

TRANSNET DOUBLES ITS CSI SPEND TO R175 MILLION

Plans include the construction of the second Phelophepa Health Train

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Transnet is pleased to announce that it has set aside over R80 million to build a second special-purpose train to provide primary health care to the needy in the most rural parts of South Africa.

This was announced by Mr Chris Wells, the acting chief executive of Transnet Limited, in Johannesburg today.

Mr Wells says the group, which also supports arts, sports development and education, has doubled the money it invests in social causes to R175 million [per annum](#). Apart from supporting the construction of Phelophepa II, as the second train will be known, Transnet will also be making a significant investment in supporting rural sports development.

“We are really delighted at the prospects of having to replicate the runaway success that Transnet Phelophepa I has been to the less fortunate and needy communities in our country. This is but a humble sign that Transnet cares about the health and well-being of all South Africans. We are also proud that this state-of-the art train will be built by Transnet Rail Engineering”, says Mr Wells.

Of the R175 million set aside for the Transnet Foundation, the company’s corporate social investment vehicle, R80 million is to be spent on the second train which will be known as Transnet Phelophepa II, after the highly successful health care train.

Mr Wells says the second train is to be commissioned next year to augment the services of Phelophepa I which serves 45 000 patients each year. “The intention is to replicate the highly successful model we have used over the years in Phelophepa I. The second train will significantly increase both the footprint and frequency of the health care services offered to patients”.

Transnet Phelophepa I was started by Transnet, working in partnership with educational and the health authorities as well as pharmaceutical companies, and the train, which is fondly known as the miracle health train, has been in operation since 1994. During this period, it has provided dental, eye, primary health care and psychiatric care services to hundreds of thousands of South Africans in eight of the nine provinces.

“I also wish to acknowledge the contribution of all our partners, especially Roche, [a pharmaceutical company](#) which has over the years contributed R7 million each year and pledged to join hands with us again in extending this imaginative partnership to Phelophepa II”, says Mr Wells.

Apart from offering health care, the train serves as training ground for medical students from South African and international universities.

The train works with local communities to extend much-needed primary health care.

The news of Transnet's increase of its CSI spend comes just days after the company also raised the amount it is investing – to R93 billion from R80 billion over five years – in renewing and expanding its ports, pipeline and rail freight infrastructure. A yet-to-published study has estimated that Transnet's R80 billion investment programme will help create over 550 000 new jobs in the economy.

Transnet's contribution has been recognized world-wide. A year ago, Transnet Phelophepa became the first South African Corporate Social Investment Initiative to receive the United Nation Public Service Award for its excellence in public service delivery.

ABOUT PHELOPHEPA TRAIN

- It is a unique train that provides a comprehensive, flexible and cost-effective health care service in remote areas of the country. It operates as a health and educational facilitator whilst it provides health care services.
- The health care train was started in 1994, the same year that South Africa became a democracy.
- The Phelophepa train is a 600-ton train consisting of 18 coaches with air-conditioned compartments. It travels for nine months and stops at 36 stations to provide the much needed health care services.
- Transnet contributes 75% toward annual expenditure and 25%% is provided by partners and sponsors. Roche Products on the health clinic and pharmacy and Colgate Palmolive on the dental clinic are founding members and have been with the train since it started operating in 1994. Other sponsors include Canon Collins Trust, American Friends of Phelophepa and Swiss Friends of the Phelophepa

Note to editors

- Transnet will consider requests for, and facilitate, visits to the train
- For those interested, please contact Ms Thandi Mlangeni, head of communications at the Transnet Foundation, on: 083 283 8908 or by email: Thandi.mlangeni@transnet.net
- Pictures are available on request from Ms Mlangeni

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