



9 May 2019

Dear Valued Stakeholder

Sewage Leak into Durban Harbour

On behalf of Transnet National Ports Authority at the Port of Durban, I wish to inform you of a severe sewage discharge within the Port of Durban, stemming from the failure of the pumps at the eThekweni Municipality's Mahatma Gandhi Pump Station.

Given the potential threat of infection to diving personnel, we have taken the decision to suspend all diving operations within the Port of Durban and to prohibit all angling activity until further notice.

The municipality has taken the pumps out of commission and is currently awaiting the arrival of spare parts from overseas in order for repairs to be effected.

TNPA's environmental department is engaging with the municipality and is appealing to port users for their cooperation as the City acts to repair the pumps.

In particular the suspension of diving will have an impact on companies using the repair quays within the port's ship repair precinct.

Meanwhile, TNPA's environmental department and pollution control teams are working hard to clear the port's water surface, which was already negatively affected by the large volume of plastic waste and vegetation which made its way into the port after the recent heavy rains and flooding in the region. The port is unfortunately on the receiving end of the large volume of litter, effluent and sewage that is discharged via the storm-water reticulation system from a catchment area of over 200km² in size.

We apologise to port users for the inconvenience but remain committed to the safety and protection of human and marine life within the port.

Yours sincerely

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