 1046
Worcester	Chairman Henk Smith	023 348 4262	023 348 4218	023 348 4260	Henk@breede.co.za	082 774 9411
	Secretary Leon Steyn	023 348 4218		023 348 4304	steyn@cwnet.co.za	083 293 7523

Area 4 – Free State

POSITION	NAME	TEL	CELL/HOME	FAX	E-MAIL	
Chairman	Marius Meyer	051 408 3543	082 567 6634	051 408 2125	Marius.Meyer@transnet.net	
Vice-Chairman	Russell Veitch	051 408 2653	079 495 7203		Russell.Veitch@transnet.net	
Secretary	Marius Viljoen	051 408 3543	073 199 6363		Marius.Viljoen@transnet.net	
POSITION	NAME	TEL	FAX	E-MAIL	CELL	
Bethlehem	Chairman Ally Nhlapo	058 302 2033	058 302 2085	058 302 2081	ally.nhlapo@transnet.net	072 763 1459
	Secretary Thabo Taaso	058 302 2033		058 302 2081		083 409 6572
Bloemfontein	Chairman Russell Veitch	051 408 2653	051 408 3615	011 774 9454	Russell.Veitch@transnet.net	079 495 7203
	Secretary Dennis Hiten	051 408 3615		011 774 9454	Dennis.Hiten@transnet.net	083 411 6611
Kroonstad	Chairman Douw Dreyer	011 978 2737	056 268 2342	056 268 2145	douw@utatu.com	082 378 3130
	Secretary Andries Kruger	056 268 2342		056 268 2145		083 451 7351
Transwerk Bloemfontein	Chairman Marius Meyer	051 408 3543	051 408 3543	051 408 2125	Marius.Meyer@transnet.net	082 567 6634
	Secretary Marius Viljoen	051 408 3543		051 408 2125	Marius.Viljoen@transnet.net	073 199 6363

Area 5 – Gauteng Central (Johannesburg)

POSITION	NAME	TEL	CELL/HOME	FAX	E-MAIL	
Chairman	Hennie Stoltz	011 773 4900	083 709 1480	011 773 4744	hstoltz@prasa.com	
Vice-Chairman	Jan Jordaan	011 950 1349	083 709 1634	086 605 1398	jjordaan@metrorail.co.za	
Secretary	PA Swart	011 773 4790	082 898 2440	011 902 8375	paswart@telkomsa.net	
POSITION	NAME	TEL	FAX	E-MAIL	CELL	
Braamfontein	Chairman Hennie Stoltz	011 773 4900	011 773 4744	011 773 4744	hstoltz@prasa.com	083 709 1480
	Secretary George Niemandt				George.Niemandt@transnet.net	084 367 7822
Esselenpark	Chairman John Arendse	011 929 1205	011 929 1349		John.Arendse@transnet.net	082 700 3841
	Secretary Annalien Venter	011 929 1349			Annalien.Venter@transnet.net	072 818 5217
Germiston	Chairman Ruphus Machoga	011 820 2622	016 340 7227	011 820 2318		073 259 7848
	Secretary Winnie Tlali	011 820 2622		011 820 2318	Peter.Njowa@transnet.net	083 399 9626
Heidelberg	Chairman PC Njowa	016 340 7227		011 820 2289		
	Secretary VACANT					
Isando	Chairman Corrie Moller	011 570 7405	011 570 7146	011 570 7466	Corrie.moller@transnet.net	082 224 4500
	Secretary F Mabogoane	011 570 7146		086 631 1377	Ramphelane.Mabogoane@transnet.net	083 275 9681
Kaseme	Chairman JJ Swart	011 330 6061	011 330 6061	011 330 6771	Jacobus.Swart@transnet.net	082 781 8593
	Secretary FJ de Koker	011 330 6061		011 330 6771	scott.dekoker@transnet.net	082 324 9169
Krugersdorp	Chairman Manuel Jardine	011 950 1271	011 950 1271	011 950 1261	Utaturgr@transnet.net	073 237 6381

