

MSC SA TO BUILD R50 MILLION CONTAINER DEPOT IN THE COEGA IDZ

Written by Tracy
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Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) South Africa has signed a long term lease agreement for 8.7 hectares of land in the Coega Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) in Nelson Mandela Bay, near Port Elizabeth.

The shipping line will later this month start construction of a new container depot valued at R50-million in the logistics zone of the Coega IDZ. It will be used for reefer preparation – washing/pre-tripping, storage, unpacking/repacking, customs stops – tailboard inspection, repairing of shipping containers and a logistics hub for the transport division.

MSC connects Nelson Mandela Bay with the world through its 200 trade routes, a 440 fleet, and access to around 315 ports in Europe, the United States, Asia, the Middle East, Far East, Australia, Africa's West and East coasts and the Indian Ocean islands.

According to the Transnet Ports Authority (TPA), MSC has throughput that amounts to 82% of the annual volumes of transshipments, imports and exports handled at the Port of Ngqura.

“A closer location to logistics activities and the Port of Ngqura will help reduce container movements and intermodal costs, which is particularly beneficial for a metropolitan area such as Nelson Mandela Bay where maritime rail terminals are in high density and in a congested area,” says Mervyn Padayachee, MSC Logistics Director.

“The depot planned at Coega will enable a better response rate to the demands of freight distribution activities and is expected to have a multiplying effect due to its planned location within the logistics zone in the IDZ.

“This will ensure the further availability of empty containers and a better potential at cargo rotation between existing and future import and export-based firms located within the IDZ,” says Sandra Sarno, MSC Depots, National Director.

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Sarno said that the container depot will create 15 direct jobs with a possibility of creating downstream opportunities for SMME companies in transport industries.