18 March 2020

Dear Valued Stakeholder

SUSPECTED COVID-19 CASES AT THE PORT OF CAPETOWN

Please be advised of measures in place following a suspected case of COVID-19 at the Port of Cape Town.

Two vessels at the Port of Cape Town were held off port limits after a crew member on board one of the vessels began showing symptoms of COVID-19. It was later established he had been on an international flight with a fellow crew member and six passengers who went on board a cruise vessel at the port.

This marks the first suspected case of COVID-19 in a South African port. The two crew members had flown into the country from Istanbul Turkey, on 09 March. Only one of the two is showing signs of being ill, however both have been placed in isolation.

To ensure the safety of TNPA employees and port users, the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC), Port Health and the Harbour Master of the Port of Cape Town have coordinated efforts to evacuate the two crew members by air force helicopter to hospital.

The identified six passengers have been evacuated from a cruise vessel, taken to the hospital for testing and thereafter to a quarantined area arranged by Port Health Officials. The rest of the passengers would remain quarantined on board until the test results for the six are received, thereafter a decision will be made based on the results.

A Joint Operations Centre (JOC) inclusive of TNPA Harbour Master, SAMSA (MRCC), Port Health and a specialist Doctor, has since been set up and has been crucial in guiding the way forward.

TNPA will continue to ensure compliance of safety of navigation of vessels, safety of life and safety of the environment. Please be assured that we are also dedicated to ensuring business continuity in this unprecedented time.

Yours sincerely

Mr. Sabelo Mdlalose
Acting Chief Harbor Master
Transnet National Ports Authority
Date: 18/03/2020