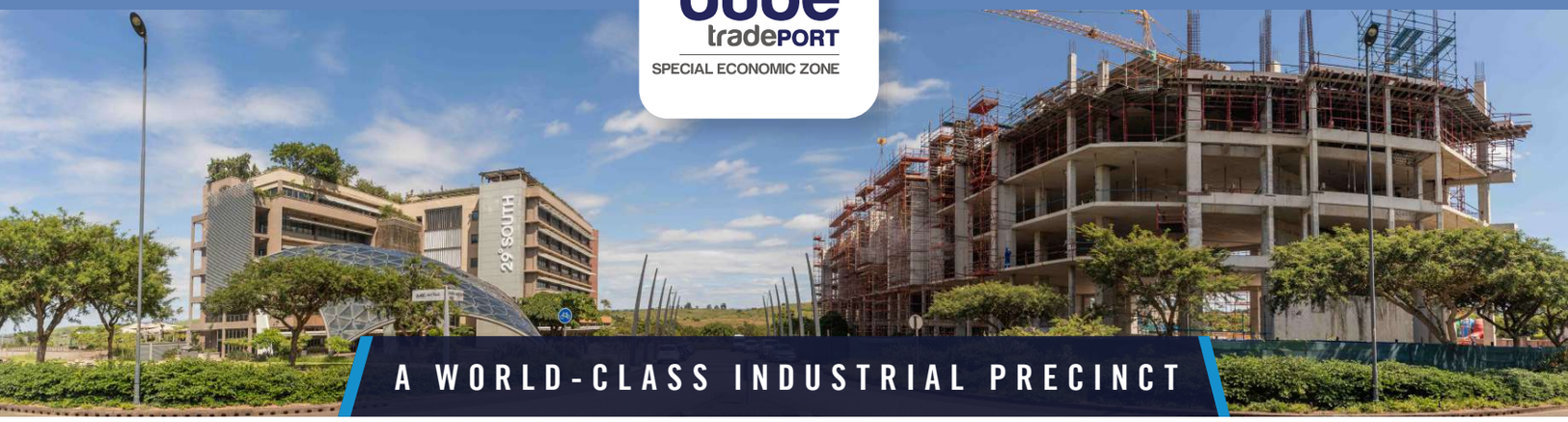


A WORLD-CLASS INDUSTRIAL PRECINCT

FROM THE DESK OF THE CEO
HAMISH ERSKINE

In 2024, Dube TradePort Special Economic Zone will celebrate its 21st anniversary since its establishment by the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government. The entity's establishment proceeded an intensive four-year concept development phase by the Department of Economic Development in the province.

Looking back at this period, the organization has emerged as one of the key drivers of economic development within the province of KwaZulu-Natal. It has made significant progress in advancing industrial development, airfreight, high-value ICT, and agricultural infrastructure. Over time, Dube TradePort has successfully established itself as a truly integrated intermodal logistics, manufacturing, and agricultural production and distribution hub. A hub that is now home to a strong cluster of domestic and multinational investors who have created employment opportunities locally. Here, their operations have stable provision of water and energy to operators within our precinct.

Over the last decade in particular, Dube TradePort has uplifted local communities through social development programs that have had a positive impact on schools, unemployed graduates, and subsistence farming cooperatives. Embracing black economic empowerment has also yielded growth in the number of previously disadvantaged people who have received opportunities through Dube TradePort's developments, fostering job creation and regional integration in KwaZulu-Natal. During this period,

Dube TradePort has also been a beacon of good governance with over a decade of clean audits. The organization has also been a responsible developer prioritizing environmental sustainability, security, and world-class support services. Additionally, the organization's role in airline route had a knock-on effect of sustaining numerous jobs throughout the region.

Our organization understands that investors need to focus on social and environmental concerns just as much as they do on profits. That's why we have developed the Dube TradePort Special Economic Zone, in a manner that enables it to satisfy these needs by providing the necessary infrastructure and value-added services. Among these services, we intend to develop within the next five years is a high-capacity water reservoir and a large-scale commercial solar farm to ensure the development through provincial structures like Durban Direct has had a direct impact on attracting new regional and intercontinental airlines to fly into Durban.

