



## Media Release

### Call to join the fight against Fuel Theft

**[Johannesburg, 17 June 2020]** Transnet is calling on all stakeholders involved in the petroleum value chain to join efforts in the fight against fuel theft from the country's valuable pipeline infrastructure.

Transnet is further urging all petroleum retailers and members of the public to refrain from buying fuel from unregistered traders, to curb the demand for illegal petroleum products.

The tampering and damage to the pipeline because of theft continues to remain the biggest threat to the security of fuel supply, particularly to the inland areas. It also poses a danger to nearby communities, due to the inherent dangers of tampering with high-pressure petroleum pipelines, which could result in fire incidents, causing serious injuries and/or fatalities to the perpetrators and communities.

The network of 3800 kilometres of high-pressure pipelines traverses five provinces and supplies about 250 million litres per week of refined petroleum products to inland market, which accounts for 65 percent of the total demand.

About 26 fuel theft incidents have taken place from April to date this year, with over 2 million litres of petroleum products stolen from the pipelines.

Transnet is appealing to all communities and stakeholders to report all criminal activities to the law enforcement agencies. Any activity involving movements of bakkies and fuel tankers in the area of the block valve chambers or pipeline markers should be reported using this toll free number - 0800 203 843.

In addition to increased security measures along the pipeline, Transnet is working with the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation ("Hawks"), National Crime Intelligence and SAPS. Such partnership continues to yield positive results with a number of breakthroughs in the form of arrests and impounding of vehicles and fuel tankers recorded.

Transnet also continues to engage key stakeholders in the value chain such as the Department of Mineral and Energy (DMRE), National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA) and oil companies to identify the drivers of such criminality.

The pipeline is classified as essential infrastructure, therefore tampering, or colluding to tamper, is a Schedule 5 offence in terms of the Criminal Matters Amendment Act, Act 18 of 2015.

It is of utmost importance to Transnet to ensure that the pipelines remain a safe and cost-effective transportation mode of petroleum products and that we fulfil our commitment of security of supply of petroleum products to the inland market.

**Issued on behalf of Transnet SOC Ltd**

By: Ayanda Shezi, Spokesperson.

[Ayanda.shezi@transnet.net](mailto:Ayanda.shezi@transnet.net)

**For Media Enquiries please contact,**

Nompumelelo Kunene

[Nompumelelo.kunene2@transnet.net](mailto:Nompumelelo.kunene2@transnet.net)

**066 484 55 22**