

## **TURNAROUND IN MOTION AT THE RICHARDS BAY BULK TERMINAL**

**[Richards Bay – Friday, 14 January 2022]** The loading rate of vessel MV Braverus at 1 205 tons per hour which completed today at 01H10 carrying 167 341 tons of magnetite after its 171hrs stay – is one of the early indicators of recovery at the Richards Bay Bulk Terminal. This excellent performance comes just a few days after the terminal management team conducted thorough introspection resulting in various internal and external initiatives.

The combination now sees the terminal run a focused operation on every vessel, treating each call as a transaction. According to Terminal Manager Matumule Phasha, “Our partnership with one of our customers South 32 has seen us combine existing resources to repair the ship unloader which is unprecedented. This has resulted in improved loading rates, heightened employee morale and the need to offer our customers more value”. He added that ongoing customer engagements had also resulted in initiatives that are currently contributing to operational improvements. “We have increased the number of gangs (operational teams per shift) from nine to 13 by identifying drivers who had been promoted to administrative positions internally. This way we move more volumes in less the time. We are also refurbishing more skips internally making use of our Durban technical resources to save us the time of processes associated with going to market,” said Pasha.

The break out of a fire in October last year saw the terminal run a skip operation to move some cargo to vessels instead of the two conveyor belt routes which were damaged in the fire. While there remains some challenges, the collaboration with customers as well as feedback received has set the terminal’s turnaround plan in motion.

The Richards Bay Bulk Terminal has also concluded plans to employ technology as a way of better monitoring its fleet of operational equipment, diesel use and the movement of commodities in the terminal environment. “The technology will enhance productivity,” said pasha.

The terminal is located in one of South Africa’s major bulk ports and handles over 20 varying commodities ranging from magnetite, chrome and coal to sulphur, alumina and vermiculite.

## **ENDS**

The Richards Bay Bulk Terminal forms part of a network of 19 Transnet Port Terminals (TPT). 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-cargo 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. For information, visit [www.transnetportterminals.net](http://www.transnetportterminals.net)

### **Issued on behalf of Transnet Port Terminals by:**

Mbali Mathenjwa

[Mbali.Mathenjwa@transnet.net](mailto:Mbali.Mathenjwa@transnet.net)

083 279 2651