

Transnet delivers locally produced wagons to Botswana Railways

According to AllAfrica.com, Public Enterprises Minister Malusi Gigaba said Transnet's delivery of 100 salt wagons from its Eastern Cape manufacturing plant to Botswana Railways forms part of the state company's plan to accelerate sales of heavy equipment to the rest of Africa.

Speaking at an event marking the completion of the first batch of wagons at its plant in Uitenhage, Gigaba said the partnership between Transnet and Botswana Railways signalled "the beginning of the new approach to intra-regional cooperation to drive Africa's economy."

The delivery forms part of an initial 260-wagon order for specialised wagons to transport bulk chemical grade salt from Sua Pan in Botswana to Sasol's factories in South Africa. Botswana Rail has ordered 562 wagons, all of which are being designed, engineered and produced at the Uitenhage manufacturing plant - one of the largest wagon refurbishment and new-build plants in Africa. The plant employs about 1 500 people.

Transnet also has manufacturing plants in Koedoespoort in Pretoria for locomotives, Salt River in the Western Cape for coaches, wheels and other rolling stock components, and Bloemfontein in the Free State, AllAfrica.com says.

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