

Transnet Freight Rail strike threat withdrawn

13 November 2008

The strike threat by the South African and Allied Workers Union (Satawu), the United Transport and Allied Trade Union (Utatu) and the South African Railways and Harbours Union (Sarwhu) on Transnet Freight Rail has been withdrawn. This came after the concerned parties concluded an agreement this week on the dispute over the train driver refresher course.

The parties agreed that for operational safety reasons, it is critical that the backlog of train drivers (including contract train drivers) to be "Refreshed" be urgently addressed and that all overdue train drivers undergo the refresher course by the end of February 2009.

The parties further agreed that the normal process of the provision of three months notice to attend the refresher course will remain in place for employees who are not overdue. Employees who have been scheduled to attend the course in terms of the normal existing process will attend as per the scheduling and that train drivers who are overdue will be interviewed to determine a suitable date for commencement of the course as soon as possible.

On the basis of this agreement, Satawu and Utatu have withdrawn their dispute, inclusive of the strike notice.

Freight Rail head of Industrial Relations Khotso Ntseare, expressed his delight at the conclusion of this agreement saying that safety is paramount to the organisation and its employees and that this agreement was in everyone's interest.

-ENDS-

Issued by Transnet Freight Rail, Communications and Media Department

For further information contact:

Sandile Simelane
Spokesperson
Transnet Freight Rail
Tel. 011- 544 9584
Cellular 083 703 4179