

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **TNPA SECURES CONTINUED PRESENCE OF SA'S ONLY PRIMARY ALUMINIUM PRODUCER AT THE PORT OF RICHARDS BAY**

**[Richards Bay, 23 October 2024]** In a major boost for economic growth and operational efficiency, Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has signed a long-term contract with South32 Hillside Aluminium ((Pty) Ltd, securing the continued operational presence of South Africa's only primary aluminium producer at the Port of Richards Bay.

The Hillside Aluminium 15-year lease agreement is facilitated through a process stipulated in Section 79 (1) of the National Ports Act No 12 of 2005, which empowers TNPA to control land use within the port in alignment with the Port Development Framework Plan (PDFP).

The premises are zoned for commercial and industrial use, ensuring compliance with strategic development goals. South32 Hillside Aluminium plays a crucial role in enabling local downstream manufacturing of aluminium products for both domestic and industrial markets. The smelter is also instrumental in stabilising the Eskom electricity grid.

Dennis Mqadi, Port Manager at the Port of Richards Bay, said: "The Port of Richards Bay is also dedicated to fostering economic activity that creates and retains jobs in our communities. This partnership does not only secure the future of Hillside Aluminium, but also reinforces the ports authority's commitment to optimising port infrastructure and capacity."

This long-term agreement ensures stability and growth for the aluminium producer. "We are excited about this new chapter in our relationship with TNPA," said Calvin Mkhabela, Vice President, Operations at South32 South Africa. "This lease agreement allows us to continue our operations seamlessly and contribute to the economic vitality of the region."

This is a crucial step towards ensuring promoting the sustainable development of the Port of Richards Bay.

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### **About Transnet National Ports Authority**

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) 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](http://www.transnetnationalportsauthority.net)

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