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Transnet and Mercedes-Benz South Africa's partnership achieves record exports at East London Port

According to data from the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of South Africa (NAAMSA), South Africa saw a record breaking 56% leap in vehicles which were exported in December 2018 compared to the same month prior year. This represents 31, 437 vehicles that left SA as compared to 20 107 vehicles exported in December 2017. The Business Insider revealed that Mercedes-Benz South Africa (MBSA) had the most in demand as 9 276 units were exported (suppliers aggregated data only).

This remarkable milestone not only bodes well for the economy of the region and the country but also for the partnership between MBSA, Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) and Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA).

It is pleasing to see this type of successful collaboration between manufacturers, shipping lines and port terminals in achieving increased volumes with quick turnaround times as this will contribute to a much needed injection into the economy.

"We are thrilled in being a key enabler of the automotive sector, an industry that makes up about 7% of South Africa's gross domestic product (GDP) and accounts for almost 12% of the country's manufacturing exports. By being custodians of exporting such goods, we contribute immensely in the sustenance of jobs and in turning the tide against the current economic slump," Wandisa Vazi, Acting Executive Manager: Containers & Automotive Cape Channel at TPT.



She added that TPT values its close working relationships with key stakeholders such as MBSA they are crucial across the various sectors and contribute to the growth of the nation's economy. This achievement helps to not only instill further confidence in TPT's clients but it illustrates our ability to take on increased volumes through operational efficiencies and it also speaks volumes about South Africa's ability to deliver on an international platform.

"We are delighted to be part of this success story where the Eastern Cape's automotive volumes moved indicate that our region is leading the pack within this fiercely competitive industry", Sharon Sijako, Port Manager East London. Sijako added that this success story is also reflective of the strong value chain partnerships that MBSA and Transnet have developed and nurtured over the past few years.

"As a proud partner and link in this value chain, TNPA has seen first-hand the benefits of working closely with our customers and stakeholders, to the benefit of the entire regional economy. Together, MBSA and Transnet are engineering the fastest, most cost effective and mutually beneficial model to take products to market – wherever those markets are."

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