UTATU AREA COMMITTEE & BRANCH DIRECTORY

Transwerk Germiston	Chairman Secretary	Bossie Boshoff Wickus de Venter	011 820 2716 011 820 2614	011 820 2142	Bossie.Boshoff3@transnet.net wickus.vandeventer@transnet.net	084 785 2827 082 489 9396
Transwerk Sentrarand	Chairman Secretary	Willem de Kock DF de Kock	011 960 2475 011 960 2502	011 960 2475 086 673 9077	Willem.deKock@transnet.net Danie.dekock@live.co.za	084 621 3947 082 369 7499

Area 6 – Northern Cape

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Secretary	JF van der Merwe	053 494 3226	083 378 8206	053 494 3223		
Vice-Secretary	M Gouws	053 838 3140		053 838 3245		
POSITION	NAME	TEL	FAX	E-MAIL	CELL	
De Aar	Chairman Secretary	P van der Westhuizen KD Eiman	053 632 8308 053 632 8239	053 632 8216 053 632 8237		073 37 6659 073 626 1072
Coligny	Chairman Secretary	MC Bamard ZM Prinsloo	018 632 0275 018 632 0275		Barrie69@webmail.co.za	083 652 0811 082 899 2679
Kimberley	Chairman Secretary	Kobus Zara JP Maree	053 838 3381 053 838 3288	053 838 3363 053 838 3237	Jacobus.Zara@transnet.net	082 655 9058 083 254 5804
Mafikeng	Chairman Secretary	Frederick Magogodi OV Tokwe	018 381 9245	018 381 9202 018 381 9295		078 276 1472 078 970 6035
North West (Klerksdorp)	Chairman Secretary	AT Greeff HA Schoeman	018 406 2047 018 406 2047	018 462 1171		082 854 9606 082 790 6477
Postmasburg	Chairman Secretary	JA Mostert DCR Swart	053 313 7241 053 313 7262	053 313 7214 053 313 7214	Johannes.Mostert@transnet.net	083 355 1569 083 383 8379
Upington	Chairman Secretary	LO Ferriera M. Phillips	054 338 2237	054 338 3472		083 704 0316 082 821 7535
Warrenton	Chairman Secretary	FP van der Merwe JF van der Merwe	053 494 3236 053 494 3236	053 494 3223 053 494 3223	Margorie.phillips068@gmail.co.za fvdmerwe@vodamail.co.za	083 791 2563 083 378 8206

Area 7 – Gauteng North (Pretoria)

