

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **NEW CAPSTANS SET TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY LEVELS AT THE DURBAN AND CAPE TOWN DRY DOCK OPERATIONS**

**[Gqeberha, 12 August 2024]** As part of its ongoing commitment to support South Africa's Operation Phakisa programme, Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has completed the replacement and installation of capstans in its four dry dock facilities to enhance productivity at its largest and busiest ports.

For this project, TNPA invested over R200 million to replace all 37 capstans at the dry dock facilities of the Durban and Cape Town ports, standardising the ship repair equipment.

A capstan is a driven machine used in dry dock operations, constructed and installed to assist in the warping of vessels and to amplify the pulling force of the marine crew when hauling ropes.

TNPA initiated the replacement project following a condition assessment that identified a need to upgrade all capstans due to frequent breakdowns, ageing, and unavailability of maintenance spares. The new capstans are equipped with hydraulic systems and Human Machine Interface (HMI), a novel feature, demonstrating TNPA's ability to leverage technology to enhance operational efficiency in line with maritime industry best practice. The associated electrical upgrades which now have the electrical connections in parallel, will eliminate the previous series connection which resulted in multiple outages, causing issues such as breakdowns leading to complete system shutdowns and halted production.

"The implementation of the Operation Phakisa programme provides strategic business value for ports, with marine manufacturing and ship repair facilities being identified as focal areas of the Ocean Economy to unlock Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employment creation. The primary goal of our ongoing infrastructure investment is to increase competitiveness and deliver improved ship repair facilities, which results in increased levels of productivity in marine operations," said Acting TNPA Chief Executive, Adv. Phyllis Difeto.

TNPA is already realising the benefits of the upgraded capstans. In July 2024, the Port of Durban's Prince Edward Dry Dock marked its first historic milestone by docking a record-breaking five marine crafts for the first time since its construction in the 1920s. The dock reached its maximum capacity of 350m in length.

These rotating machines, which assist in pulling the vessels into position inside the dock, are being replaced in the Port of Cape Town at various locations and are divided into 12 at Sturrock Dry Dock, 10 at Robinson Dry Dock, and seven at Synchronlift, and Port of Durban's Prince Edward Dry Dock made up of eight capstans.

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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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