



"Together we are better"

**SARA RAIL CONFERENCE
AND EXHIBITION 2025**



TRANSPORTING AFRICA FORWARD

**ACCELERATING RAIL GROWTH TO
BOOST MOBILITY & ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY ACROSS AFRICA**

Scan and download our digital programme



PARTNER SPONSOR

SARA RAIL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION PROGRAMME 2025

AFRICA'S ONLY RAILWAY EVENT HOSTED BY RAILWAY OPERATORS FROM AFRICA

NGRT

- provides real-time, accurate and reliable warning of any anomalies within the railway infrastructure, that allow our clients to significantly increase safety and equally reducing risks and costs, by offering standardised and certified products and solutions.



*It's a huge game changer,
really. - LAMATA*

The Game Changer

NGRT is called the Game Changer by our clients and with our unique technology we do give our clients the following:

- Realtime 24/7 monitoring
- Extreme Low Cost
- Predictive Maintenance
- No heavy machinery needed when installing
- No blockage of operations during installation
- Use of renewable energy such as solar, batteries, wind turbines as well as local grid power
- Highly adaptable to clients need, based on local conditions
- 1 system for all types of anomalies
- Alarms and warnings sent to client specifications

**NGRT - Partner sponsor of SARA's
Rail Conference and Exhibition 2025**



**Welcome
to meet us at
stand no. 83**

Contact info

Next Generation Rail Technologies S.L.
Office phone: +34 952 768 465
info@ngrt.org

Visit our web site
for more information
www.ngrt.org





26–29 August 2025

SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE, JOHANNESBURG

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Foreword



Nixon Dlamini

President
Southern African
Railways Association
(SARA)



By the President of the
Southern African Railways
Association (SARA)

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 14th SARA Rail Conference & Exhibition 2025, hosted in Sandton Convention Centre, South Africa. This event stands as the leading platform for dialogue, collaboration, and partnership in shaping the future of the railway industry across our African continent.

The Conference brings together a diverse community of leaders, government representatives, railway operators, financiers, private sector partners, and development institutions, all united by a shared commitment to transforming the rail sector into a driver of regional integration and economic growth.

As we gather in this conference, we are reminded of the central role that railways play in connecting markets, supporting industrialization, and unlocking the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Our discussions this year will focus on investment, innovation, safety, sustainability, and digital transformation—key pillars for building a modern and competitive railway system.

SARA's mission remains clear: to champion regional cooperation, facilitate seamless cross-border rail operations, and strengthen partnerships that deliver tangible results for our member states and stakeholders. This Conference provides the ideal forum to advance that mission and to forge lasting connections that will shape the future of transport and trade on our continent.

On behalf of the Southern African Railways Association, I extend sincere appreciation to our hosts, our member railways, sponsors, partners, and every delegate present. Your participation is not only valued, it is essential in driving the momentum for progress.

We got an exciting conference theme this year; **"Transporting Africa Forward: Accelerating Rail Growth To Boost Mobility & Economic Opportunity Across Africa"**. I encourage you all to actively engage in the sessions, exhibitions, and networking opportunities during the conference. May this Conference inspire bold ideas, practical solutions, and enduring collaborations that will accelerate the growth of rail in our region.

DAY 1

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Thank You to Our Sponsors





26-29 August 2025

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DAY 1		26 AUGUST 2025 (SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE) FLOOR 0
Registration	07:00-08:40	Registration & Exhibition – Floor 0
	07:15-08:40	Morning Tea – Ballroom foyer 2nd Floor
 Programme director Stanley Mkoko 	08:40-08:45	Call for Delegates and safety briefing: Programme Director Mkoko
	08:45-08:55	Welcome Remarks & Overview – SARA Executive Director  Raymond Shoniwa SARA Executive Director 
	08:55-09:05	Introduction of SARA Rail Conference 2025 – SARA President  Nixon Dlamini – SARA President CEO Eswatini Railways 
	09:05-09:15	Sponsor Address: Huawei  Raymond Zuo CEO, Huawei Smart Rail BU 
	09:15-09:25	Sponsor Address: NGRT  Richard Aaroe CEO & Chairman 
	09:25-09:35	Sponsor Address: PRASA Hishaam Emeran – PRASA Group CEO 
 Hishaam Emeran PRASA Group CEO 	09:35-09:55	PRASA Group CEO to introduce the minister of Transport Official Address – Minister of Transport, South Africa  Hon. Barbara Creecy Minister of Transport 