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Vice-Chairman	Owen Jones	012 842 5006	072 216 1490	012 842 5841		
Secretary	Anthony Hees	073 423 3046		012 842 5589	Anthony.Hees@transnet.net	
POSITION	NAME	TEL	FAX	E-MAIL	CELL	
Komatipoort	Chairman Secretary	Leon Britz VACANT	013 793 9979		Adrina.britz@webmail.co.za	073 984 8444
Lydenburg	Chairman Secretary	LJG Potgieter VACANT	013 235 8201	086 630 5175	Leon.Potgieter@transnet.net	076 661 6280
Metro Pretoria	Chairman Secretary	John Pereira RJ Smit	012 521 6232 012 521 4385	012 521 6206 012 521 6206	Utatu@metrorail.co.za Utatu@metrorail.co.za	083 554 7963 083 554 7994
Musina	Chairman Secretary	Wikus du Toit Clive Neethling	015 534 7214 015 534 1014	015 534 7245 015 534 7216	Jan.DuToit@transnet.net Clive.Neethling@transnet.net	083 380 9809 078 087 2617
Nelspruit	Chairman Secretary	Louis Viljoen Kallie Steenkamp	013 752 9259 013 752 9481	013 752 9269 013 752 9283	Louis.Viljoen@transnet.net Kallie.Steenkamp@transnet.net	084 511 8347 083 461 2969
Phalaborwa	Chairman Secretary	ET Terblanche CAA Jansen	015 781 9042	015 781 3951	etterblanche@gmail.com	073 244 9914 072 822 7628
Pietersburg	Chairman Secretary	Jorrie Jordaan Hendrik de Kock	015 299 6272 015 299 6293	015 299 6449 015 299 6342	Jorrie.Jordaan@transnet.net hendrik.de.kock@hotmail.co.za	082 829 1889 083 306 9018
Pretoria	Chairman Secretary	Manie Neethling Nikkie Luus	012 315 8237 012 842 6050	086 553 8527 012 842 6016	matien@mweb.co.za Nicolaas.Luus@transnet.net	082 876 9190 083 282 0776
Pyramid	Chairman Secretary	Polla Davies W van Tonder	012 521 9452	012 331 6297	pdavies@vodamail.co.za	073 180 6297 082 419 3817
Rustenburg	Chairman Secretary	LE Moeketsi M Moletsane	014 590 2004 014 590 2243	014 590 2064 014 590 2243	lebohang.moeketsi@transnet.net	073 240 2447 083 929 7143
Thabazimbi	Chairman Secretary	VACANT VACANT				
Transwerk Pretoria	Chairman Secretary	Pote Fourie Owen Jones	012 842 5090 012 842 5006	012 842 5841 012 842 5841	Hendrik.fourie2@transnet.net	083 283 7482 072 216 1490
Transwerk Koedoespoort	Chairman Secretary	Adam Slabbert Anthony Hees	012 842 5273	012 842 5589 012 842 5589	Adam.Slabbert@transnet.net Anthony.Hees@transnet.net	083 651 0017 073 423 3046
Waterval-Boven	Chairman Secretary	Buks Nel Paul Stemmit	013 257 5030	013 257 0507 013 257 0507	elzabene@telkomsa.net	083 324 4621 082 622 9641
Witbank	Chairman Secretary	SI Brits Bertha Rabotapi	013 658 2279 013 655 7822		sollyb@transnet.net Bertha.Rabotapi@transnet.net	079 319 1911 079 971 1783

Deaths

September 2010

Tshamano TE Member Germiston
Van Wyk PG Member Durban
Roems K Member Vredendal
Du Preez CJH Member Richards Bay
Pain M Spouse Newcastle
Khumalo EM Member Vryheid
Mmusi ME Member Leeuhof
Landman ND Member Pyramid South
Neaves RG Member Mason's Mill
Mbana PN Spouse Durban
Dingaana DW Member Kazembe
Peach LE Member Durban
Harding D Spouse Uitenhage
Jordaan AS Member Richards Bay
Booyesen H Member Cape Town
Van de Venter A Member Kroonstad
Viljoen CS Spouse Durban

October 2010

Cilliers AP Spouse Sentrarand
Mkhwanazi MM Child Richards Bay
Mahaye MM Member Durban
Cele BS Member Durban
Freeks J Spouse Port Elizabeth
Maharaj D Spouse Durban
Mohlala L Child Nelspruit
Jacobs GSS Spouse Vredendal
Coetzer WJ Spouse Witbank
Reilly EA Member Port Elizabeth
Diedericks JJ Spouse Postmasburg
Van der Vyver JGJ Spouse Germiston
Govender L Member Cape Town
Plaatjies A Member Cape Town
Shandu DB Spouse Welgedacht
Stemmet JW Member Kimberley
Stemmet S Spouse Kimberley
Phume MJ Member Bloemfontein
Mgaga VS Member Newcastle
Pine NM Member Mafikeng

November 2010

Schoeman CJ Hon Life Member
Somerset West
Sagole TH Spouse Johannesburg
Cox RE Member Bloemfontein
Manena NS Member Koedoespoort
Schneyder MM Member Johannesburg
Xulu A Child Durban
Mthiyane L Child Richards Bay
Mphahlele MW Spouse Germiston
Strydom AA Member Port Elizabeth
Pieterse W Member Sentrarand
Mbali A Spouse Braamfontein
Dreyer JP Member Durban
Gumbi MS Member Durban
Goldstone WS Member Durban
Van Niekerk JW Member East London

Continued from page 7

Delegates give Congress their thumbs-up

to say that from the union side it was well organised. I thank you for the opportunity to attend. It was a great experience. Thank you. C.L. Botha

