



**TRANSPORT MINISTRY  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**Minister of Transport's draft speaking notes – TNPA and  
Ukwanda LNG Group Signing Ceremony**

**Port of Ngqura**

**28 May 2026**

Distinguished guests,

Leadership of Transnet and Ukwanda LNG Group,

Government and industry partners,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am delighted to join you today as we witness the signing of this important Terminal Operator Agreement (TOA). Today marks a decisive step in South Africa's journey towards energy security, infrastructure development, economic growth, and a sustainable energy future.

The conclusion of this agreement reflects our collective commitment to delivering Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), to the South African market as an alternative energy source, in line with the country's energy security requirements and broader just energy transition imperatives.

I am pleased that all parties have moved with speed to reach this significant milestone, since I issued the Section 79 directive to the Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA), authorising the Strategic Fuel Fund (SFF) to build and operate an onshore LNG regasification facility within the Port of Ngqura.

This project signals the beginning of a new chapter in the evolution of our energy and logistics sectors. It also demonstrates government's confidence in the strategic value of this initiative and in the capability of our institutions to deliver infrastructure that serves the national interest.

As our country continues to face growing energy demands and the urgent need for reliable power generation, LNG presents a practical and necessary transition energy that can support economic activity while reducing our carbon intensity.

Ladies and gentlemen, this development firmly positions TNPA as a reliable enabler of gas-to-power project pipelines and as a key driver of integrated infrastructure development. Our ports are not merely gateways for trade;

they are strategic assets that must facilitate industrialisation, regional integration, and economic resilience.

The Port of Ngqura has been recognised as a world-class deep-water port with significant potential. Today's agreement unlocks a new dimension of that potential, by enabling both marine and landside infrastructure development required for an onshore regasification facility. This infrastructure will stimulate investment, create jobs, and support industrial growth in the Eastern Cape and beyond.

The Ngqura Manganese Export Corridor PSP is part of Transnet's strategy to improve South Africa's bulk export logistics by integrating rail and port operations to enhance efficiency, reliability, and capacity. The project includes a new manganese export terminal at Ngqura and phased rail upgrades, with private sector investment expected through a structured procurement process. Transnet anticipates launching the transaction to market by August 2026 and construction is expected to take approximately four years.

The initiative will increase export capacity and competitiveness while shifting manganese exports from Gqeberha to Ngqura, enabling the transformation of the Port of Port Elizabeth, with terminal closure targeted for 2032. Although not directly linked to the LNG terminal programme, the broader development of infrastructure at the Port of Ngqura will contribute to improved port efficiency and increased bulk commodity handling in the future.

Importantly, this project has been recognised at the highest level of government, as it is one of 12 South Africa's priority infrastructure projects announced in March 2024, and has been accorded a Strategic Integrated Project (SIP) status by Infrastructure South Africa. This is not merely symbolic, but it affirms the urgency and importance of accelerating implementation and ensuring coordination across all spheres of government and industry.

This project therefore represents more than infrastructure. It represents confidence in South Africa's future. It demonstrates what can be achieved when government entities, state-owned companies, and the private sector work together with a shared purpose.

Over the MTEF period the Department of Transport has committed to allocating over R 5.8 billion in Provincial Roads Management Grant funding to the Eastern Cape. SANRAL maintains almost 6000 km of roads in the Eastern Cape, the biggest network managed by the entity, and in 2026-2027 alone the SANRAL has budgeted over R 7,9 billion for infrastructure investment in the province.

This points to government's commitment to the development of the Eastern Cape as a region, and is indicative of the ways in which the Department of Transport and its entities are using infrastructure investment as a catalyst for economic prosperity.

Let me commend the teams from TNPA, Ukwanda LNG Group and all stakeholders involved in bringing this agreement to fruition. The work ahead remains significant, but today's signing sends a powerful signal that South Africa is moving forward with strong intent in securing sustainable energy supply.

As we celebrate this milestone, let us remain focused on delivery, collaboration, and accountability. The success of this project will not only be measured by infrastructure built, but by the opportunities created, the energy secured, and the contribution made towards a more sustainable and inclusive economy.

I thank you.