



Aerial view of the Port of Ngqura north of Port Elizabeth

# Port of Ngqura –

## Transnet's R10 billion investment

TRANSNET'S R10 BILLION Port of Ngqura is South Africa's first new port built in over 25 years. The historic port north of Port Elizabeth has a strategic geographic position protecting it from the prevailing southwesterly winds. It has an advantage over other South African ports in that it is a deep-water port, with a depth of between 16 and 18 metres, allowing it to accommodate the new-generation container vessels.

A Transnet Capital Projects team was mandated to carry out the construction of this notable transshipment hub. The establishment of the port commenced in 2006 with the completion of the feasibility study. In November 2006 Transnet approved the project budget, and a momentous milestone was achieved when the site was decided upon and approved in January 2007.

Transnet's plan with the construction of the port has been to establish a world-class transshipment hub with world-class equipment that would enable the port to perform to the highest international standards. Various milestones have been recorded since the creation of the Eastern Cape's pride. In 2007, the first concrete was poured and the process was completed in July 2008. Container-handling equipment for the port was delivered in 2008, including ship-to-shore cranes and rubber-tyred gantries.

The port boasts a South African Institution of Civil Engineering (SAICE) award received in 2010, which recognised the engineering excellence applied in the construction of the port. Positive feedback has also been received from international shipping lines, as well as from the business community in the Eastern Cape region. In 2009, *MSC Catania* made history by becoming the first commercial vessel to discharge its cargo at South Africa's new deep-water Port of Ngqura.

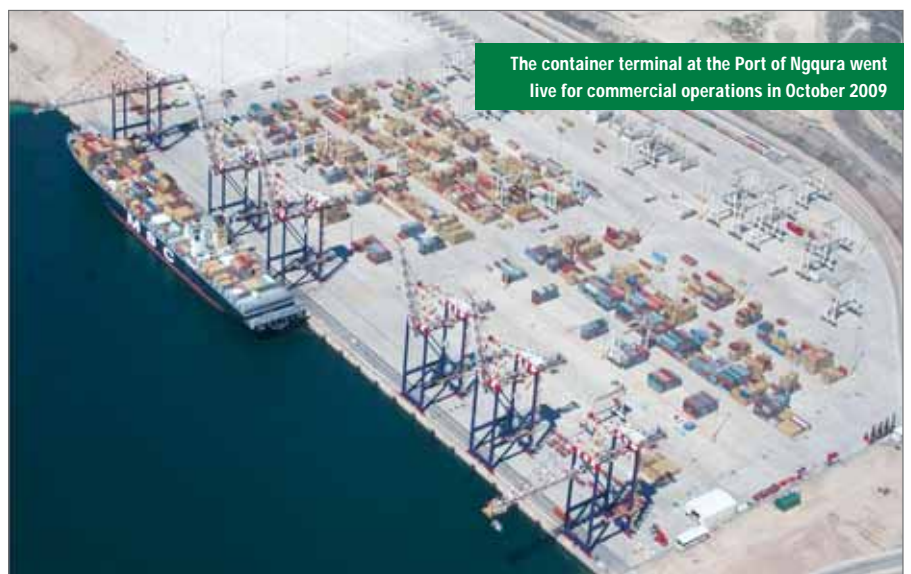
The second commercial vessel to call at Ngqura was the 275 metre *MSC Shanghai* with a draught of 14.5 metres. The vessel entered the port on Tuesday 6 October 2009 to discharge cargo at Ngqura's container terminal. This was the first time a large vessel was

able to call at Port Elizabeth, as it could take advantage of the Port of Ngqura's deep-water capacity – an entrance channel depth of 18 metres and a basin depth of 16 metres. The *MSC Shanghai* off-loaded 50 containers and loaded 101 containers, with an average of 17 containers being handled per hour.

The Ngqura Container Terminal was officially opened by President Jacob Zuma, who hailed the port as a key strategic infrastructure project for South Africa.

### ► INFO

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The container terminal at the Port of Ngqura went live for commercial operations in October 2009