Good day Dear Labour colleagues
It was a first time to attend a Utatu national congress and I am not disappointed at all. Utatu looks well after its congress attendees – more than well, and I think we all are now geared to ensure decent work and service delivery to our fellow workers. The accommodation and conference facilities were of a high standard and contributed to the success of the Utatu congress. My impression is that all the pre-arrangements were done very professionally and the busy programme was put very well together. To have such a big congress in two and a half days is phenomenal but I think it will be wise to try and stretch the duration of these congresses to ensure that we address more specific details during question and answer sessions. The alternative will be to have these congresses more often like every two years instead of every four years.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to attend the Utatu congress and I am proud to be associated with Utatu and its leadership. Kind regards, Walter Smith, Saldanha Branch chairperson.

As I have also stated at Congress, my comment is positive because it was certainly one of the best out of three Congresses I have attended at Utatu. It was evident that the organising of this event was of a very high standard - a job well done by our Head Office staff!

I have really enjoyed this Congress to the fullest and I also would like it to be noted that all our delegates behaved in a very professional manner as well. Well done to them too! I thank you all, Chris Greyvenstein, chairman E/L Branch & E/Cape.

Ek wil sommer ook van die geleentheid gebruik maak om almal te bedank vir die wonderlike kongres en die ondervinding wat ons Braamfontein tak kon opdoen met die kongres. Dit was werklik 'n onvergeetlike geleentheid waar ons baie geleer het en ook waar ons net onself kon verbeter het in wat ons doen. Ek dank jou byvoorbaat, George Niemandt, Prasa Braamfontein.

There is no doubt in my mind that the organisation of activities, gifts, venues, facilities, catering, entertainment, accommodation, etc. was of the best that I have ever experienced in all my years of attending conference. Hearty congratulations to all the HQ staff who have played a role in the organisation of this conference.

Now that we have set the standard, let's all make sure that we maintain it and develop it further.

Exceptions that stand out for me, and which were very much appreciated, were the generous gifts of better quality golf and dress shirts as well as the jackets that all conference delegates received - well done. Now we will all be able to look smarter and hopefully, then, all work smarter. Furthermore, the two bags and memory stick containing the relevant policies are magic and essential tools.

We will all get much use and mileage from these items - thanks very much.

The Gala Evening in its totality was a huge success, was thoroughly enjoyed and a great platform for promoting confidence in Utatu. Our General Secretaries in this regard performed very well and both did sterling jobs with their presentations and made us all proud - well done.

There were apparently a few 'hiccups' here and there, but it appears that the positives far outweighed the negatives so considerably, that I deem it not relevant for further comment on this occasion, but will table such at our next Exco meeting. Thanking you all for a memorable occasion and a job very well done. Hopefully you will be rewarded in some way. John Short, executive officer.

To Head Office

To all the staff who did the arrangements of the conference on behalf of the Durban Infra Branch I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on a job well done.

From our side we do not always realise all the hard work that was put in by all of you. The time you have to spend away from your families is not easy that is why I also want to

thank them.

I also want to thank God that he was with us all the time for keeping us safe and show us the leaders who must lead us the Utatu members. Once again, congratulations to all of you, Linda Biljoen, chairman Durban Infra Branch.

It was great to experience the professionalism and organisation of the Congress 2010 and it was a pleasure to salute the organisers and staff of Utatu on a job well done. Eddy Moeketsi, Rustenburg.

Hiermee wil ek die Hoofkantoor gelukkig met 'n puik Kongres. Dit was my eerste Kongres as 'n Uitvoerende Raadslid en Voltydse Unie verteenwoordiger. Dit was nogal 'n belewenis gewees. Die sprekers op Kongres was goed gewees. Die verblyf en kos was van hoe gehalte. Die dinee met sy sprekers en vermaaklikheidssterre was puik. Die nuwe gesigte en kennis by die kongres was verblydend.