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**ACCELERATING RAIL GROWTH TO BOOST MOBILITY
& ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACROSS AFRICA**

DAY 1		26 AUGUST 2025 (SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE) 2ND FLOOR
 Moderator Thulasizwe Simelane	09:55–10:05	Sponsor Address: GIBELA  Staff Sithole Non-Executive Director 
	10:05 – 10:35	Ministers' Panel Discussion: Policy & Governance in Rail Development  Hon. Barbara Creecy Minister of Transport  Madam Madalo Nyambose Principal Secretary Responsible for Administration  Hon. Keoagile Atamelang Deputy Minister of Transport and Infrastructure  Hon. Joshua Sacco Deputy Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Development
	10:35 – 11:00	Official Opening of Exhibition Hall (Floor 0)
	11:00 – 11:30	Tea Break – Ballroom foyer 2nd Floor
	11:30–11:35	Sponsor Presentation: ABSA video 
	11:35–12:10	Panel Discussion: Governance and Strategic Oversight: The Role of Railway Boards in Shaping the Future of African Rail Panellists:  Irene Charney Board Chairperson Gibela  Ally Karavina Board Chairperson TRC  Adv Michael Madiro Board Chairperson NRZ  Candido Jone Organizacao Board Director CFM  Nonhlanhla Fortunate Shongwe Board Chairperson Eswatini Railways





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DAY 1		26 AUGUST 2025 (SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE) 2ND FLOOR
	12:10 – 12:15	Sponsor Presentation: HOLLYSYS  Laurent Li Sales Manager 
	12:15 – 12:25	Sponsor Address: DBSA  Huli Makhuvha Senior Deal Originator 
 Moderator Thulasizwe Simelane	12:25 – 13:15	CEO's Think Tank      Hishaam Emeran PRASA Group CEO Ainah Dube Kaguru National Railways of Zimbabwe Eng Geoffrey Magwede Malawi94 Desmond van Jaarsveld Transnamib Russell Baatjies CE, TFR
	13:15 – 14:00	Lunch Break – Exhibition Hall

Notes:

