MEDIA STATEMENT

TNPA COMPLETES R434 MILLION INVESTMENT TO REDUCE SHIPPING DELAYS AND IMPROVE PORT EFFICIENCY

[Gqeberha, 24 November 2026] – Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has completed a R434 million investment in 52 hydraulic tension mooring units across five of South Africa's commercial seaports, marking a significant milestone in improving operational efficiency, enhancing vessel safety and reducing weather-related disruptions.

Hydraulic tension mooring units stabilise vessels alongside berths during adverse weather conditions, limiting excessive movement and enabling cargo operations to continue safely and efficiently.

The technology is already delivering benefits to shipping lines through improved vessel stability, enhanced safety and reduced operational interruptions. With the commissioning of the final eight units, TNPA has successfully concluded the phased rollout of the system across its port network.

The 52 units have been deployed across five ports, with 16 allocated to the Port of Ngqura, 14 to the Port of Cape Town, 12 to the Port of Durban, six to the Port of Port Elizabeth and four to the Port of Saldanha. The allocation reflects operational requirements, with the Port of Ngqura receiving the largest share due to its accommodation of larger container vessels and exposure to crosswinds and berth surge conditions.

Shipping and cargo-handling operations at these ports are frequently affected by wind speeds exceeding 35 knots. The hydraulic tension mooring units enable vessels to remain safely berthed during adverse weather, reducing precautionary vessel movements and minimising the associated costs and delays for shipping lines and terminal operators.

Ryan Woods, Terminal Planning Manager at Maersk South Africa, welcomed the technology's impact:

"Our experience with the shore tensioners has been very positive. A key operational benefit has been the improved stability of vessels, providing considerable value by maintaining a safer and more stable interface between ship and shore during cargo operations. From our experience to date, the shore tensioners have been a valuable addition to berthing operations."

TNPA Chief Executive Mohammed Abdool said:

"The successful rollout of hydraulic tension mooring units demonstrates TNPA's commitment to investing in infrastructure that delivers tangible operational improvements for customers. By reducing weather-related disruptions and enabling vessels to remain safely alongside berths during adverse conditions, this investment enhances the reliability, efficiency and competitiveness of South Africa's ports while supporting the seamless flow of cargo through the national logistics network."

The project has also delivered lasting organisational benefits through a skills-transfer programme implemented by ShoreTension B.V., equipping TNPA Marine Shorehands with the expertise required to operate and maintain the technology. This ensures critical technical knowledge is retained within TNPA, strengthens internal operational capability and supports the development of a skilled maritime workforce.

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About Transnet National Ports Authority

Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) is responsible for the safe, effective, and efficient economic functioning of the national port system, which it manages in a landlord capacity. It provides port infrastructure and marine services at the eight commercial seaports in South Africa – Richards Bay, Durban, Saldanha, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, East London, Mossel Bay, and Ngqura. It operates within a legislative and regulatory environment and is governed by the National Ports Act (Act No. 12 of 2005). For more information visit: https://www.transnet.net/TNPA

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