**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**SELECT COMMITTEE WELCOMES DURBAN AND NGQURA PORT TERMINALS’ CAPACITY EXPANSION PROGRAMME**

**Parliament, Thursday, 16 June 2022 –** The Select Committee on Public Enterprises and Communication has welcomed the expansion plans at Durban’s port terminal and Gqeberha’s Ngqura port.

Transnet’s Chief Executive, Ms Portia Derby, led a delegation that appeared before the committee yesterday to brief it on the capacity expansion programme to increase exports/imports at both ports.

Briefing the committee Transnet National Ports Authority Chief Executive Mr Pepi Silinga said it is an organisational priority to development Durban’s port into a modern deep-water facility. Bringing this task to a conclusion requires multi-phased investments, the first being the conclusion of a partnership to drive a turnaround strategy for Durban Container Terminal Pier 2. Mr Silinga said the partner is expected to support the required investments to modernise the terminal.

Part of Transet’s hub port strategy includes further development of the Ngqura port into an efficient, trans-shipment-focused container terminal, Mr Silinga continued. The port has modern infrastructure and equipment, and is capable of handling large container vessels. Due to operational challenges and lack of competition, the Ngqura container terminal is currently not making effective use of its capacity.

In welcoming the presentation, the committee Chairperson, Hon Zolani Mkiva, said: “The projects Transnet is currently working on are significant and meaningful in job creation and employment opportunities. Investing in infrastructure is the creation of more employment opportunities.”

The committee applauded an announcement about East London’s port future plans. The committee is of the view that East London port has enormous potential and can provide much-needed economic activity, although little work is planned for the immediate future.

Hon Mkiva said for a long time there has been a suggestion that the sector is dominated by particular companies, requiring an indication of how the sector is being opened and made more accessible to the majority of South Africans. Furthermore, the committee wants to understand if the sector is making progress towards transformation, to ensure that the majority of South Africans from historically marginalised communities have access in the sector.

Regarding the impact of the floods in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Silinga told the committee that the resulting damage is huge and repairs amount to billions of rands.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES ON BEHALF OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND COMMUNICATION, HON ZOLANI MKIVA.**

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