

Ports Authority to unpack impact of 4IR on maritime sector

***[Durban, South Africa, 08 September 2020]* As part of its 20-year anniversary commemoration of maritime transformation and heritage happening throughout September, Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) will bring together industry leaders to unpack the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) on the maritime industry.**

The industry webinar, [Maritime Industry in the 4th Industrial Revolution](#), will be held on Wednesday, 9 September 2020 and will see panellists interrogate how the industry can ride the wave of change resulting from technology advancements, an evolving workforce and changing customer requirements.

Panellists include Lance Pullan, Managing Director of shipping data company, Linernet; Mmutle Lentle, Chief Information Officer of TNPA; Captain Naresh Sewnath, Senior Manager: Pilotage and Vessel Traffic Services at TNPA; Nwabisa Matoti, Senior Manager: Operation Phakisa Skills Initiatives at the South African International Maritime Institute (SAIMI) and Lwandile Mabuza, Managing Director of Servest SA's Marine Division.

The session will be facilitated by Sowetan newspaper editor, Nwabisa Makunga.

Of the panellists, Pullan will address the Impact of 4IR on the Shipping Industry both globally and locally, drawing on his many years of experience with shipping and logistics majors including A.P. Moller-Maersk, CSAV, K- Line and now Linernet, which he started after taking a sabbatical in 2019.

TNPA CIO Mmutle Lentle will explore some of the key milestones and technological achievements that have shaped the industry. He has been instrumental in the rollout of a number of TNPA's own digital technologies and Smart Ports initiatives that harness technology to better serve TNPA customers, create further visibility and transparency of port processes and facilitate integrated planning between all port stakeholders.

Captain Sewnath's contribution will be centred around the history and evolution of TNPA and its responsibilities and role within South Africa's maritime sector. Presently Vice President of the International Harbour Masters Association, his remarkable maritime career spans 32 years from early beginnings with Safmarine and Unicorn Shipping, before progressing through the ranks to serve as Harbour Master at the Ports of Mossel Bay and East London, and Senior Harbour Master at the Port of Durban.

Nwabisa Matoti will explore Maritime Skills Development within the context of 4IR and COVID-19. She is responsible for facilitating delivery on the Skills and Capacity Development initiatives for Operation Phakisa (Oceans Economy) as well as research. Her career in the maritime industry started in 2013 as a Project Manager for the Maritime Sector Skills Technical Task Team initiatives at the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC), and she has driven various maritime research initiatives on a consultative basis. She holds a MCom (Economics) degree from the University of Johannesburg and is currently busy with her PhD at the Nelson Mandela University.

Looking at the role of women in the maritime industry, Lwandile Mabuza, will extract insights from her experience with maritime interventions in the private and public sectors of South Africa, Netherlands, Germany and Norway. She has worked for Hamburg Sud in SA and Hong Kong, both Transnet Port Terminals and Transnet National Ports Authority, and the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, where she was Deputy Director of Logistics and led the development of the first Maritime Strategy in the country, the KZN Maritime Industry Development Strategy. She holds a BCOM degree with a specialisation in Maritime Economics, and has completed several post graduate studies to enhance her knowledge and expand her international networks.

Meanwhile webinar facilitator, Nwabisa Makhunga, has been a journalist for 16 years and has covered South African politics and socio-economic developments while holding various newsroom leadership roles such as News Editor at The Herald and Business Day Editor and Deputy Editor and Editor in Chief of the Herald. She has published extensively as a current affairs commentator and a debate facilitator on leadership and the South African political economy.

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Throughout September 2020, TNPA is hosting several virtual events to commemorate its 20th year of existence and the impact its ambitious programme to foster transformation of the maritime industry has had on South Africa's commercial ports.

The celebratory programme also coincides with the country's Heritage Month and the global commemoration of World Maritime Day on 24 September, under the theme "Sustainable shipping for a sustainable planet".

Still on the calendar for this month are:

9 September – Webinar: The maritime sector in the [4th Industrial Revolution & Beyond](#) – for industry

23 September – Virtual Celebration to mark 20 years of maritime transformation, Heritage Day and World Maritime Day

30 September - Webinar: Navigation through Crisis – for industry

To join industry leaders for this free Webinar as they explore how the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) has disrupted the Maritime industry, register at: <http://ow.ly/TPbY50BgMxK>

Ends

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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