

Gama steps down as Chairman of UAR

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Transnet Freight Rail's Chief Executive, Mr. Siyabonga Gama, has stepped down as Chairman of the Union of African Railways (UAR) after having served his two year term with distinction. Members of the UAR had requested Mr. Gama to continue for another two year term but he politely declined citing the depth of leadership in African railways. He nominated and was succeeded by Mr. Abdelaziz Chaabane, President and CEO of the Tunisian Railways.

The Union is made up of members from railway undertakings within the territories of the member States of the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. Its objective is to seek the standardisation, expansion, coordination and improvement of railway services of the UAR members with a view to linking them to each other and to other means of transportation connecting the Africa region to the world. It also seeks to establish and maintain relationships with other transport undertakings or associations and interested governments and institutions for the study of matters of interest to and the coordination and development of the activities of the members of the Union.

In describing his experience at the helm UAR, Gama said, "The Union is a Specialised Agency of the AU, responsible for railway development in Africa. My focus was on the implementation of the Brazzaville Declaration, which was adopted at the 1st Conference of African Ministers responsible for railway transport held in Brazzaville in 2006. I am especially pleased that we have succeeded in transforming the UAR into a focused and meaningful organisation."

The UAR has bestowed the title of Honorary President on Mr. Gama in recognition of his contribution to the organisation.

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