Vervoerrelings was baie goed gedoen behalwe vir 'n foutjie hier en daar met van die TUR'e se name. Verder reken ek was dit 'n groot sukses. Wel gedaan en baie geluk, Nick Els, Central Zone. 🍀

Continued from page 6

PBF092L

Resolutions passed by Congress

skills contributions over the years.

regulations for road freight operators, and

Resolution 7:

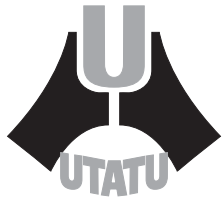
State Subsidy & Regulation of Land Freight

Congress resolves that:

Utatu will, through Fedusa and Nedlac, lobby for the deregulation of land freight in South Africa to be urgently revisited with the objective of reintroducing tonnage and other

Utatu will, through Fedusa and Nedlac, lobby for the state subsidy to rail freight to be revisited - with a view to boost infrastructure investment for both freight and passenger rail services, and also to lessen the burden on our roads and the public in general. 🍀

UTATU INFO GUIDE



UNITED TRANSPORT & ALLIED TRADE UNION STOP ORDER

Please note that any person/member enrolling a non-member will qualify for the enrolment commission of R50 per member enrolled and a further bonus payment of R25 for every ten members enrolled.

Initials & Surname: Title:

Christian Names:

Employee Number: ID Number:

Tel: (h) (w) Fax: Cell:

E-mail:

Postal Address:

Postal Code:

Centre: Grade:

Formula for calculating subscription: 1% of basic monthly salary (minimum R35,00 and maximum R65,00).

I, the undersigned, hereby request Transnet to deduct monthly from my salary the amount determined by application of the above formula, and to pay this amount to UTATU. It is clear to me that this stop order can be cancelled only by giving one month's written notice to the General Secretary.

Signature Date

Where are you employed? (please mark with an X)

Contract Worker	PRASA	Bombela	Transnet Capital Projects	Transnet Rail Engineering
Yes	Autopax (PRASA)	TPT	Transnet Properties	Transnet Freight Rail
No	Shosholoz Meyl (PRASA)	TNPA	Transnet Corporate	Risk Pool
	Intersite (PRASA)	Makhubu Logistics	Transnet Pipelines	Other

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: RECEIVED PROCESSED COMMISSION PENALTY

NOMINEE FOR DEATH BENEFIT

I, the undersigned, a member of UTATU hereby nominate and appoint

Mr/Ms 1. ID Number:

And/or Address:

Mr/Ms 2. ID Number:

And/or Address:

To be my nominee/s. This death grant shall not form 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:

Signature:

Employee Number:

Banking Details:

Bank:

Branch:

Branch Code:

Account Number:

Type of Account:

THIS STOP ORDER CANCELS MEMBERSHIP OF ANY OTHER UNION

Change of address

The General Secretary, UTATU, PO Box/Posbus 31100, Braamfontein, 2017

(Please print)

Business unit: Title:

Initials: Surname:

Employee no:

New home address:

Previous address:

NB: Please furnish previous address as it appears on the forwarding envelope.

Tel:

Hidden name competition

In every issue of *Labour Report*, UTATU publishes the employee numbers of ten members from the membership lists – drawn at random.

Each employee number appears somewhere in the newspaper. If yours is one of the lucky employee numbers published and you can find it, claim your prize by writing to:

UTATU Hidden Name Competition

PO Box 31100, Braamfontein, 2017

Give your name, employee number and address and you will be sent R100.

Our harbours hit the big time – and there's more to come

There are few more exciting places to work these days than in South Africa's ports. As though they are competing in their own World Cup, each day they seem to take another step up the ladder of global competitiveness... and there's more to come. On 12 November Transnet Port Terminals CEO, Karl Socikwa, announced a R15-billion ports upgrade over the next five years.

TPT intends increasing its marine container capacity from its current 4,56 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) capacity to 6,26 million (TEUs) by 2015.

At the Durban port, TPT capacity will be increased to 4,3 million TEUs by 2015.

These developments could be followed by the ambitious plan to convert the old Durban airport into an extension to Durban's harbour.

The most visual evidence of our ports team's efforts to be bigger and better was provided by the recent arrival of the world's biggest contain-

er ship, the MSC Maeva, at Durban Harbour on its maiden voyage.

