

CAPE MORGAN LIGHTHOUSE MARKS 60 YEARS OF SERVICE THIS FEBRUARY

(CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 05 FEBRUARY 2024) Cape Morgan Lighthouse marks 60 years of service this month. It is the second youngest of 10 lighthouses along the Eastern Cape coast. It was first lit on the night of 05 February 1964.

Cape Morgan Lighthouse is situated three kilometres west of the Great Kei River Mouth. The 12-metre aluminium lattice tower has a square daymark and a red lantern house. It is fitted with a light-emitting diode (LED) lantern that produces two flashes every 10 seconds. The lighthouse is automated and is not manned. Scheduled maintenance is carried out by teams from Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) in East London. During scheduled maintenance visits, TNPA employees will check and service the light, the lantern house glazings, the lattice tower, and the standby diesel engine.

Before the electrification of the light in May 1980, the lighthouse was powered by diesel generators that ran 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The lighthouse still has one diesel generator on site, that is used as back-up.

Other lighthouses in the Eastern Cape are: Deal (1973), South Sand Bluff (1931), Mbashe (1926), Cape Hermes (1904), Great Fish Point (1898), Hood Point (1895), Seal Point (1878), Bird Island (1852) and Cape Recife (1851). TNPA is mandated by the National Ports Act, 2005 (Act No. 12 of 2005) to provide, operate and maintain lighthouses and other marine Aids to Navigation (AtoNs) to assist the navigation of vessels within commercial port limits and along the coast of South Africa.

A marine AtoN is defined as: "A device, system or service, external to vessels, designed and operated to enhance safe and efficient navigation of individual vessels and/or vessel traffic." Lighthouses, beacons, and buoys are the most common types of visual AtoNs. Virtual AtoNs are new technology that use digital signals to warn of dangers in specific locations, without the need for physical buoys or lighthouses. The digital signals are transmitted from Automatic Identification System (AIS) stations and are received by AIS units onboard vessels. Large vessels – such as container ships and passenger ships – are required to carry AIS in terms of International Maritime Organisation regulations, but smaller vessels are not. Therefore, visual marine AtoNs cannot be done away with. TNPA AtoNs conform to the standards set by the International Association of Marine Aids to Navigation and Lighthouse Authorities (IALA). South Africa, represented by TNPA, is a founder member of IALA.

- ENDS -

Photo gallery:

1



Cape Morgan is the second youngest of 10 lighthouses along the Eastern Cape coast. It was first lit on the night of 05 February 1964.

2



It is fitted with a light-emitting diode (LED) lantern that produces two flashes every 10 seconds.

About Transnet National Ports Authority

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 on behalf of Transnet National Ports Authority:

Bheki Mhlongo

Acting Executive Manager: Lighthouse and Navigational Systems

For media queries please contact:

Tamsyn-Anne Atkinson

Email: tamsyn-anne.atkinson@transnet.net

Cell: 060 778 5577