

## Transport, Storage and Communication



Logistics and supply chain management is growing in importance and it is fast becoming the central function in companies. Boasting Southern Africa's busiest sea port (Durban) and Africa's biggest bulk sea port (Richards Bay), combined with excellent road and rail infrastructure and global logistics service providers, it is easy to see why KwaZulu-Natal lays claim to being southern Africa's Trade Gateway. With the increase in activity at the Durban and Richards Bay harbours it is possible that the industry will continue to experience high growth rates. The number of vessel moves and the gross tonnage of these vessels, at the Durban harbour for example, have increased by 4.2% and 4.6% per month from January 2003 to June 2005, respectively. During the economically challenging 2008, the number of vessels experienced a slight decline of -4.3%, while the GT had an increase of 4.4% respectively. However the port held the fort in handling not less than 21 million TEUs in 2009/2010.

The transport, storage and communication industry's contribution to the economy of KwaZulu-Natal has stayed fairly constant at around 12% per annum from 1995 to 2007. The industry has achieved consistently high growth rates of around 5.6% per annum from 1995 to 2007. Even after the 2010 FIFA World Cup™ heydays, the sector is still going strong.

KwaZulu-Natal's continued success in international trade depends on improved transport and logistics infrastructure. Accordingly, the imminent establishment of a new-generation multifaceted logistics platform will provide a significant means to enhance international competitiveness and job creation. The Dube Trade Port project seeks to provide a major economic stimulus to the economy of KwaZulu-Natal and South Africa by providing world class logistics infrastructure comprising the intercontinental passenger and freight orientated new International Airport as well as the Trade Zone, a commercial orientated real estate development focusing on serving the needs of industry orientated to air/sea/land and rail logistics. The South African department of communications participates in the NEPAD ICT broadband infrastructure network for Africa which includes the Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System (EASSY) Project. The 9,900-km long EASSY Cable will link SA to Sudan and provide for landing stations in countries along the coast of the Eastern Africa. The cable will be

connected to adjacent landlocked countries and will have a lifespan of 25 years. In August 2010, with upgraded design, the cable entered the commercial world. The landing spot of the EASSY cable in South Africa is none other than Mtunzini, in KwaZulu-Natal.

Sentech, a state-owned telecommunications company, was responsible for implementing the satellite back-up infrastructure for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™. It also built a second satellite uplink requirement.