

MEDIA RELEASE

Port of Richards Bay welcomes newly built MS SH DIANA to kick off 2023/24 cruise season

[RICHARDS BAY, 16 November 2023] Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has marked the commencement of the 2023/24 Cruise Season at the Port of Richards Bay with the much-anticipated maiden voyage of MS SH DIANA.

Hosting 250 passengers and 200 crew members on board, the maiden voyage of the newly built MS SH DIANA to the Richards Bay port symbolises a significant moment for both the cruise tourism industry as well as the city.

Port Manager at the Port for Richards Bay, Dennis Mqadi said: "As we embark on the 2023/24 Cruise Season, we celebrate not only maritime excitement but the economic vibrancy and unity that defines Richards Bay. The collaborative spirit of the city's stakeholders will guarantee a successful season and memorable experience of the many tourists who visit our city."

The arrival of 25 cruise vessels in the City of UMhlatuze is set to have a positive impact on the local economy. The season is expected to boost tourism, create jobs and contribute to skills development within the community.

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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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