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DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 7357

10 April 2026

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 2008 (ACT NO. 24 OF 2008)**APPLICATION FOR PRE-APPROVAL FOR RECLAMATION IN TERMS OF SECTION 7B (1) OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 2008 (ACT NO. 24 OF 2008) AND REGULATIONS 2 AND 3 OF THE RECLAMATION OF LAND FROM COASTAL WATERS REGULATIONS, 2018:
PROPOSED RECLAMATION BY TRANSNET NATIONAL PORTS AUTHORITY – PORT OF DURBAN**

I, Willem Abraham Stephanus Aucamp, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby invite the public to comment on the pre-approval application for the reclamation of land from coastal waters in terms of section 7B(3)(c) of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008), (ICM Act) and regulations 2 and 3 of the Reclamation of Land from Coastal Waters Regulations, 2018 (GN R206 of 9 March 2018).

Reclamation of land from the sea involves the creation of new land in the sea. The ICM Act defines it as *“the process of artificially creating new land within coastal waters, and includes the creation of an island or peninsula, but excludes beach replenishment by sand pumping for maintenance purposes”*. The Act requires that, as the responsible Minister, I undertake a public consultation process to obtain the public’s comments on the proposed reclamation. As part of that process, I am required to follow the public participation consultation and public participation process described in section 7B(3)(c) of the ICM Act. The reclamation application and approval process in the ICM Act does not remove the need for an environmental authorisation in terms of Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 under the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA).

The Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) has submitted a pre-approval for the reclamation of land from the coastal waters of the Port of Durban. As part of the proposed development, land will be reclaimed between the existing Point multi-purpose terminal quay wall and the new Point Container Terminal quay wall, providing the expanded footprint required for the increased container capacity. The infill area will require 4 million m³ of infill material covering an area of 22.4 hectares (ha). Infill material will be sourced from the authorised sandwinning site located offshore, near the entrance to the Port. Should additional material be required, either the existing authorised site will be extended, or a new, alternative site will be used.



Figure 1: Map depicting Durban Port expansion in the proposed area for reclamation



Figure 2: Proposed reclamation area in relation to sandwinning and dredging sites

TNPA operates eight ports across South Africa, playing a vital role in the country's logistics. TNPA aims to expand port capacity ahead of demand and reduce business costs to keep South Africa's economy competitive. To facilitate this, TNPA has developed the KZN Ports Master Plan. The plan focuses on reconfiguring the Port of Durban and the Port of Richards Bay to establish the Port of Durban as a Container Hub Port for international container traffic, benefiting both South Africa and Southern Africa. As part of this plan, TNPA proposes to convert areas D-G in the Port of Durban's Point Precinct into a single container terminal referred to as Point Container Terminal.

TNPA wishes to expand the Durban Port and position it as a premier container hub port in the region with the aim of increasing capacity to between 10 and 11 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU). The TNPA aim to upgrade the existing Port of Durban infrastructure, including deepening berths, expanding container terminals, and improving the rail links to the Port. The land reclamation process would involve dredging and infilling activities, which may affect benthic sediments and increase turbidity. Fish stocks entering the harbour may be temporarily impacted.

If successful, the reclaimed land will be used for developing the following:

- a new quay wall, berthing for container vessels;

- infrastructure that accommodates ultra-large container ships (ULCS);
- operating harbour cranes;
- stacking containers (meaning more land for stacking containers on top of each other in blocks grouped by imports, exports etc); and
- the availability of land and water areas for future expansion.

This would, in turn, improve container handling capacity at the Port of Durban, reducing logistical costs and creating new economic opportunities for the country while also boosting trade competitiveness. The upgrades will increase port capacity and efficiency without the need for developing a new port.

As opposed to the EIA process undertaken in terms of NEMA, the primary purpose of the reclamation authorisations process under the ICM Act is to assess and to provide in-principle approval for the reclamation. In this assessment, the application will be assessed to ensure that the sea, which is coastal public property, is not utilised in a manner that undermines the objectives of the ICM Act, which is to ensure integrated and sustainable coastal development and to secure equitable access to the opportunities and benefits of coastal public property.

TNPA is therefore requesting my in-principle approval for the reclamation of land from the coastal waters in the Port of Durban in terms of section 7B(1) and section 7B(3)(b) of the ICM Act. A copy of the pre-approval application can be accessed and downloaded from the following webpage: www.dffe.gov.za/gazetted_notices_transnet.durbanharbour_landreclamation or can be obtained electronically upon request by email to reclamation@dffe.gov.za. A hard copy can also be obtained from the Department's offices at the address indicated below by prior arrangement with the person indicated for enquiries.

Members of the public are invited to submit written representations on the pre-approval application within 60 days after publication of this notice in the Gazette or publication of a notification in the newspaper, whichever is the later date. Written representations received after 60 days may be disregarded.

All representations must be submitted in writing to the Department.

By hand: The Deputy Director-General

Attention: Mr Ryan Peter

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Branch: Oceans and Coasts

East Pier Building No. 1, East Pier Road, V&A Waterfront

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By email: reclamation@dffe.gov.za

Enquiries: Mr Ryan Peter on 079 501 8709

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013). Comments received and responses to those comments are collated into a comments and response report, which will be made available to the public as part of the consultation process. If you have any objection to your name being made publicly available in the comments and responses report, that objection should be highlighted in **bold** as part of the comments submitted.



MR WILLEM ABRAHAM STEPHANUS AUCAMP, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: