

AFRICA MERCY FINDS A HOME IN THE PORT OF EAST LONDON FOR THE NEXT THREE (3) MONTHS

[East London, 20 November 2023] Africa Mercy, one of Mercy Ships International's in-ship hospitals has chosen the Port of East London to house one of its hospital ships for three months whilst conducting minor maintenance, crew change and recruitment of medical practitioners in preparation for its next medical field service in Madagascar.

Mercy Ships International is a non-profit organisation (NPO) that stretches across the world to provide free healthcare services to people of all ages who are in desperate need of medical help. The NPO has volunteers onboard the vessel who perform life-altering surgeries, offer spiritual upliftment and donations to those in need. Africa Mercy is one of sixteen national offices dedicated to offering free and safe surgery onboard its vessels to those in disadvantaged areas.

"Mercy Ships International is one of the biggest humanitarian organisations in the world, the work they do is critical in supporting the health sector globally. It is an honour to be able to provide a temporary home for Africa Mercy. We do hope they visit our ports again and next time see our port-city community benefit from the outstanding work they do." said TNPA Port Manager for the Port of East London, Sphiwe Mthembu.

Upon completion of the maintenance work at the Port of East London, Africa Mercy will sail to Madagascar to serve for 10 months. In preparation for her next voyage, the NPO is ramping up crew members to around 270 for the sail and is providing crew members with the necessary rest as they explore East London and the Eastern Cape province.

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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).

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