

21 July 2008

TRANSNET



delivering on our commitment *to you* freight rail



HISTORIC 100th LOADED 342 RDP IRON ORE TRAIN

On Sunday 20 July 2008 at 07:15, the 100th loaded 342-wagon RDP (Radio Distributed Power) train arrived at Salkor Yard in Saldanha. Congratulations to the iron ore liners!

Traditionally the iron ore line operated 216 wagon head-end powered trains and since the 18th of December 2007 started phasing in the 342-wagon RDP trains. Today, just 7 months later this major milestone of the 100th loaded mega train to arrive at Salkor was achieved.

The achievement was not an easy one. However, through the passion, determination and dedication of the iron line teams, the "animal" was tamed and initial difficulties were overcome. The 100th train is proof of this success.

Now the iron ore line is faced with a new challenge. To date the long trains were operated at a relatively easy tempo, ranging from two to four per week. This is about to change.

Transnet Freight Rail operates these long trains because it has to satisfy the customers' demand for increased volumes on the ore line. During the 2007-2008 Financial Year, 32Mt of export iron ore were transported on the iron ore line. The throughput budget for the 2008-2009 Financial Year is 38Mt with plans for further significant increases in volumes over the next 10 years.

The customers, Sishen Iron Ore Company, Assmang Beeshoek Mine and Assmang Khumani Mine have also been preparing themselves for increased tonnages. From October onwards, Freight Rail will be running at volumes never before seen on the ore line.

In preparation for that, the ore line will start running 7 long trains per week during August. This will make the operations ready for the next step, shortly after the annual maintenance shut-down. From September 2008 the ore line will run 14 long trains per week. And to top it all, from October 2008 the business must be ready to operate 21 long trains per week! That is 718,200 tons of export iron ore!

To the dedicated Infra workers who brave the winter climate to ensure a safe and reliable track, to committed yard staff shunting these long trains safely and speedily, to the passionate drivers and assistants who ride these trains, up and down the line, and all the support teams a round of applause to you, you have proved yourself to be a winning team and doing all of Freight Rail proud! Good luck with the challenges ahead.

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

On behalf of the Regional Operating Executive, Western Region