

MEDIA RELEASE

CUF BOARD SETS THE PRIORITIES FOR INDUSTRY FOCUS

Newly constituted Board directs the Container User Forum towards practical issues affecting the movement of containerised cargo.

For businesses moving containerised cargo through South Africa, reliability matters.

A train that does not run as planned, cargo caught in a seasonal bottleneck or disruption along a key corridor quickly becomes more than an operational inconvenience. It means additional cost, lost time and uncertainty for businesses trying to serve their own customers.

Against this backdrop, the Container User Forum (CUF) has entered the next stage of its development following its public launch in March 2026.

The Forum has constituted its eight-member Board of Directors and, as one of its first priorities, the Board has directed the CUF to concentrate its efforts on practical areas affecting container logistics performance.

The Board brings together senior industry experience from organisations active across the logistics and trading environment, including the Chemical and Allied Industries' Association (CAIA), Newlyn Group, Barberry Holdings, Africa Global Logistics (AGL), and the South African Association of Freight Forwarders (SAAFF).

This breadth is important to CUF's role. Container logistics does not operate in individual silos. Cargo owners, ports, rail, road, terminals and logistics service providers experience different parts of the same journey, and a constraint in one part of the chain is often felt somewhere else.

Practical areas of focus

The Board has directed the CUF to focus initially on:

Durban-Gauteng rail corridor performance

Supporting industry engagement around practical opportunities to improve utilisation and the reliability of container movements on the country's principal container corridor.

Rail corridor security

Bringing the user perspective into existing efforts to better understand the impact of security incidents on rail reliability and supporting collaboration with the responsible stakeholders.

Seasonal container flows

Working with affected stakeholders to explore practical options for managing periods of concentrated demand, including the pressures created by major export seasons.

Inland terminal connectivity

Exploring how inland logistics nodes and terminal interfaces could contribute to smoother cargo flows between the port and the inland market.

CUF Chief Executive Officer Brenda Magqwaka says the intention is deliberately practical.

“The Board has given us a clear direction. We are not seeking to take ownership of functions that reside with operations, Infrastructure Managers or Government. Our mandate is to convene users of the system, surface shared constraints, and facilitate collective solutions”

The Forum’s approach builds on the collaborative relationships developed across industry, government and Transnet through the National Logistics Crisis Committee.

For the CUF Board, the next phase is therefore less about adding another voice to an already busy logistics environment and more about helping industry organise its experience around shared priorities.

“The container chain works only when its different parts work together. CUF’s value will come from staying focused, listening to the people who use the system every day and helping turn common pain points into constructive industry engagement,” the Board said.

Issued on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Container User Forum
14 August 2026

THE CUF BOARD

Board Chair: Juanita Maree (PhD); Board Members: Ms Palesa Phili; Ms Deirdre Penfold; Mr Ali Motala; Mr Graeme Petzer; Ms Arthi Balmakhun Madaree; Mr Craig Mountjoy, Chief Executive Officer Brenda Magqwaka.

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