DAY1

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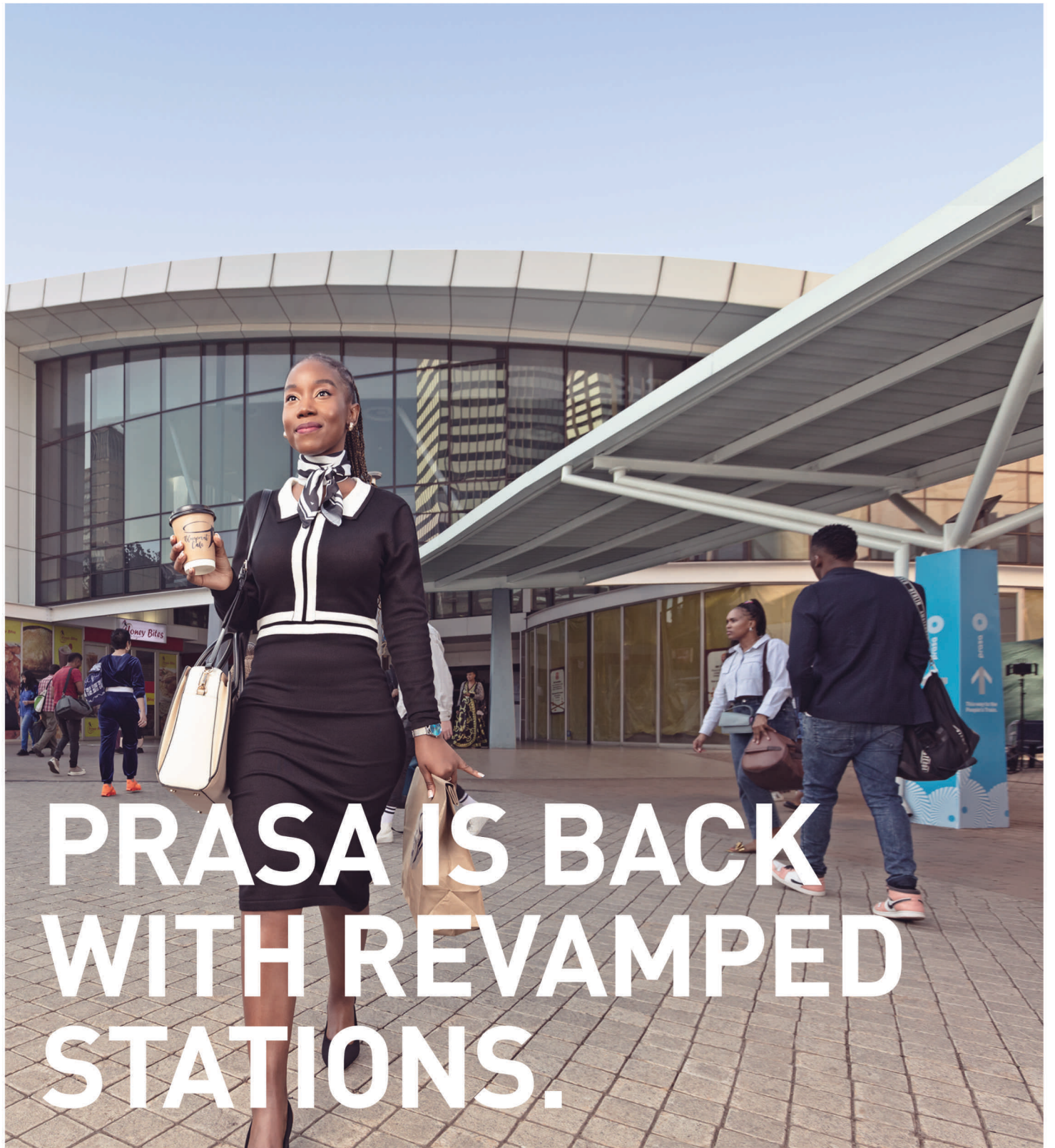
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DAY1

DAY 1		26 AUGUST 2025
 Moderator Cleo Shiceka-Ntshingila Ports, Rail and Intermodal Transport Expert and Transaction Advisor	14:00 – 14:05	Sponsor Presentation: CSIR  Dr Sandile Malinga CSIR Group Executive: Smart Society 
	14:05 – 15:05	Panel Discussion: Investment & Financing for Rail Expansion Panellists:  Dirk van den Berg UKEF  Brian Dlamini DBSA  Portia Dube ECIC
	15:05 – 15:10	Sponsor Presentation: VAE  Pulane Kingston CEO, VAE 
	15:10 – 15:50	Panel Discussion: Rail Infrastructure Development & Modernization Panellists:  Richard Aaroe CEO, NGRT  Ethan Lee Chief Engineer Huawei Smart Rail BU  GAUTRAIN Fast Forward on the rails  Pulane Kingston CEO, VAE  Alex Pan Senior Project Manager HollySys
	16:00 – 18:30	Afternoon Teas and Networking in the Exhibition Hall
	18:30 – 23:00	Gala Dinner – Ballroom (Level 2)





PRASA IS BACK WITH REVAMPED STATIONS.

WE ARE DOING MORE, SO YOU CAN DO MORE.

