UPDATE ON DERAILMENT INCIDENT ON THE NORTH CORRIDOR – 97 DERAILED WAGONS CLEARED

[ Johannesburg, 14 November 2022] Despite the heavy rain over the weekend and the very complex recovery processes, the joint Transnet Freight Rail (TFR) and industry teams had cleared all 97 derailed wagons from the derailment site on its North Corridor by 08:15 on Monday, 14 November 2022. This is almost 24 hours sooner than was initially anticipated when the recovery and clean-up work resumed in earnest on Friday evening.

This major feat was only possible because of the collaborative efforts of a broad range of stakeholders including Transnet’s customers and supply chain partners that provided the specialised heavy duty equipment. The Department of Transport, our shareholder minister – the Department of Public Enterprises, as well as the Provinces of Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng granted emergency approvals for the transportation of the abnormal equipment. In additional, various policing department including the Traffic Department, Flying Squad and South African Police Services, supported the transportation of the heavy-duty equipment.

TFR’s North Corridor includes the heavy haul coal, chrome, and other commodities to Richards Bay in KwaZulu Natal. This recovery and clean-up operation follows a train derailment in Nhlazatshe, near Ulundi on 8 November.

TFR will be able to determine the extent of the damage and when normal train operations can commence once the derailment site has been completely cleared of the spilled coal and debris.

The force majeure remains in place as the rail line is still closed.

TFR will continue to provide updates on the progress of the operation.

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Issued on behalf of Transnet Freight Rail