



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **TRANSNET CONCERNED ABOUT UNTU'S STATEMENT ON CRITICAL EQUIPMENT**

**[Johannesburg, 26 November 2024]** Transnet SOC Ltd (Transnet) has noted with concern the United National Transport Union's (UNTU's) statement issued on 15 November 2024 on social media regarding critical equipment that Transnet procured to enhance the efficiency and capacity of its Cape Town Container Terminal operations.

Once more, the UNTU statement, like the others issued before, contains inaccuracies that we hereby wish to correct. It needs to be placed on record that Transnet management has formally addressed this concerning trend of issuing media statements that contain inaccuracies, slanderous allegations, and reckless accusations at a whim. Transnet has a myriad of formal consultation structures where matters of mutual concern and strategic intent are shared with organised labour on a regular basis. In addition to that, management is committed to open communication and is readily available to discuss and clarify any matters of concern. Furthermore, most of the information in UNTU's statement is publicly available in the Transnet Annual integrated reports and other discoverable sources. Transnet intends to formally raise the matter of continued misstatements with the union.

In its statement UNTU falsely claimed that Transnet purchased unsuitable second-hand cranes, with no spare parts of which only five were in working order, which were too small for the Cape Town Container Terminal operations and endangered the lives of employees and truck drivers. The statement also called on the Minister of Transport, Honourable Barbara Creecy to hold Transnet accountable, for what it described as self-inflicted challenges and costly errors.

In December 2023, the Cape Town Container Terminal (CTCT) received a delivery of seven (7) pre-used Rubber-Tyred Gantry cranes (RTGs). The procurement of these RTGs supports Transnet's Recovery Plan by addressing operational efficiency through improved equipment availability, reliability and efficiency of container handling at the terminal, which is crucial for Transnet's long-term success. By investing in modern equipment, Transnet has demonstrated its commitment to improving its operations and enhancing competitiveness.

The acquisition of the gantries was instrumental in improving efficiencies at the Cape Town Container Terminal, by increasing its capacity to handle more containers, reduce congestion and improving the overall flow of goods. As a result of the increased efficiency in container handling, the terminal has seen an improvement in vessel turnaround times and enhanced service delivery to customers.

Thanks to the tactical interventions implemented by Transnet to address a range of challenges, there is a noted improvement in the vessels' turnaround at the Port of Cape Town. This has seen significant reductions from 300 hours to as low as 45 hours in turnaround times. The port is working hard in ensuring that vessels berth on arrival. Apart from those unavoidable delays due to inclement weather, vessels waiting at outer anchorage are kept at minimal and within the target of 2 vessels.

Transnet's immediate priority is to ensure equipment availability and reliability during this deciduous season, with the customer at the centre of our actions and decisions. This year, we will go into the season with over 70 pieces of additional equipment, such as new haulers, reach stackers, and container empty handlers. This investment is aimed at improving efficiencies as South Africa exports its grapes, peaches, apricots, and plums to the global markets.

At the forefront of these initiatives, aimed at improving performance and sustainability across Transnet, is a stable, competent, and experienced executive leadership team, supported by employees at all levels, all of whom are committed to the success and sustainability of the organisation. The organisation's leadership team has consistently demonstrated the ability to drive the strategic direction of the business and help it implement its key objectives.

**ENDS**

**For media enquiries please contact:**  
[mediadesk@transnet.net](mailto:mediadesk@transnet.net)