#RebuildingRail

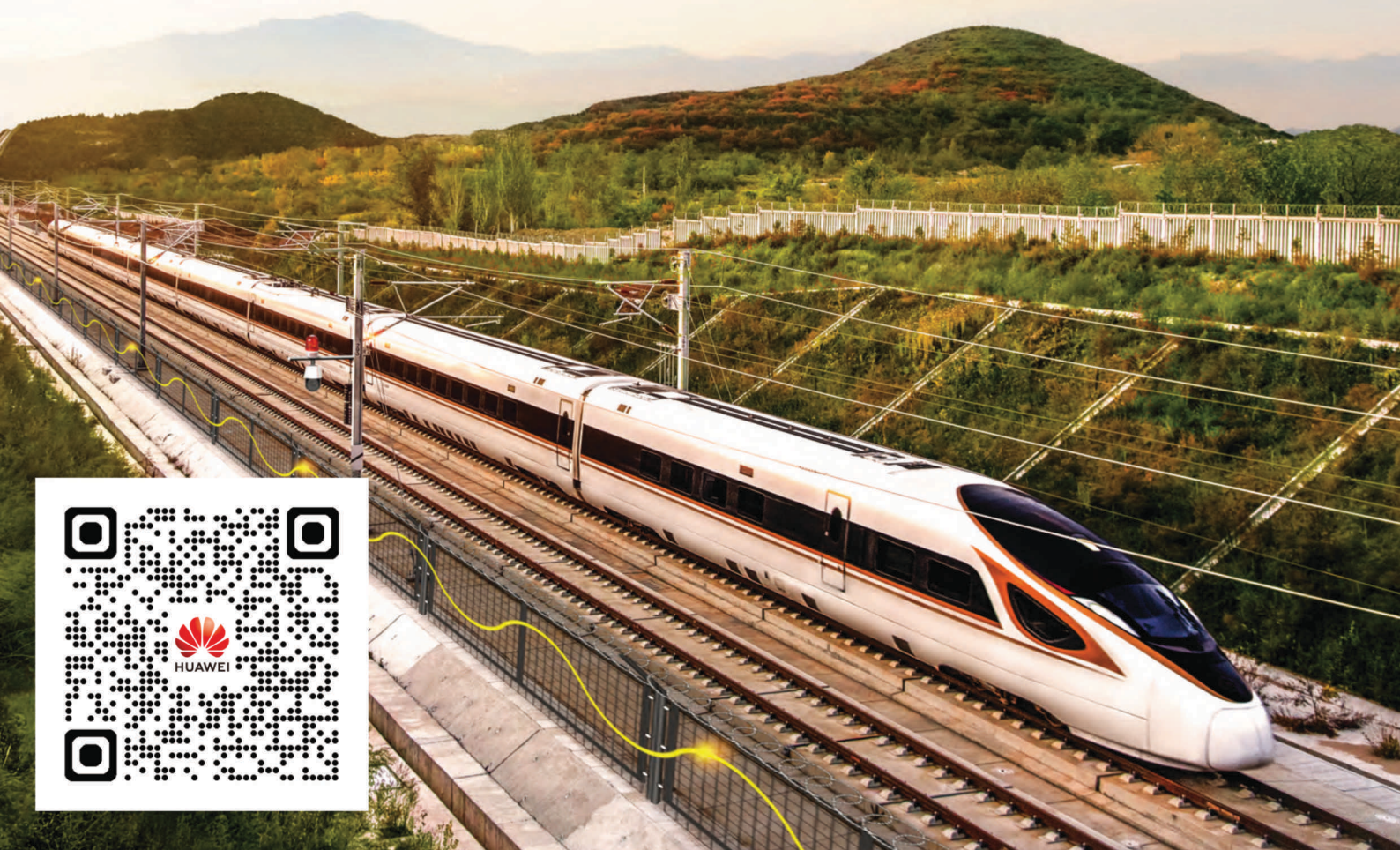


prasa

PASSENGER RAIL AGENCY
OF SOUTH AFRICA



Huawei Smart Railway Perimeter Detection Solution





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DAY 2	07:30-08:45	Morning Teas – Ballroom foyer 2nd Floor
		27 AUGUST 2025 (SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE) 2ND FLOOR
 Programme Director Stanley Mkoko 	8:45 – 08:50	Day Introduction by SARA Executive Director  Raymond Shoniwa SARA Executive Director 
	08:50 – 09:00	Company Presentation: Gautrain  Tshepo Kgobe CEO, Gautrain 
	09:00 – 09:15	The Strategic Role of Rail in Critical Minerals Logistics  Khampepe Khitsane Rail Expert Glencore   Anand Moodliar CEO, Barberry Group 
	09:15 – 09:20	Company Presentation: UK Trade  Elaine Clark CEO, UK Trade- Rail Forum 
	09:20 – 09:25	Company Presentation: Pandrol  Hamzeh Adinehvand Business Development Manager 
	09:25 – 10:15	Government Representatives: Harnessing Strategic Leadership and Policy Synergy to Transform Africa's Transport Infrastructure for Sustainable Growth Panellists:



