



TPT DRASTICALLY REDUCES WAITING TIME FOR TRUCKS WITH NEW SYSTEM

[Monday, 27 July 2020] Transnet Port Terminals is determined to reduce their waiting time for trucks accessing its container terminals nationally with the automated Truck Booking System which will be going online as from Monday, 27 July 2020 at Durban Container Terminal, Pier 1. The system has already been implemented in Durban Container Terminal Pier 2 which can receive approximately 3000 trucks a day.

“Congestion has been a feature of roads around our ports for a long time now, which necessitated a system that will help reduce congestion and improve efficiency,” says Lulamile Mtetweni, Terminal Manager, Durban Container Terminal: Pier 1. In conjunction with other stakeholders like the Ethekwini Municipality, Transnet is tackling the congestion. The truck booking system is one of the projects being rolled out as part the collaborative decongestion project.

The system was pronounced mandatory at the start of the National Lockdown. Pier 1, , which can receive about 1000 trucks a day, started with a manual booking system and has successfully upgraded to an automated system. The system is yet to be rolled out to Durban Roro Terminal, the Cape Town Container Terminal, and the Port Elizabeth Container Terminal before the end of this year.

The introduction of the system to Pier 1 is particularly critical as it will improve the terminal’s staging time as well as truck turnaround time. In the 2019 financial year, Pier 1 handled 287,058 trucks and a total of 687 306 TEU’s.

While the Truck Booking system has been in existence and optional, it will now be mandatory. “No truck will come to the Terminal without an appointment”. The system is internet based and allows a user, typically a truck owner, to log on and book a slot of when they are to collect or drop off a container.

Mr Mtetweni says the system then allows TPT to utilise the full 24 hour cycle to allow for the smooth movement of trucks in and out of terminals. The system allows for a change of time slot should a truck encounter an unforeseen delay. It’s the 1st time this system is rolled out in an RTG operated terminal with the intention to roll out to other RTG terminals.

The system was developed by Navis, a worldwide acclaimed Port Operating System. The system will also be expanded for use by other divisions of Transnet, such as Transnet Freight Rail.

The Truck Booking System contributes to TPT’s overall bid to be recognised as one of the leading port operators globally.

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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 complement 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. Current plans are focused on geographic expansion, service innovation and diversification aided by competitive approaches hinted by the fourth industrial revolution.

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