

MEDIA RELEASE

TNPA DOUBLES UP MARINE CRAFT AVAILABILITY TO ENABLE AGILE CONTAINER RECOVERY AT THE PORT OF DURBAN

[Gqeberha, 1 December 2023] Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) is enabling terminal operators to implement the Container Recovery Plan at the Port of Durban with agility by providing a 24-hour helicopter service and ramped-up dredging service. The intervention will be implemented on Saturday, 2 December 2023.

The ramping-up of the TNPA helicopter service availability at the Port of Durban from a 12-hour to a 24-hour operation is another recovery intervention of the port's authority to ensure vessels are turned around quicker. The TNPA helicopter service efficiently transports marine pilots to board vessels at anchorage for safe vessel navigation into the port.

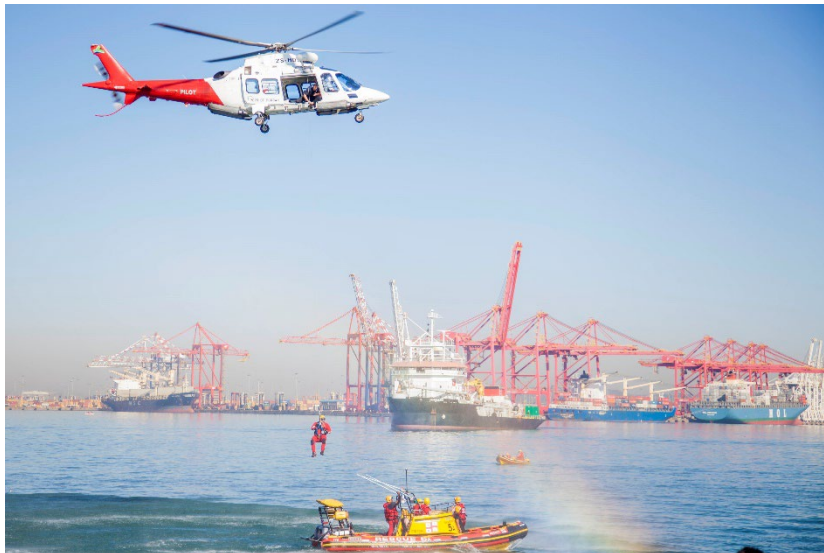
"Whilst TNPA operates a complimentary marine craft service with an option of deploying pilot boats for the same, the helicopter service is quicker and offers better efficiencies in vessel movements. We are certain that the increase in helicopter availability will make a significant contribution to the clearance of vessel delays," said TNPA Managing Executive for the Eastern Region Ports – Durban and Richards Bay, Moshe Motlohi.

At the Durban Container Terminal, TNPA recently handed over Berth 108 to the Pier 2 terminal operator, following a successful dredging exercise with the use of plough tug Mohoma that led to the promulgation of the berth to its design depth of 12.8m. A plough tug is used as a bed leveller to smooth out high spots created by marine traffic in high-volume berth areas, allowing the docking of bigger vessels.

"This intervention is anticipated to yield favourable results for our terminal operator as it will reduce the duration of the dredging maintenance work and berth downtime at our busiest container terminal. The collaboration between the ports authority and terminal operator is destined to accelerate the recovery plan," said Motlohi.

TNPA continues to fulfil its oversight role in leading the execution of the Container Recovery Plan and keeping stakeholders informed.

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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

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