



**OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE SOWETO CREATIVE HANDS
INCUBATOR**

ADDRESS BY MR BRIAN MOLEFE

GROUP CHIEF EXECUTIVE: TRANSNET SOC LIMITED

MONDAY 20 JUNE 2011

Programme Director Dr Nerisa Rahmdani (CEO Ifa Lethu Foundation),

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

First and foremost allow me to congratulate the Ifa Lethu Foundation for their sterling work in repatriating the South African heritage from all corners of the globe, and for facilitating the development of skills in the creative arts industry. Since its establishment in 2005, the Foundation has achieved what was initially thought to be insurmountable and as fellow South Africans we wish to record our heartfelt thanks to the compassionate and dedicated leadership of the organisation.

To most, heritage conservation is regarded as non-strategic and a soft issue, and yet heritage is the integral part and the soul of civil society, it shapes us to become who we are.

It is against this background that the Transnet Foundation, which is the implementing unit of Transnet's corporate social investment (CSI) programmes, became associated with Ifa Lethu Foundation. Transnet

Limited is immensely honoured and delighted that our small grant has facilitated the establishment of the Arts Incubator Programme. We are indeed humbled by Ifa Lethu's kind gesture of involving us in this official opening.

The famous statesman Nelson Mandela once said "As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same". This statement resonates with our beliefs in terms of our corporate social investment programmes. Transnet believes that our prosperity as a company is intricately linked to the wellness and prosperity of our communities. Long time ago it was acceptable for any company to engage with itself and to conduct its business in the comfort of its own boardroom only. Today, however, we know better. We understand that in order for any organisation to grow and to be sustainable, more importantly, in order for any organisation to earn the distinction and respect of being a true corporate citizen, such a company will realise the challenges facing society, and will be an active participant in finding and offering solutions to such challenges.

Transnet is a focused freight transport company that delivers integrated and efficient transport services to promote economic growth in South Africa. This is our core business, and is what we do best. However, we also have an interest in the socio-economic development of our communities. Our CSI programmes are biased to rural communities and they focus on health, education, sport and containerised infrastructure.

Owing to the dictates of the economy, our Foundation does not have an Arts and Culture portfolio any longer, however fundamentally we believe in the principle that the creative arts industry needs to grow to enable our up and coming artists to express their true talent and in turn become economically self sufficient.

Importantly, this industry requires sustainable growth to realise its economic value. According to the New Growth Path framework, there's a compelling need to create decent jobs in South Africa in order to stem the tide of poverty. If nurtured and supported, the creative arts industry can indeed create decent jobs and produce more professional artists in the calibre of David Koloane, one of the most revered South African artists in recent decades.

Distinguished guests, the question is how do we, as corporate citizens contribute to the sustainable growth of this industry? The 13th edition of the CSI Handbook reveals that Arts and Culture receives 4.6% slice of the South African CSI budget. While this is plausible, it is evident that the corporate contributions in this sector need to increase in view of the amount of destitute artists in the country. This is a challenge that we all need to consider as we celebrate this occasion today.

I thank you.