Moderator
Mabuza Shabalala

PANDROL
Partners in excellence



Hon. Keogile Atamelang
Deputy Minister
of Transport
and Infrastructure



Ben Ainsley
Deputy Trade
Commissioner
Africa



Hon. Joshua Sacco
Deputy Minister of
Transport
and Infrastructure
Development



Idriss A. Karama
Director of Economy
Infrastructure
Trade Nepad



Sir Stuart Ntlathi
South Africa's
BRICS Ambassador



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DAY 2

DAY 2	10:15 – 10:45	Tea Break (2nd Floor)
 Moderator Eng Geoffrey Magwede Malawi94	10:45 – 11:45	Panel Discussion: Transforming Rail Operations (3rd Party Access): Modern Operating Models to Accelerate Mobility and Economic Opportunity Across Africa Panellists:  Khumbulani Mabvura BBR  Johnny Smith Grindrod  Nicolas Gregoir Lobito Atlantic Railway  Wes Kruger Traxtion  Shamina Krishnaswamy TRIM  Nimon Zulu Calabash Freight Ltd
	11:45 – 11:55	Presentation on SAFETY: LATRA  Eng Moses Nyoni LATRA 
	11:55 – 12:00	Sponsor Presentation: RNSA 
	12:00 – 12:10	Sponsor Presentation: GGDA 
	12:10 – 13:15	Smart Signalling and Control Systems: Enhancing Safety, Capacity, and Rail Network Efficiency Panellists:  Edward Magwai Gautrain  Rachad NASSAR Huawei Smart Transportation BU  Richard Aaore NGRT  Ken Zhao Hollysys  Fabrizio Burro Wabtec  Dr Peaceman Sopazi RSR
 Moderator Stephenson Ngubane Railway Consultant	13:15 – 13:30	Presentation: Main Plenary Hall Howard Rosen – The Rail Working Group Unlocking Rail Investment in SADC: Why the Luxembourg Rail Protocol is Key to Financing Mobility and Economic Growth  Howard Rosen The Rail Working Group
	13:30 – 14:30	Lunch Break – Exhibition Hall
	14:30 – 15:30	Match Meetings & Networking – Exhibition Hall
	15:30 – 16:00	Afternoon Tea Break – Exhibition Hall
	16:00 – 18:00	Exhibition Hall (Exhibitors Individual Cocktails)



*Board Chairperson:
Irene Charnley*

“

I am proud to lead a nation-building journey. Delivering world class trains, creating local jobs, and driving customer-centric innovation – rooted in skills development and local sourcing. Learn more at our exhibition stand.

”



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SARA Rail Conference 2025

Sandton Convention Centre, Johannesburg

26th - 29th August

Intelligent Rail Reliable Journey

The World Leading Provider for
Rail Signalling Solutions



HollySys Rail

✉ railinfo@hollysys.com 🌐 www.hollysys.com

South African Branch

☎ 076 397 7696

📍 11 Derby Place, Forrest Square Building, Westville,
Durban, 3629, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa



HollySys LinkedIn



26-29 August 2025

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DAY 3	07:30-08:40	Morning Teas – Ballroom foyer 2nd Floor
		28 AUGUST 2025 (SANDTON CONVENTION CENTRE) 2ND FLOOR



Programme Director
Stanley Mkoko



08:40 – 08:55

Company Presentation: RNSA



08:55 – 10:15	MAIN PLENARY	BREAKAWAY 1	BREAKAWAY 2	BREAKAWAY 3
	Panel Discussion Strengthening Regional Integration: Building the backbone of Africa's Economic Transformation.	Panel Discussion Rail Infrastructure security: Addressing Vandalism, Theft & Sabotage	Panel Discussion Revitalizing Passenger Rail in SADC: Harnessing Modern Technologies to Enhance Mobility and Drive Inclusive Growth Across Africa	Panel Discussion Workforce Development & Skills Training
	Panelists  Russell Baatjies CE, TFR  Ainah Dube Kaguru MD, NRZ  Nixon Dlamini CEO, ESR  Srinivass Mantrala EM, NACALA Logistics  Johnny Smith Grindrod	Panelists  Tian Kunneke Track view  Deon Velthuysen TRIM  Nwabisa Gqamane CEO, PRASA RAIL  Kim Huang Director of Overseas Business Huawei  Alexio Papadopolou PRASA  Kholofelo Matsaka Pandrol SA	Panelists  Marjorie Ngonyama PRASA  Eng Senzige Kisenge TRC  Bruno Chingandu Tazara  Candido Jone Organizacao Board Director CFM	Panelists  Chimeta Mulambia UK Trade  Lunga Jacobs University of Johannesburg  Prof Hannes Gräbe University of Pretoria
	Moderator  Stephenson Ngubane Railway Consultant	Moderator  Jacob Chionyere	Moderator  Tshepo Kgobe	Moderator  Webster Gonzo



