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First Three of Ten Specialised Excavators Delivered At The Port of Richards Bay To Curb Disruptions And Ensure Seamless Operations

The first tranche of specialised excavators have been delivered at the Port of Richards Bay as part of Transnet Port Terminals' intervention to provide seamless and uninterrupted services to its customers and other stakeholders. Material handling services for bulk commodities, which have been provided by external services providers, have recently suffered a number of intermittent disruptions and these have resulted in operations grinding to a halt, causing untold damage and inconvenience.

Three out of a total of ten specialised excavators have been delivered and erected while the remaining seven excavators will be delivered in tranches, with the last one being delivered by the end of September.

Amanda Siyengo, TPT's General Manager for Bulk, Break-Bulk & Car said the acquisition of materials handling equipment is a much-needed intervention as there are guarantees that we need to be able to make to our customers in terms of turning around their cargo.

“We cannot allow a situation to persist whereby we are held to ransom, which results in us not being able to meet our contractual obligations thus negatively affecting not only our balance sheet but also our customers' operations adversely, she added.

She concluded by saying that the onus is on TPT to protect its business and that of its customers, hence this decisive intervention.

In terms of operational readiness, theoretical training has kicked off, with 20 out of 40 individuals having undertaken training while the balance will have completed it by the end of August. Practical training will commence at the end of August and this will take place over three days, with the final day set for the certification test. Endurance



testing and the final handover of each excavator will commence once practical training has been completed.

The ten pieces of equipment were acquired by complying to the highest governance and ethical standards and structures at TPT and at Transnet SOC to ensure transparency and fairness.

Located in northern Kwa Zulu Natal, the Port of Richards Bay includes thirteen (13) berths operated by Transnet Port Terminals (TPT). The TPT Richards Bay Terminal handles dry bulk ores, minerals and break-bulk consignments. The terminal's cargo mix includes thirty (30) commodities, including magnetite, ferrochrome, woodchips, aluminium, steel, sulphur, coking coal and alumina. The terminal currently handles approximately twenty one (21) million tonnes of cargo annually.

The terminals' bulk material handling infrastructure and equipment includes tippers, forty (40) kilometers of conveyor belts, stackers, hoppers, and quayside ship loaders and unloaders. Additional mobile equipment includes haulers, trailers and forklifts. The terminal is accessible via rail and road.

The terminal comprises three different operating area, namely:

- Dry Bulk Terminal (DBT): including the western and eastern open stockpile areas;
- Multi-purpose Terminal (MPT): including 6 and 7 series, triangular area and neo-bulk; and
- Port Rail Terminal (PRT).

The majority of the bulk commodities are transported into the terminal via the rail network. Thereafter they are offloaded, stockpiled and finally exported utilising the terminals materials handling infrastructure (fixed and mobile).

ENDS

**Notes to editor:**

Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) is South Africa's leading terminal operator responsible for loading and offloading cargo aboard vessels calling the seven South African ports. Boasting a staff compliment of over 9000 across 16 cargo terminals, TPT's operations target four major market sectors namely: automotive, containers, bulk and break bulk. Nozipho Sithole is the Chief Executive responsible for realising the new Transnet 4.0 strategy which is aimed at repositioning the business as a facilitator of trade and among the world's top five in the next five years. Current plans are focused on geographic expansion, service innovation and diversification aided by competitive approaches hinted by the fourth industrial revolution.

For information, visit www.transnetportterminals.net

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