Built in 2005, the vessel's generous proportions meant it was not able to call at Durban prior to the harbour mouth's deepening and widening project. It also took advantage of refurbished berth facilities at the Durban Container Terminal,

At 325 metres long with a beam of 42,8 metres – and a total container capacity of 8100 TEUs – the MSC Maeva is one of the newer generation Super Post-Panamax vessels.

"Five years ago the thought of getting ships of this magnitude in Durban would have seemed like a pipe dream," said Transnet Port Terminals chief operating officer, Nosipho Damasane,

"But we started to build the capacity to cater for such ships ahead of the demand. This marks the start of greater things to come for the Port of Durban – bigger ships, more often.

"The launch of the deepwater Ngqura Container Terminal last year

ensures that even the biggest vessels that cannot be accommodated in Durban still have alternatives within South Africa should the demand arise."

The Maeva remained in port for four days to load containers of cargo at Berth 108 at Durban Container Terminal Pier 2.

Crane operators at DCT Pier 2 were for the first time tasked with loading a vessel seven containers high in order to maximise space. The vessel was serviced by four gangs on the high productivity berth 108.

Cape Town tackles dual cycle operation

Also new, bigger and better is the dual cycle operation – a method of discharging and loading containers simultaneously from a vessel using ship-to-shore cranes – that is being tested by Cape Town Terminal.

Explaining the operation, Hector Danisa, TPT's assistant terminal executive of the Western Province terminals, says: "This methodology involves



The massive MSC Maeva, the world's largest container ship, entering Durban Harbour.

planning the discharging and loading of containers on the same bay of the vessel. So, instead of finishing a discharge across the vessel before doing a loading operation, this is done simultaneously.

"This internationally recognised practice lends itself to faster operation and savings by minimising minimum empty trips for both haulers and cranes. Shipping lines also enjoy the benefits of increased productivity, vessel turnaround time and efficiency."

Danisa said the challenges associated with Dual Cycle included identifying suitable vessels with an even split of exports and imports and ensuring that they are planned properly to facilitate this type of work. In addition, resourcing the terminal appropriately for quicker productivity and smarter planning could become a challenge.

Dual Cycle was piloted at the Cape Town Terminal in early October as a collaborative initiative between TPT and shipping line, Maersk. The terminal has since worked three vessels with the Dual Cycle operation, with the most recent being the Maersk Dryden vessel on 3 November.

The terminal achieved excellent performances on this vessel by reaching a GCH (container moves per gross crane hour) of 34 GCH and ship working hour (SWH) rate of 82 moves.

This represented a 41% improvement on the terminal's average GCH of 24. SWH is the number of containers moved by the cranes working on a vessel in one hour, which is a key performance indicator for shipping lines to measure productivity.

Durban's new import facility for soya bean meal

Transnet Port Terminals recently celebrated two milestones at its new 80 000 ton bulk warehouse at the Port of Durban's Agriport terminal – the handover of the new facility on 1 October 2010 and the shipment of

its first consignment of cargo.

The 20 000m² bulk warehouse located on Maydon Wharf's Croft Road was built specifically to meet increased demand for soya bean meal. The product has become the number one forage crop on the international market and is used primarily as a protein supplement for the production of animal feeds.

On Saturday, 16 October the terminal received the first consignment of soya bean meal which had been imported from Argentina through another facility in Durban and was destined for export to Mauritius.

Johann Botha, Transnet Port Terminal's business unit executive at the Maydon Wharf terminal, said: "We looked at demand for grain products within South Africa and our studies showed this was already very high, such that available resources in the country were struggling to meet the demand of the local agricultural community.

"In South Africa, as elsewhere in Africa, demand outstrips production. South Africa imported an average of 822 000 tons of soya products a year between 2000 and 2007, representing more than three times the volume of domestic production.

"About 85% of the world's soybeans are processed into soya bean meal and oil. Of that, about 98% is further processed through cracking, heating and flaking the beans to produce the residue that is used as fertiliser and animal feed for swine, beef and dairy cattle, poultry and agriculture."

