



MEDIA INVITATION

21 September 2011

FREE STATE RAIL INITIATIVES

The Free State Rail Initiatives announced during the Budget Vote Speech by the Free State MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, MEC Mxolisi Dukwana earlier this year, have already started bearing fruits. The initiatives entail establishing freight hubs taking advantage of a number of available branch lines in the Free State.

Resulting from discussions between the MEC, the Free State Development Corporation and Transnet, a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed on Friday 23 September, among others, with the aim of creating an intermodal facility in the Free State. The re-commissioning of the branch lines will not only benefit the province economically but will alleviate the road networks of the burden of heavy haulage that leads to damage on roads resulting in high and costly maintenance.

The first benefits of this initiative are the launch of the 1st phase of the three phases of the Containerized Manganese Project at the Transnet Rail Operations premises in Bloemfontein by Premier Ace Magashule. In total the project represent a total investment of R220 Million and will create approximately to 400 job opportunities and further 300 to 500 indirect jobs in various support industries feeding this project.

The Media is invited to the event.

Date: Friday 23 September 2011
Time: 08:00
Venue: Transnet Rail Operations Zastron Street Bloemfontein.

END

**Compiled by: Communication Unit
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