

MEDIA ALERT

DATE: 20 September 2011
TO: All Media
ATTENTION: News Editors / Transport Reporters

MINISTER NDEBELE LAUNCHES TRANSPORT MONTH 2011 AT UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND, RICHARDS BAY CAMPUS

October is Transport Month. This year, the theme is, **“Year of Job Creation and Service Delivery in the Transport Sector: Moving South Africa to a Better Tomorrow”**.

Transport Minister Sibusiso Ndebele will deliver the keynote address at the launch of the 2011 October Transport Month (OTM) Campaign on Thursday, 22 September 2011, at the University of Zululand, Richards Bay Campus in KwaZulu-Natal.

Minister Ndebele will officially launch and unveil the Maritime Skills Study, conducted by Deloitte, and highlight the critical role played by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) and South Africa as a maritime nation. The Minister will also highlight employment and job creation opportunities in the maritime sector, including in Ports and Shipping, Marine Resources, Marine Tourism and Leisure, Maritime Manufacturing and Construction and Commercial Support and Business Services, in line with the theme for OTM 2011. The maritime sector has the potential to be the new growth curve of the South African economy

The Minister will be joined by KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Transport, Community Safety & Liaison Mr. Willies Mchunu, Transport MECs from various provinces, Transport Director-General Mr. George Mahlalela, South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) CEO Commander Tsietsi Mokhele, other senior Transport officials as well as other members of the transport family country-wide.

Details of the event are as follows:

Date: Thursday, 22 September 2011
Venue: University of Zululand, Richards Bay Campus
Time: 08h30

The Minister and South Africa will officially also celebrate International Maritime Day on 22 September in line with the International Maritime Organisation.

All media are invited to attend. Journalists attending must confirm attendance by no later than 14h00 tomorrow (Wednesday, 23 September 2011), with Sello Tshipi on 073 498 6722 / TshipiA@dot.gov.za OR Sam Monareng on 083 326 1521 /Monarens@dot.gov.za

NB: Transport will be available for journalists attending the event from Durban. Please contact Sam Monareng or Sello Tshipi regarding departure time and place.

Ends-

Enquiries: Logan Maistry 083 6444 050

ISSUED BY: MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT
www.transport.gov.za

FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

South Africa has about 3000 km of the coastline. Along the coastline route the country has good port infrastructure and facilities and this makes South Africa to qualify as a littoral state.

As a littoral state South Africa is party to various international maritime instruments regulating security, environment and safety of oceans. The maritime industry depends on oceans, navigable rivers and ports and other industries like fishing, diamond mining, petroleum exploration, ship building, boat building, and ship repair. The above stated industries have a responsibility of ensuring that South Africa's maritime environment is protected.

The Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO) was established in 1958, with the objective of adopting legislation on issues relating to maritime safety and pollution prevention on a worldwide basis. It also has a responsibility of acting as a custodian for a number of international conventions. In 1982 the IMCO changed its name to the IMO (International Maritime Organization). The IMO has 164 member states including the Republic of South Africa.

Its objective is to develop a comprehensive body of conventions, codes and recommendations that could be implemented by member states. It has been instrumental in a number of conventions like the convention on the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), MARPOL, STCW (Standards for Training Certification and Watch keeping). The Governing body of IMO meets every two years. In between the Assembly sessions, is a council that acts as the governing body, elected by the Assembly and consisting of 32 countries South Africa is among these countries.

The mandate of the IMO is to ensure that internationally, there is safe shipping and cleaner oceans. The IMO has adopted international rules and standards that have to be implemented by all member states. As a member state of the IMO South Africa celebrates World Maritime Day. World Maritime Day is celebrated by the IMO on the Thursday of the last week of September each year.

During that week member states become involved in activities of promoting shipping safety, maritime security, maritime environment, and technical cooperation and all the work of the IMO.

Member states are given an option to celebrate the world maritime day in their countries, at any date, but that date to be in the last week of September, each year. How they celebrate the day, depends on the individual country. All member states focus their activities of the day on the theme that has been identified by the International Maritime Organization.

LINKS WITH GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES

The objectives of government, as set out in 2004 when the ASGISA (Accelerated and Shared Growth initiative in South Africa) was introduced, are:

- To reduce unemployment and poverty by 50% in 2014 by identifying growth opportunities in the country. The government consulted widely with provinces, departments, stakeholders and experts domestically and internationally. A list of constraints was identified and strategies to mitigate the identified constraints were adopted as initiatives.

