

One week left to vote for SA cruise ports in prestigious World Travel Awards 2020

[Durban, South Africa, 12 August 2020] Despite the crippling impact of COVID-19 on tourism and the global cruise sector, three South African ports have once again been recognised for flying the flag high and cementing the country's reputation as a leading cruise destination in the continent.

The ports of Cape Town, Durban and Port Elizabeth, operated by Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA), are shortlisted in the Africa & Indian Ocean segment of the 27th annual World Travel Awards in the category of "Africa's Leading Cruise Port 2020".

The Africa leg opened for voting on 15 June and members of the public have until midnight on 22 August 2020 to vote for their favourite port.

This year, the three South African contenders are once again going head to head with Kenya's Port of Mombasa and Tanzania's ports of Dar Es Salaam and Zanzibar.

The Port of Durban will be seeking a hat-trick of wins, after taking home the coveted prize in both 2018 and 2019.

TNPA's Acting Chief Executive, Khomotso Phihlela, said getting these repeated nods from an international body has been a privilege for TNPA, but the authority remained cognizant of the need to reconsider the role of its cruise ports in a post-COVID-19 world.

"Globally the 2019/20 cruise season was significantly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which changed the world in ways we could have never anticipated a mere few months ago. There are challenging times still ahead for the sector, but as the port landlord we remain committed to developing our cruise facilities so that the country can continue to reap the benefits of being a cruise tourism leader, even post COVID-19," he said.

South Africa's popularity as a cruise destination has grown exponentially in recent years and has led to its six cruise ports – Durban, Richards Bay, Cape Town, Mossel Bay, Port Elizabeth and East London – appearing frequently on the itineraries of luxury cruise line operators. Annual escalations in the number of visitors and liners have afforded TNPA, and the country as a whole, positive socio-economic spin-offs such as tourism development, job creation, skills development and supplier development.

In the 2019/20 cruise season, TNPA was due to welcome at least 23 luxury cruise ships, operated by 17 international cruise lines, before COVID-19 brought a premature end to the season.

Through port concessions in the stimulus cruise home ports of Durban and Cape Town, the authority has brought onboard private operators to use their expertise to develop the cruise facilities and attract greater global interest.

Construction on the new Durban passenger terminal resumed during the first week of June 2020 after the announcement of Lockdown Level 3 Regulations by the South African government. The project has been delayed by six months according to the appointed terminal operator, KwaZulu Cruise Terminal Consortium (KCT) in which MSC Cruises has a 70% stake. The new completion date is projected for the latter part of 2021.

Meanwhile, the V&A Waterfront continues to develop the Cape Town passenger terminal and surrounding areas as part of its own concession with TNPA.

In Nelson Mandela Bay, the Port of Port Elizabeth's cruise offering provides a boost for the local economy, allowing tourists to access recreational, leisure and wildlife experiences in and around the city.

To cast your vote for the Port of Durban, Port of Cape Town or Port Elizabeth, register an account on <https://www.worldtravelawards.com/vote>. A verification email will be sent to your email account and you will need to click the verification link before you can login to cast your vote. Check your junk mail folder if you do not receive the verification email in your inbox. Select 'Africa' as the region and the category of 'Africa's Leading Cruise Port' to vote. Voting is open until 22 August 2020 at midnight.

The World Travel Awards, founded in 1993, recognises, rewards and celebrates excellence across all sectors of the global travel and tourism industry. For now, the Africa & Indian Ocean Gala Ceremony 2020 is scheduled to take place in Nairobi, Kenya on Saturday, 3 October 2020.

Ends

About Transnet National Ports Authority

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) is one of five 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.

Follow us on



www.facebook.com/TransnetNPA



[@TransnetNPA](https://twitter.com/TransnetNPA)



[@TransnetNPA](https://www.instagram.com/TransnetNPA)

Issued by:

Ayanda Mantshongo
Executive Manager: Corporate Affairs
Transnet National Ports Authority

On behalf of:

Jacqui Brown
Acting GM: Corporate Affairs & External Relations
Transnet National Ports Authority

For media queries and requests for interviews, please contact:

Transnet National Ports Authority:

Jozi Meth
Tel. 031 207 2887
Cell. 079 898 2211
jozi@logicocreative.co.za