Stephenson Ngubane
Railway Consultant



Jacob Chionyere



Tshepo Kgobe



Webster Gonzo





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DAY 3		10:15 – 10:45	Tea Break (2nd Floor)		
 Moderator Khuthalani Khumalo 		10:45 – 10:50	Company Presentation: Wabtec		
		10:50 – 11:50	Panel Discussion: Rolling Stock & OEM – Opportunities & Challenges Panellists:		
			 Themba Mosai CEO, PRASA TECH	 Seloke Tladi TFR	 Tshwanelo Tswai , GM TE
			 G. Bokleni Toyi, MD Luchini SA	 Pulane Kingston CEO, VAE	 Reggie Boqo A. CEO, Gibela
					 Daniela Rodrigues Wabtec Corporation
11:50 – 12:30	MAIN PLENARY	BREAKAWAY 1		BREAKAWAY 2	
	Panel Discussion Seamless Connections: Advancing Integrated Intermodal Transport to Boost Mobility and Economic Opportunity Across Africa	Panel Discussion Financing Rail Corridors for Trade Facilitation		Panel Discussion The Lobito Corridor Opportunities & Challenges	
	Panellists	Panellists		Panellists	
	 Khumbulani Mabvura GM, BBR	 Yolisa Kani CBDO	 B. P. Awasthi Head & COO NACALA	 Phil Thobane ECIC	 Bongo Bacela DBSA
	  Candido Jone Organizacao Board Director CFM	 Nixon Dlamini CEO ESR	 Dirk van den Berg UKEF	 Sipho Marala GGDA	 Nicolas Gregoir Lobito Atlantic Railway
				 Desmond van Jaarsveld Transnamib	
				 Elmarie Smith Traxion	
				 Vamshi Dhanikonda Wabtec	
	Moderator	Moderator		Moderator	
	 Moderator Nimon Zulu	 Moderator Cleo Shiceka Ntshingila		 Stephenson Ngubane Railway Consultant	
	 Dr Maximilian Matschke				





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DAY 3

DAY 3	12:20 – 12:45	Main Plenary Presentation: Celebrating Women in rail Panellists:     Adv. Michelle Phillips GCE, Transnet Pulane Kingston CEO, VAE Nomvuyo Dladlu BUS. DEV – ESR Makgola Makololo MD, Alstom Rolling Stock
	12:45 – 12:50	Company Presentation: Khoi Tech  Seati Moloi CEO, Khoi Tech 
	12:50 – 13:00	Conference conclusion by the SARA Executive Director  Raymond Shoniwa SARA Executive Director 
	13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
	14:00 – 15:30	Meetings & Networking (Exhibition Hall)
	15:30 – 16:00	Afternoon Tea Break
	16:00 – 17:00	Exhibition Hall (Exhibitors Individual Cocktails)

Notes:

DAY 3

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Full Members



Associate Members



Special Members



CONNECTING AFRICA.
CREATING PROSPERITY.

At the DBSA, we believe that when Africa is connected, opportunities grow, communities thrive, and history bends toward shared prosperity.

As a trusted financier and development partner, we drive some of the continent's largest road and rail projects. Our expertise spans the entire infrastructure value chain from planning and project preparation to financing, delivery, and long-term maintenance.

Through strong partnerships with governments, the private sector, and communities, we ensure that every project creates lasting, sustainable impact across South Africa and beyond.

We are DBSA. Building Africa's Prosperity.

Partner with us on this journey. Learn more at www.dbsa.org



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GOLF DAY
29 August 2025



For participation inquire

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