

DURBAN CAR TERMINAL HITS A HIGH GEAR TO ACHIEVE A NEW MILESTONE

[Durban – 15 May 2019] The Durban Car Terminal broke a South African (SA) record, handling over half a million fully built units (FBU) in the 2018/19 financial year. According to Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) General Manager for Bulk, Break Bulk and Car Operations Amanda Siyengo, “a combination of a shift in the operating model, improved planning, dedicated operational teams and collaboration with customers and shipping lines have seen the terminal exceed its annual average of 480 000 FBU”. This has resulted in the terminal handling 510 936 FBU which comprises of passenger, commercial, static mafi cargo and high and heavy vehicles.

The terminal had undergone an operating model change which entailed taking over the outsourced driving service function so that it was handled internally. Siyengo added that this achievement had not been an easy task, commending terminal management on and improving efficiencies such as units handled per hour with and ship working hours

“Facilitating seamless logistics planning and operational execution for original equipment manufacturers plus collaboration with shipping lines, is very critical in eliminating bottlenecks and ensuring that automotive exports and imports are handled efficiently for the South African economy,” said Siyengo.

The Durban Car Terminal is also focusing on creating more storage capacity to meet the industry demand, driving a high performance culture and being innovative in solutions it provides. Introducing the automated service instruction entry (SIE) to over 100 customers, supply chain partners and various other stakeholders is an initiative that is work in progress however, improves the SARS clearance process from 72 to 24 hours.

There have also been significant investments in the SA automotive sector that supported higher production capacity which led to better than expected export volumes countrywide. The Department of Trade and Industry's Automotive Production and Development Plan incentivizing the industry for increasing local content from 38% to 60% ex-factory price, has also played a significant role in increased numbers after its introduction in 2013. SA's motor industry currently builds about 600 000 vehicles per annum, which is 0.7% of the global consumption. The SA government would like to see this grow to about 1% in 2035 when the SA Automotive Masterplan expires.

SA, through TPT's Durban Car Terminal is the single largest car terminal in Africa. They have previously created a web-based, general cargo operating system called GCOS which enhances security of break bulk cargo and automotive, offering simple user interface and greater data integrity compared to the old manual method. GCOS is a commercial product that some of the West African terminals are already utilizing and one of these is the Port of Cotonou in Benin.

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 sea terminals and 3 inland 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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