

MEDIA STATEMENT

TNPA ADDS FIVE NEW TUGBOATS TO BOOST SHIPPING EFFICIENCIES AT SA'S BUSIEST PORT

[Durban, 15 August 2024] Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) is accelerating the implementation of its R1 billion investment towards a reliable marine fleet, with the latest addition of five new tugboats aimed at improving shipping efficiencies at the Port of Durban.

During a christening ceremony held at the Port of Durban today, TNPA officially launched and named the latest investment of five tugboats into the port's marine fleet. This forms part of TNPA's marine Fleet Renewal Programme, which prioritises the acquisition of marine assets to strengthen shipping operations at the ports. Investment in marine fleet is an important element of Transnet's efforts to revitalise South Africa's ports and support economic growth.

This tugboat acquisition entails a total of seven tugs, with two allocated to the Port of East London and are scheduled to be unveiled at a launch, naming and christening ceremony in East London in September 2024. This brings TNPA's tugboat complement to a total of 38 across its eight commercial seaports, with the Port of Durban boasting the highest number of 14 tugs.

These assets are critical for delivering marine services and various port services such as pilotage, towage, firefighting, marine search and rescue as well as waterside pollution combat.

Delivering the keynote address at the christening ceremony at the Port of Durban, Transnet Board Chairperson, Andile Sangqu highlighted the significance of investing in marine assets: "The procurement of this fleet demonstrates Transnet's commitment to fully realising the Recovery Plan. We are now approaching 12 months of the 18-month cycle and can see improvement in the agility of executing strategic projects, which will enhance the organisation's competitiveness. Meeting the objectives of the Marine Fleet Renewal Programme coupled with a skilled workforce will catapult our responsiveness to meeting global shipping demands."

As the busiest port in sub-Saharan Africa, the additional fleet will enable the Port of Durban's readiness to respond with on-demand craft in the safe navigation of vessels within the port.

With a bollard-pull of 60 tonnes, the tugs delivered by Damen Shipyards Cape Town feature the latest hull design and propulsion system consisting of diesel engines fitted with Azimuth Stern

Drive. These comply with the International Maritime Organisation's Tier III environmental standards. This makes the tugs fully capable of handling larger vessels that call at South Africa's premier container port.

"We are proud to deliver these five cutting-edge Damen ASD tugboats to the Port of Durban, in partnership with Transnet National Ports Authority. Equipped with Damen's internet-of-things Triton solution, these tugs are game-changers for operational efficiency and safety. This collaboration will drive modernisation and set new standards for the maritime sector. We are excited to continue working with TNPA to shape the future of South Africa's ports," said Director of Damen Shipyards Cape Town, Sefale Montsi.

The tugs will be integrated into commercial shipping operations this week at the Port of Durban.

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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

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