

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **TNPA SEALS A DEAL WITH VOPAK (SA) FOR THE LIQUID BULK TERMINAL DEVELOPMENT IN RICHARDS BAY**

*[Richards Bay, 14 November 2022]* Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has concluded the 25-year concession agreement with VOPAK SA Developments PTY Ltd, to develop, construct, operate and maintain a liquid bulk terminal at the Port of Richards Bay's South Dunes Precinct. This agreement was concluded at a signing ceremony held on 10 November 2022 at TNPA offices.

The R1 billion investment development of the liquid bulk terminal at the Port of Richards Bay will serve as a catalytic project for the Port of Richards Bay Master plans which forms part of the larger KwaZulu Natal (KZN) Logistics Hub Programme. The KZN Logistics Hub Programme which seeks to position the 2 KZN ports to focus on key strategic sectors, with the Port of Durban as an international container and premier automotive hub and the Port of Richards Bay as a dry-bulk hub and a strategic player in the renewable energy space a designated Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) importation site.

In the Port of Richards Bay section of the logistics hub programme, there are no less than 19 projects arising out of the ports master plan, clustered across the 3 port precincts, namely, the Newark, Bayvue and the South Dunes Precincts. The most activities will be taking place in the South Dunes Precincts.

"The conclusion of this agreement marks a significant milestone for the Port of Richards Bay as it becomes a pioneer in ensuring that the development arising out of the validated plans is led through this investment by VOPAK," said Dr Gasa-Toboti, TNPA Portfolio Director for the KZN Logistics Hub.

This breakthrough follows a positive validation process of both KZN Ports master plans by independent consultants, a development of a socio-economic benefit study as well the quantifying of the costs for the various work packages contained in the plans.

"With this signing ceremony, we are excited that we have achieved this very first milestone of being very clear and intentional about the development, but we are also more excited to have partners like VOPAK (SA) who are aligned to the vision that we would like to see in the

Port of Richards Bay of being contributors to not only the regional economy but the national economy as we continue developing both these ports,” said Gasa-Toboti.

VOPAK (SA) strives to be the leading independent storage, distribution, and throughput terminal for customers at strategic areas. Currently, VOPAK’s strategic location is in Durban and in Heidelberg-Lesedi. With this investment, VOPAK will grow its business and have a representation in the Port of Richards Bay.

“The communities that we operate in are ultimately the main beneficiaries of jobs that will be realised from this strategic investment. This development will benefit the people within these communities as jobs will be created during construction, the running of the plant and the contribution to the fiscus,” said the Mr Simphiwe Mehlomakhulu, Deputy Chairman of the Board at Vopak (SA).

Following the conclusion of this agreement, VOPAK (SA) will kickstart in earnest to develop and construct the Liquid Bulk Terminal in the Ports South Dunes Precinct.

Ends...



Seated are: Mr Moshe Motlohi (Managing Executive: Eastern Region, TNPA); Mr Oliver Naidu (Managing Director, Vopak);

Standing from the left: Ms. Shamina Krishnaswamy ( Programme Director, Portfolio Support • Sales & Market: Commercial & Marketing, KZN Logistic Hub); Dr Gasa-Toboti (TNPA Portfolio Director for the KZN Logistics Hub); Captain Dennis Mqadi ( Port Manager, Port of Richards Bay); Mr Simphiwe Mehlomakhulu (Chairman of the Board



at Vopak); Mr Thami Sithole ( Program Director, KZN Logistic Hub – Richards Bay); Mr Michel Van. Mosselaar (Finance, Vopak).

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