

MEDIA STATEMENT

TNPA WELCOMES DELIVERY OF FOUR NEW TUGBOATS

[Durban, 12 June 2024] In line with Transnet's focus on operational efficiency through the acquisition of reliable and fit-for-purpose equipment, Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has taken delivery of the first four tugboats to boost marine fleet availability and shipping efficiencies at the ports of Durban and East London.

The arrival of the tugboats brings TNPA a step closer towards the execution of its marine fleet renewal programme, which entails replacing marine fleet with the latest technology to extend the lifespan of marine assets. The move also adds value to the timely implementation of the Transnet-wide Recovery Plan, whose core focus includes improved availability and reliability of critical equipment.

This delivery is part of TNPA's R1 billion investment in acquiring seven tugboats. These tugs will replace marine craft that has reached its operational lifespan. With the latest delivery, the Port of Durban has been allocated two tugs with the Port of East London receiving the other two.

The tugboats, delivered by Damen Shipyards Cape Town, have a 60-ton bollard pull, which is an improvement from the current 32 and 40-ton bollard pull capacity of the existing tugboats.

The fleet has docked at the Port of Durban's Drydock and will undergo various technical tests for three weeks. Upon completion, TNPA will hold a ceremony to launch, name and christen the tugboats – an old marine tradition believed to bring good luck to the vessel and those who sail with it.

The phased delivery of the remaining three tugs will be completed by August 2024.

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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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