



Day 2 of the Africa Investors' Conference opened with a conversation with **Portia Derby**, **Group Chief Executive of Transnet**. Virtual and in-person attendees heard from high-profile policymakers from key markets including Egypt, Tanzania, Mozambique and Angola. **Standard Bank's Aletta Venter** moderated a plenary session on the African Gold mining sector in an age of sustainability and scarcity.



Portia Derby, Group Chief Executive, Transnet (left) speaking with Anne Aliker, Group Head of Client Coverage, CIB, Standard Bank Group (right) at the Africa Investors' Conference in London.

In Focus:

Portia Derby, Group Chief Executive, Transnet

During her time at Transnet, Portia has seen the freight sector, the backbone of the South African economy, rocked by unprecedented challenges, from lockdown-induced mobility restrictions to socio-political unrest and disruptive flooding. Portia shared how Transnet has responded to these market conditions, notably:

- Partnering with the private sector Access to the rail network been opened to third parties to quicken transformation and restructuring processes, improving overall efficiency.
- Consistent communication Transnet is engaging with investors to explain the rationale and implications behind operational changes.
- 3. Passing major milestones Recent developments surrounding the Port Elizabeth terminal and the Cape Corridor have been a priority and will be transformative for the sector.
- **4. Looking to the future** The market conditions have led Transnet to striking new contracts, notably in the manganese sector.

What do you need to know from the day's sessions?

Day 2 saw a wealth of African policymakers discuss key elements of fiscal monetary and fiscal policy in their respective markets. Rami Aboul Naga, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) emphasised that the turbulent decade the country is emerging from has enabled the CBE to become more agile and pre-emptive in uncertain times. Hon. Exaud Silaoneka Kigahe of the Ministry of Investment, Industry and Trade of Tanzania set out the country's 2025 goals by which Tanzania will become more connected with East Africa and the world. Dr Amilcar Paia Tivane, Vice Minister of Economy and Finance, Mozambique underlined how the government is moving quickly to widen fiscal space and improve the business environment.

In the day's plenary session, **Mark Learmonth, CEO and Director, Caledonia Mining** discussed investment opportunities in the Zimbabwean gold mining industry following Caledonia Mining's successful profit growth in the sector, despite difficult market conditions following the pandemic and inflationary pressures.

Finally, Nopasika Lila, Group Financial Director, Barloworld, shared her thoughts on the importance for African corporates to adopt high ESG standards: "ESG requires an awareness to the interdependencies of humanity and the environment. We now know that these goals are entirely attainable to the benefit of the company, investors and shareholders. Through collective wisdom, and leveraging the knowledge of the market trailblazers, we can and will reach our global net zero ambitions together."