

### **Transnet Port Terminals Cultivates Engineering Capacity In Sa**

Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) today launched a flagship enterprise development initiative "Singakwenza Kwenzeke" (We can make it happen ), a two – year capacity building programme which focuses on increased participation in the engineering sector by businesses owned by black women.

The owners of 20 small, medium and micro enterprises (SMME) across South Africa will be up-skilled to enhance their efficacy to compete in the bidding process for business opportunities. The first year will see the SMMEs trained on meeting standard requirements that companies look for in qualifying stages, namely adherence to regulations, labour laws, safety and environmental requirements. This includes meeting the requirements of statutory bodies as well as having the systems and equipment to run the business efficiently – where marketing and financial management will be emphasised. The second year will focus on improving the ability to manage projects and growing business.

TPT General Manager: Procurement, Ntombeziningi Shezi said "Transnet Port Terminals (TPT) wants to contribute towards the nation-wide efforts to address the shortage of skills in black women owned engineering firms and to boost the number of women companies within TPT's supply chain. It is an extremely ambitious goal, but with dedicated purpose it is not one that is outside of our reach. TPT has a history of promoting female leadership, diversity and inclusion, and we are confident that with this partnership, we can make great strides forward".

These SMMEs would then be empowered to operate in disciplines previously not associated with women-owned businesses such as repairs & maintenance, plumbing repairs, equipment rental and supply. With operations in the KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape and Western Cape regions, TPT has targeted SMMEs in these regions making for a varied database when opportunities do arise within the company.

The owners of the 20 SMMEs will be mentored throughout the two years, receiving monthly visits and where required, incubator facilities will be made available. Shezi said "The programme will ensure that these 20 SMMEs do not fall into the trap of failing when business grows, as the staff members they employ are of utmost importance and will serve the country better when they grow".

#### **About Transnet Port Terminals**

Transnet Port Terminals is South Africa's leading port terminal operator managing 16 cargo terminals across seven South African ports. We currently manage handling operations for the container, bulk, break-bulk and automotive sectors. Plans are underway for Transnet Port Terminals to further diversify into other commodity handling, such as gas and liquid bulk. The company has a staff complement of over 6000.

For information, visit [www.transnetportterminals.net](http://www.transnetportterminals.net)

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