



**Remarks by Minister Barbara Creecy at her visit to the Cape Town
Container Terminal
30 October 2025**

Good morning to the dedicated teams, management, and stakeholders here at the Cape Town Container Terminal. My visit today is not simply for oversight, but to witness firsthand the remarkable progress made to improve efficiency and reliability at our ports.

For too long, the efficiency of our ports and rail network has been the primary constraint on economic growth. Our response—supported by significant guarantees—is a strategic, multi-billion-rand investment designed to restore Transnet's core capability. This funding is being channelled directly into asset renewal and operational resilience. Right here at CTCT, this commitment is visible in the recent commissioning of nine new Rubber-Tyred Gantry (RTG) cranes, which is part of a significant capital investment in the terminal and a renewed focus on heavy maintenance, which ensures we move from constant breakdowns to predictable reliability.

And the results of this focused investment, coupled with operational improvements like the addition of a fourth shift for 24-hour functionality have laid a firm foundation for the improved performance we are witnessing at Transnet Port Terminals (TPT). When we compare performance to this time last year, the improvements are nothing short of phenomenal.

For instance, we have seen an increase in Ship Working Hour (SWH) productivity at this terminal. This critical gain directly translates into faster vessel turnaround times, slashing costs for exporters, making the port more competitive and strengthening our global trading position

Crucially, for the Western Cape's vital agricultural sector, the throughput of refrigerated containers has also increased in recent months. This hard-won performance translates directly into a state of vastly improved readiness for the critical deciduous fruit season which gets underway from November.

The deployment of the new RTG cranes, combined with rigorous maintenance planning, means we are better equipped than ever to support the Western Cape's farmers. We are prepared to ensure that high-value, temperature-sensitive products reach global markets swiftly and reliably. This renewed efficiency safeguards thousands of jobs, boosts the revenue of our regional export economy, and proves that our partnerships and investment deliver tangible results. We are seeing a new era of performance excellence, and we will continue to support this momentum.

While these achievements are significant, we know that to reach global best-practice levels, we must secure these gains through structural reform and collaboration. I would therefore be remiss if I did not give you an update on the progress we are making on PSPs.

Leveraging the private sector's capital, expertise, and operational efficiencies is integral to the government's strategy for revitalising the freight logistics system. The PSP Framework, approved by Cabinet in 2023, provides the necessary guide for this engagement.

To guide private sector investment in our five priority rail and port corridors, a Request for Information (RFI) process for private sector partnerships in the logistics sector, including our ports, was launched and successfully completed in May 2025. This process has gauged market appetite and gathered crucial information to inform the subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP) stage which we anticipate will run from December this year and into the first half of 2026

I want to be clear on the principles guiding this process:

- **State Ownership Remains:** The strategic infrastructure of our ports and rail network will remain in public ownership, safeguarding these assets for future generations.
- **Focus on Efficiency and Investment:** PSPs are about injecting world-class operational capabilities and sourcing the necessary capital to unlock profitable and efficient supply chains.

The Western Cape Government is hosting their inaugural Western Cape Investment Summit in Cape Town next week, and it is a fact that Transnet's investment into the Western Cape, directly contributes to the growing success of this province as a key gateway to Africa.

When investors evaluate a new location, they are performing a high-stakes risk assessment. They want to know how quickly, safely, affordably, and reliably they can move inputs, goods, and people. In this assessment, a well-maintained, integrated road network acts as a powerful magnet, signalling efficiency and low risk.

The empirical evidence is clear: superior road networks directly translate into lower production costs and expanded market reach. Our agribusiness sector, for instance, relies on seamless cold-chain logistics to get high-value, export-driven produce from farm to port on time. And at our ports, the evidence is right here. Transnet has and continues to raise the bar in response to the demands of the logistics sector.

Ladies and gentlemen, as we conclude Transport Month, we are transforming a narrative of decay and decline into a story of recovery and resilience. The new equipment and the tangible performance improvements are a vote of confidence in the future of the Port of Cape Town. Our commitment to PSPs will institutionalise efficiency and position this port to make its full potential contribution to the national economy.

I look forward to a productive and collaborative journey with all of you, our partners in government, labour, and the private sector, as we continue the vital work of ensuring our logistics backbone empowers South Africa's growth.

Transnet's recovery is not an event. It is a journey, and we invite you all aboard.

Thank you.