Since October 2008 Transnet has invested R140 million in the overall Agriport expansion. The terminal will have two-way conveyor routes that will enable TPT to load and offload at the same berth, the rail infrastructure will be improved and it will have two pneumatic vessel off-loaders and one vessel loader.

The terminal currently has one berth suitable for vessels up to 10,5 deep and 220m in length.

BLL658X



A front-end loader seen shifting the Durban TPT bulk warehouse's first consignment: the 3500 tons of soya bean meal for export to Mauritius.



Enjoy a Carefree Holiday

Ensure your home is safe and that your assets are adequately covered by adding these tips to your holiday checklist.

Secure your possessions

Park all vehicles behind closed doors, and if possible in locked garages.

Put away any items that can be used for breaking into your house, e.g. ladders.

If you have armed response, ensure their signage is clearly visible.

Test your alarm to ensure it is fully functional.

Make sure your alarm company and vehicle tracking subscriptions are up to date.

Your Indwe broker will assist in updating your insurance cover and any other insurance advice you might need. Contact your nearest branch, call 0860 13 13 14 or go to www.indwe.co.za for more information.

Take care

Ask a friend or family member to check on your property while you're away to:

- prevent mail piling up
- turn different lights on and off at night
- have someone mow the lawn
- minimise damage that might occur, e.g. the geyser bursting

If someone is staying in your house, make sure he/she knows how the alarm works and where the emergency numbers are.

Speak to your Indwe broker

Checking up on the following will go a long way to making your holiday carefree:

- Is your burglary cover in place and complying with security measures?
- Are you adequately insured?

Ensure you have sufficient liability cover if you do appoint a housesitter.



LETTERS BRIEWE

Om dankie te sê

Ek wil Neels Haasbroek bedank vir die wyse waarop hy my verhoor gehanteer het. Dankie vir jou ondersteuning en positiewe houding tydens die verhoor, ek waardeer dit baie.

Ek is die Here dankbaar dat ek weer my pos kan opvat en doen wat ek geniet het.

Dankie ook aan Chris de Vos en sy span wat Neels afgevaardig het om my saak te hanteer.

Jan Steyl

Ek wil net vir Jannie Breytenbach bedank omdat hy my verteenwoordig en gehelp het met die aanklagte teen my. Baie dankie, Jannie, jy is tops. Jy het my onskuldig bewys teen al die aanklagtes teen my. Ek waardeer alles opreg wat jy vir my gedoen het.

Ek wil ook vir Utatu dankie se vir hulle diens.

Albert van der Merwe, Phalaborwa

Groete vanaf De Aar

Hier van De Aar Prasa se kant gaan dit nog baie goed.

Aan al die lede by Prasa sowel as by TFR wat geliefdes aan die Hemelse

Vader afgestaan het, sterkte en ons dink aan julle gedurende die tyd.

Aai, die jaar is al amper verby, die groot feesseisoen lê voor. Aan diegene wat op vakansie gaan, 'don't drink and drive, please stay alive.'

Ons sien uit om julle almal weer terug te hê by ons in die Nuwejaar. Ek gaan nie kla nie, en wil net hoofkantoor en almal oor die land, Prasa sowel as TFR en TRE net die mooiste toewens vir die feesseisoen wat voorlê.

Julle moet lekker werk en geniet die tyd saam met jul geliefdes. Geseënde Kersfees en voorspoedige Nuwejaar.

Aan die GVB personeel op Beaufort-Wes, Port-Elizabeth en Kimberley, dankie vir die lekker samewerking, dis lekker om met sulke mense te werk. Hou dit so, dit word tog waardeer, al lyk dit nie altyd so nie.

Aan my ouboet in Bellville, aai jy is stil! Sien jou in die Nuwejaar. Lekker werk aan almal en onthou die Hemelse Vader is altyd daar as ons hom nodig het. 'n Geseënde Kersfees en 'n lekker nat Nuwejaar aan almal in die land!

