



13<sup>th</sup> April 2022



## **UPDATE BY THE MINISTER OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES ON TRANSNET OPERATIONS IN KWAZULU-NATAL FOLLOWING DISRUPTIVE WEATHER**

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Dear Colleagues,

The Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) is working with Transnet and stakeholders, including the KwaZulu-Natal provincial government, eThekweni municipality and Eskom to stabilise operations at the Port of Durban.

Transnet SOC Ltd. (Transnet) has gradually resumed operations at the Port of Durban as at 06h00 this morning, with ongoing risk assessments being undertaken to ensure the safety of employees and infrastructure. This follows heavy rains and flooding in and around the port precinct in the last few days, which resulted in port operations being suspended as a precautionary measure.

Priority interventions, in collaboration with the eThekweni Municipality and Transport Authority, include repairing Bayhead Road - which is the main access road to the container terminals at the port and Island View - and investigating alternative access roads into the port while Bayhead Road is being repaired. There was a washaway of a section of Bayhead Road at the outfall of the Umhlathuzana canal into the harbour. Cargo which will be prioritised for evacuation from the port today includes food, medical supplies and petroleum products.

Shipping - which was suspended as a result of extensive debris caused by the adverse weather - is expected to resume once safety has been established for marine craft and vessel navigation.

Transnet National Ports Authority, using its helicopters, managed to rescue 80 people trapped in various flooded areas around the city yesterday.

There has been no damage to the pipelines infrastructure, and Transnet Pipelines will continue to supply fuel that is already in the system into the inland market.

Eskom is assisting the municipality to repair damaged infrastructure, and electricity was restored overnight to the Island View precinct. Safety checks are being conducted before operations by customers can resume, as some customers' facilities were damaged by the flooding. Eskom will not be implementing loadshedding in the eThekweni Municipality.

Transnet Freight Rail is carrying out ongoing assessments on the rail network in Durban and surrounds to determine the extent of damage before any train services into and out of the port can resume. The North Coast, South Coast and mainline from Durban to Pietermaritzburg remain closed.

In Richards Bay, operations are not suspended but the terminals are operating less efficiently, with challenges experienced in handling wet cargo.

Transnet continues to work with all stakeholders to ensure business continuity.

The Minister of Public Enterprises remains in close contact with Transnet management and the Board, receiving timely updates on the status of operations, and providing the necessary support to ensure full operations can resume as soon as it has been declared safe to do so.