

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **TNPA SPEARHEADS THE FIRST-EVER HARBOUR MASTERS CONFERENCE IN AFRICA**

**[Gqeberha, South Africa, 24 February 2023]** Following ten years of conceptualisation by the Transnet National Ports Authority's (TNPA) Chief Harbour Master, the African Harbour Masters Association (AHMA) Conference is finally taking shape, with the inaugural seminar set to take place from 2 -3 March 2023 in Tangier, Morocco.

Five Captains from TNPA will be attending the first AHMA seminar - Thulani Dubeko, Harbour Master: Port of Ngqura, Silindile Mdlalose, Harbour Master: Port of Saldanha, Yolisa Tibane, Deputy Harbour Master: Port of Ngqura, Robert Divhambele, Deputy Harbour Master: Port of Cape Town and Naresh Sewnath, Senior Manager: Vessel Traffic Service and Pilotage.

"This milestone has been realised through our collaboration with Port Management Association of East and Southern Africa (PMAESA) and Port Management Association of West and Central Africa (PMAWCA), whose contributions were pivotal in ensuring that the idea reached out to most Harbour Masters across the continent" said Captain Rufus Lekala, TNPA's Chief Harbour Master.

After several years, the AHMA became a Chapter of the International Harbour Master Association, which is a European Chapter responsible for ensuring safe, secure, efficient, and environmental sound conduct of marine operations in port waters.

The two-day conference will feature Captain Dubeko who will facilitate a discussion on dangerous cargo, whilst Captain Sewnath will lead a Vessel Traffic Services engagement and Captain Mdlalose as a speaker, discussing challenges faced by women in the maritime sector.

The conference promises one voice for Harbour Masters of the African continent and will bring together captains of industry to share experiences, expertise, and challenges within the maritime sector under the theme "The Crucial Role of Human Factors for a Best Future for African Ports".

Significant to this milestone is Captain Dubeko, who has been instrumental in lobbying support from Harbour Masters across Africa and maritime industry experts. He is also the Vice President of AHMC.

**-ENDS-**

## **About Transnet National Ports Authority**

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) is one of six operating divisions of Transnet SOC Ltd. The National Ports Authority is responsible for the safe, effective and efficient economic functioning of the national port system, which it manages in a landlord capacity. It provides port infrastructure and marine services at the eight commercial seaports in South Africa – Richards Bay, Durban, Saldanha, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Mossel Bay and Ngqura. It operates within a legislative and regulatory environment and is governed by the National Ports Act (Act No. 12 of 2005). For more information visit [www.transnetnationalportsauthority.net](http://www.transnetnationalportsauthority.net).

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## **Issued on behalf of Transnet National Ports Authority by:**

Ayanda Mantshongo

Executive Manager: Corporate Affairs

## **For media queries, please contact**

Mava Mgeyiya

[Mava.mgeyiya@transnet.net](mailto:Mava.mgeyiya@transnet.net)

063 683 4114