

MEDIA STATEMENT

TNPA making progress on solving truck traffic challenges

[Richards Bay, 12 May 2023] Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) is making progress in addressing the challenge of truck traffic congestion at the Port of Richards Bay.

A number of interventions are being led by the Ports Authority, which include integrated stakeholder engagement to ensure alignment and a collective resolve of the congestion. The engagements include a daily war-room on Road Motor Transport reporting, inter-governmental workshops to discuss medium to long-term solutions and participation in a Mayoral committee chaired by the Mayor on matters affecting operations of the municipality and interventions. Stakeholders involved in this collaborative effort include terminal operators, Transnet Freight Rail, City of uMhlatuze, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport and the South African National Roads Agency Limited.

Trucks accessing the port have been averaging 1800 per day since March 2022, which is more than double the previous year's truck volume, mainly attributable to an unprecedented high demand for coal by the international market. This has resulted in increased incidents of congestion around the port and municipal area.

Approximately 50% of truck arrivals at the port during March and April of 2023 have not followed the instruction of utilising the terminal booking system, which disrupts the flow of truck movement within the port. In addition, a high level of heavy haul non-compliance has been identified as a contributing factor, with breakdowns, roadworthiness and expired vehicle licences, compounding the traffic flow within the port.

TNPA has created additional truck staging capacity of 250 parking bays, separate to the Truck Staging Area.

"We are encouraged by the collaborative approach demonstrated by all stakeholders in recent meetings, where customers have committed to support initiatives that are being proposed by

the port and terminal operators, such as the use of the truck booking system effective 13 May 2023 to allow customers to engage with transporters and cargo agents. This is a great step towards the right direction. We are confident that the compulsory use of the truck booking system and other initiatives will provide a lasting solution to the problem.” says Dennis Mqadi, TNPA Port Manager for the Port of Richards Bay.

Mqadi emphasized that reports suggesting that the port is now used as a truck stop are factually incorrect, highlighting that the port design and the directional flow of traffic makes it impossible for such to occur.

TNPA will continue collaborating with stakeholders to resolve the issue of truck congestion around the Port.

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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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