

**His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa,  
Honourable Minister Nosiviwe Mapisa-Nqakula,  
Southern African Shipyard board and management,  
Transnet Port Authority,  
Distinguished guests,  
Ladies and gentlemen,**

## **STEEL CUTTING CEREMONY FOR HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY VESSEL AND LNG BARGE**

We thank you for inviting us to this wonderful event, we thank all the guests for gracing this occasion.

The Southern African Shipyards tugboat manufacturing facility is a project that is quite advanced and showcase good practice of private and public sector cooperation. The tugboat manufacturing demonstrates South Africa's capability and capacity to build highly technical vessels locally.

We would like to congratulate Southern African Shipyard who has been awarded the contract by Armscor to build a Hydrographic Survey Vessel (HSV). This vessel will support the National Hydrographic Act which is in the process of being passed in the National Assembly.

We are proud to that this vessel was built by a South African company which is a 100% Black Owned Company and 67% Black Women Owned. The building of a vessel of this complexity is not only a South African first but an African first.

We are further delighted to learn that you have recently signed another contract to deliver an Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Barge to a company called DNG Energy. DNG is a 100% Black Owned South African entity. At around 8000 tons, it will be the largest vessel by weight to ever be built on the African continent.

These 2 Projects will create about 650 direct jobs at the Shipyard as well as about 3 000 jobs in the supply chain. We will use the services of more than 65 suppliers and sub-contractors, the majority of whom as SMME's and BEE Companies. In addition these projects will create about 120 training opportunities for young people including Systems Engineers, Artisans, In-service Training and Learnerships across technical and support services vocations. SAS is also investing R97 million in infrastructure and equipment upgrades in order to more than double the productive capacity of the Shipyard.

We congratulate you and thank you for inviting us.