In both the private and public sector the greatest impediment in South Africa is the shortage of skills, in fields such as the engineering, maritime, finances, the sciences, project management, economics, artisans, ship builders and ship repairers, maritime Information technologists, etc. What the Department of Transport is doing is also in line with JIPSA (Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition). The task of JIPSA is to identify scarce and critical skills and make urgent interventions.

- To implement the BEE (Black Economic Empowerment) Charter that envisages South Africa that is amongst the top 35 maritime nations of the World. For the country to be able to achieve these aspirations, programmes for creating and instilling maritime awareness must be developed. The Department carries the task of driving maritime awareness programmes and promoting the maritime industry around the country.
- Undertake to implement an action plan adopted by the Conference of African Ministers responsible for maritime transport held in Abuja, Nigeria on the 9-23 February 2007.

Objective 2.1 of the action plan relates to the development of Africa's training capacities in the area of maritime and port administration. Actions identified to achieve this objective include, increasing the number of African seafarers, education and training of the African personnel in the field of maritime transport, audit of the existing regional training centers for technical and training maritime science.

The tenth National Maritime conference held at the Sandton Convention Center, on the 17-19 April 2007, resolved that the Department of Transport must aggressively develop programmes to create awareness of the maritime industry for previously disadvantaged communities as a specific target audience. The World Maritime Day is seen as an opportunity to bring key maritime industry players, the historically disadvantaged communities and those living in areas far away from the sea together, in order to highlight prospects within the exciting field of transport. Careers and other opportunities must be highlighted during these events.

OBJECTIVES

The fundamental objective of this day is to:

- Create awareness to previously disadvantaged communities on career and business opportunities that exist in the maritime industry;
- Government departments to showcase their efforts in responding to marine casualties, oil spill prevention and combating;
- Afford learners an opportunity to work internationally since maritime is a global industry;
- Create marine environmental awareness among communities, awareness regarding coastal environmental challenges facing the Republic as a coastal state and to showcase strategies of addressing those challenges; and
- To protect the marine resources in order to improve economic growth in South Africa e.g. Protection of the fishing industry.

SOME KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The Department of Transport in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South African Maritime Safety Authority, the National Port Authority and South African Police Services regularly demonstrate through simulation their efforts of marine environmental management (Ballast Water Management System, Oil Pollution Control and Protection of Marine Resources).

Students are also taken through various exhibitions during which they are advised on career and business opportunities in the respective fields.

NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY (NPA)

NPA is one of the divisions of Transnet and is responsible for the management of the National Port System. Its main functions are to manage, control, and administer ports in order to ensure that they are efficient and effective and economically functioning. In achieving this broad function the Authority must plan, provide, maintain and improve port infrastructure.

The NPA is responsible for drafting port development policy and land use within ports. It is also responsible for the conservation and protection of the maritime environment.

SOUTH AFRICAN PORTS OPERATIONS (SAPO)

SAPO is a division of Transnet and is responsible for managing of cargo handling terminals in South Africa. South African Ports Operations operate 13 terminals in South Africa. These terminals are organized as follows, Richards Bay has a multi-purpose terminal and the dry bulk terminal; Durban has car, container, multi-purpose, and Maydon Wharf multi-purpose terminals. East London, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town have each 2 terminals, the car, container and multi-purpose terminal. Saldanah Bay has 2 terminals the iron-ore and the multipurpose. Each terminal is strategically located to ensure that all ports in South Africa are globally competitive. They also have a responsibility to preserve the environment.

4.3. SOUTH AFRICAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY (SAMSA)

SAMSA has to fulfill the following objectives:

- To ensure safety of life and property at sea;
- To prevent and combat pollution of the marine environment by ships; and
- To promote the Republic's maritime interests.

SAMSA's task is to advise the Minister of Transport on maritime matters affecting South Africa. SAMSA investigates accidents and manages and maintains Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Centers or organizations. It is the task of SAMSA to inspect seaworthiness of ship and hazardous cargoes. SAMSA manages the Ship Register and they do the registration of vessels. It makes recommendations regarding domestic Maritime policy and legislation.

They issue certification of South African vessels and collect and manage statistics on shipping. They set examinations, conduct moderation and promote maritime training in South Africa and issue certificates, Standards for Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW).

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