Corporate social investment (CSI) has become much more than an inspirational buzzword. In a country where there is much scope for development and the upliftment of its people, CSI has become a core element of businesses across all industries. The Transnet Group has a separate division that implements the company’s socioeconomic development projects to ensure the best possible resources are dedicated to CSI initiatives. This division, the Transnet Foundation, is breaking ground to build a healthy, safe and educated nation.

A RELATIONSHIP THAT PROVIDES GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY – A GOOD PARTNERSHIP
The Transnet Foundation, developed in 1990 as a Trust, is the corporate social investment (CSI) arm of the Transnet Group. The Foundation exists to implement the social responsibility mandate of Transnet and its strategic objectives are firstly, to position Transnet as a socially responsible company, and secondly, to contribute towards socio-economic growth and development in South Africa.

THE FOUNDATION’S OBJECTIVES ARE ALIGNED WITH TRANSNET’S MARKET DEMAND STRATEGY:
• Deliver sustainable developmental projects through the efficient use of resources.
• Ensure that the Foundation’s CSI projects contribute towards the social and economic upliftment of vulnerable people and communities.
• Enable Transnet’s sustainability reporting through CSI programmes that adhere to the CSI trends and have a business fit with Transnet’s strategic objectives.
• Ensure CSI activities are consistent with sound corporate governance and Transnet’s commitment to remain a responsible corporate citizen.

BRINGING ABOUT PERMANENT CHANGE FOR A SUCCESSFUL SOCIETY
Transnet and the Foundation believe that by investing in our people we will create the foundation for economic success and sustainability in South Africa as a whole. This is why Transnet – a leader in the State Owned Companies sector in terms of CSI spend – has invested over R160 million in CSI initiatives in 2012.

The Foundation helps many people in rural areas through initiatives that focus on the core areas of socioeconomic need in South Africa. It is imperative that the Foundation’s initiatives are sustainable, bring about social change, have a developmental impact and create employment opportunities.

We are dedicated to building a healthier, better educated, safer and skilled population that is positive about our country and motivated to grab the opportunities that empower them to live fulfilled lives. People who believe in themselves and in the future are the building blocks of South Africa’s economic success.

FACTS AND FIGURES
• In 2008, the Transnet Foundation pledged R1 million for three consecutive years towards the Making a Difference Trust driven by Carte Blanche.
• Container Assistance Programme: Since 2001, about R27 million has been invested in this programme, about 120 000 lives have been improved and 27 000 jobs have been created.
• Rural and Farm Schools Sport Programme: This programme received national recognition when it won the Mail & Guardian Investing in the Future Award in 2008.
• Phelophepa Health Trains: The trains have supplied primary healthcare to over 14 million people since 1994. The initiative won the prestigious United Nations Public Service Award for excellence in public service delivery in 2008.
• Sharp Minds! Get Ahead in Life: In 2010, 92% of the 367 grade 12 learners who participated in the programme passed their national exam with a total of 184 distinctions.
LONG-TERM PROJECTS ACROSS ALL SECTORS OF COMMUNITY LIFE

To improve the overall quality of people’s lives, we run various long-term projects that focus on different areas of everyday life: education, health services, sport, safety and infrastructure.

THE PHELOPHEPA HEALTH TRAINS – the first healthcare clinic on wheels

The two Phelopepha Health Trains use the existing rail network to make quality medical care an accessible reality for many of South Africa’s remote communities, where there is often only a single doctor for every 5,000 people.

RURAL AND FARM SCHOOLS SPORT PROGRAMME – nurturing tomorrow’s sport stars

We have two programmes - The Rural and Farm Schools Sport Tournaments and the Transnet Foundation’s Sport Incubator Programme. The programmes identify and develop young sports talent in rural areas to improve their future prospects.

CONTAINER ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME – the ideal infrastructure solution

This programme uses old containers as infrastructure in under-resourced communities. Since the start of the programme in 2001, more than 30 container structures have been built across the country for satellite police stations, health clinics and social services access points.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME – support for both students and teachers

The Transnet Foundation’s education initiative is aligned with the government’s priority to improve the quality of basic education. Sharp Minds! (on hold since 2011 to focus on teacher development) and the Teacher Development Programme both offer knowledge and skills development, with a focus on students and teachers respectively.

EMPLOYEE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME – sharing our knowledge and skills base

The volunteering programme gives Transnet employees the opportunity to volunteer their time, skills and knowledge to help improve the communities where Transnet operates through infrastructure maintenance, adult education and sports coaching.

CYNTHIA MGJIMA – A LEADER WITH VISION

“When I think of the Transnet Foundation, three things immediately come to mind: caring, improving lives and making a difference. That’s why Transnet is investing over R160 million in CSI, with the Transnet Foundation alone accounting for R140 million.” These are the inspiring words of Cynthia Mgijima, the Transnet Foundation’s steadfast and vibrant CEO. She has a deep understanding of the challenges our country faces and her wholehearted commitment to creating a better future for every South African contributes significantly to the success of the Transnet Foundation.

True to her belief that good education forms the foundation of a great nation, Mgijima holds qualifications from educational institutions in Botswana, Indonesia and the USA. She is also a member of the South African Board of Dietetics and the South African Nutrition Society, and represented the Department of Education on the South African National AIDS Council. These commitments all show that for Mgijima, being the CEO of the Transnet Foundation is much more than a day job – it’s a calling and a lifestyle.

“While problems and challenges don’t go away simply by investing money in them – working with communities and other partners in the CSI space can result in community empowerment and sustainable solutions.” – Cynthia Mgijima, Transnet Foundation CEO