Groetnis vanaf die De Aar Prasa-tak
L. Strydom

Goodbye

To all my friends colleagues, co-workers and all people who crossed my path the past years: as with all things there is a beginning, but sadly also an end. It is happy, but also sad to say goodbye after a period of almost 35 years. I want to thank each and everybody who contributed, in whichever small way, to my life. There were good as well as not so good times but it all comes to how you wish to take it and use it during your life's journey.

I took a major step in seeking work opportunities elsewhere and was blessed to secure a position where I can see new horizons as well as reach for new opportunities. I believe that there will be some contact with some of you and will forward my details once available.

May you have prosperity in your labour and may you have all the best for the future as well as for the festive season ahead.

Dirk Coetser: Finance, Kroonstad

MEMBERS



A Premiere Classe surprise

Deon Gouws has been a train driver at Metrorail, Braamfontein, for the last 28 years. On 9 September it was the birthday of Karin, his partner. To celebrate the event, Deon decided to take her on a luxury train trip to Cape Town on the Premiere Classe. This was very exciting for Karin as it was her first train trip.

The train had departed five hours late after waiting for locomotives at Johannesburg Station. The passengers – all strangers to one another – were still in low spirits when they gathered in the lounge car after dinner... that is, until Deon stood up in front of them to congratulate Karin on her birthday

and to publicly propose to her. Karin, who knew nothing of Deon's intended plan, was caught by surprise. She was over the moon when Deon slipped the ring on her finger. Everyone celebrated the couple's engagement and the passengers' mood changed to party mode.

The Premier Classe was surely a very novel place for a surprise engagement. All the passengers – especially Karin – will never forget that special train trip to Cape Town.

Says Deon: "Because my whole life has revolved around trains, I thought it appropriate to become engaged on one." Karin agreed.

Celebrating 150 years!

Exactly 150 years ago railways made their way into South Africa and changed the transport landscape forever. The following pictures show part of the celebrations where some of the party-goers (such as Utatu general secretary, Chris de Vos) dressed in the fashion of the day.



Reliving the romance of rail

For all who have thrilled to the sounds of train whistles, discharging steam, clicking rails, ethereal voices echoing at sidings, whimsical mouth organ music and rhythmically played dinner gongs... who have marvelled at their elevated view of South Africa's splendid landscape scenery as they gazed at the distant mountains and watched farms, veld and dorps flashing by in the foreground... who savoured the lavish dining car meals and new the friendships formed over them... or who have cursed the chocolate melting back in their compartment, The Railway Gazette's history of South Africa's 150 years of rail will be the source of precious memories that can be kindled again and again. For many, it will also be an opportunity to check out those eras that Pa and

Oupa were always going on about. Absorbingly illustrated with old-time photographs (like the one of a railway policeman manning the automatic mounted in the bows of a patrol vessel), the document covers every aspect of our exciting and often dramatic railways and harbours world – locomotives and rolling stock, stations, harbours, railway police, harbour police in their gunboats, road motor transport, lighthouses, pipelines, catering, models and diagrams.

This edition focuses specifically on the water police in Durban harbour, the British Royal Family's 1947 visit, Railway Police heraldry, the 1E in Natal and afterwards, World War 2 troops and trains and the beginning of a petulant Boer Commando's railway journey.

RAILWAYS GAZETTE - SOUTH AFRICA
SPOORWEGNUUSBLAD - SUID-AFRIKA



It also contains, inter alia, accounts of Spoornet Buleleka, Matjiesfontein, President Kruger's funeral, Atlantic Rail and a dramatic rail crash.



Trained TURs at your service

As reported in the previous issue of Labour Report, training for Utatu's trade union representatives is an ongoing affair. Zonke Cele is here (centre) with her class when she trained in TUR duties in Richards Bay.



So ry ons, trap-trap so

Met die dat die Outeniqua Choo-Tjoe nie meer tussen George en Knysna loop nie, het Tommy Robberts van Sedgfield die blink gedagte gekry om 'n spoorfiets te ontwerp wat op die spoorlyn gebruik kan word. Hy noem dit TrapNet en sy vrou, Rina, sê dit is vet pret. Op die foto is Tommy en sy vriend Thys Taljaard met Angelique en Ansune de Beer, die Robbertse se kleindogters.

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