This has improved the region's connectivity, air cargo volumes, and global competitiveness. As an organization, we are grateful that you have taken this journey with us. As we wish you all a prosperous year ahead, we want to share that in the next three months, we are looking to announce several important developments that will further enhance our position as a world-class manufacturing and logistics platform.

MAINTAIN A HEALTHY CASH FLOW THROUGH BONDED WAREHOUSES

In today's fast-paced global economy, the challenges of importing goods from foreign countries can be overwhelming for businesses. Especially the financial burden of duties, taxes, and transportation costs, which need to be paid upfront and can be a substantial constraint to a company's cash flow. However, smart businesses are using the services of bonded warehouses to find a solution to these financial costs. Bonded warehouses offer a unique advantage, allowing businesses to only pay duty when the bonded goods leave for sale, this deferred payment can provide a welcome relief to a business's cash flow.

"In response to this market need, Dube TradePort is launching a bonded warehouse facility within the Dube Cargo Terminal. This will be the first facility of its kind within Durban's airport precinct." Said Ms Siya Sithole, Dube TradePort, Manager Cargo and Business Development

For businesses considering international expansion, cross- border commerce can be complex and costly. Beyond shipping costs, companies must contend with customs and import duties, handling fees, insurance, and compliance charges. Bonded warehouses equipped with fulfilment capabilities, including staff for picking, packing, and shipping, present a convenient option for e-commerce businesses aiming to sell internationally while reducing the outlay of costs.

These facilities provide a legal way for a business to reduce its tax obligations, which is another compelling reason for businesses to opt for a bonded warehousing solution. A company can benefit from a bonded warehouse when importing and exporting goods. By importing goods into the bonded warehouse, the company can potentially avoid import duties altogether if the goods stored in the warehouse are subsequently sold outside of South Africa.

"Based on the initial interest, we will be looking at expanding and introducing these facilities in other areas within the Dube TradePort precinct.

Additionally, bonded warehouses play a crucial role in storing restricted goods like alcoholic beverages, animal by-products, and specific food items. With the additional legal requirements and paperwork associated with importing restricted goods, bonded warehouses offer a secure and compliant solution.

The importance of bonded warehouses cannot be overstated for businesses that are involved in imports and exports, as a means to maintain a healthy cash flow and combat the effects of fluctuating exchange rates to be more competitive in the marketplace For example, bonded warehouses have proven to be indispensable for modern e-commerce. As businesses continue to expand their global footprint, the role of bonded warehouses is set to become even more critical in fostering efficient, cost-effective, and legally compliant cross-border trade.

MR BUHLE SHANDU APPOINTED
EXECUTIVE ASSETS AND OPERATIONS

Mr Buhle Shandu, the newly appointed Executive Assets and Operations at Dube TradePort Corporation (DTPC), brings a wealth of experience and a strategic vision to his new role. As he steps into this leadership position, Mr Shandu is charged with overseeing the management of the organisation's assets and operations and includes responsibilities extending to forging strategic alliances with external stakeholders, supporting energy security initiatives, and providing direction for efficient Facilities and Maintenance operations.

He previously served as the Senior Manager within the Property Commercial Department which included an acting role as Chief Operations Officer within the organisation.

Goals and Vision for the Future:
Leading the Assets and Operations division, Buhle's primary goal is optimizing the maintenance function within the Dube TradePort precinct ensuring that there are sufficient resources to guarantee a quick turnaround on all maintenance issues as well as the achieving optimal use of the organisations of assets thus maintaining a continuous improvement in service delivery.

DUBE AGRILAB BAMBOO FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Dube AgriLab is contributing to the cultivation of a sustainable future by quietly growing organic bamboo in a plant tissue culture laboratory located behind the serene sugarcane hills surrounding King Shaka International Airport. The bamboo is used to fuel the furniture manufacturing industry in Mpumalanga. Dube AgriLab specializes in cutting-edge plant tissue culture techniques that cultivate plants in a sterile environment, resulting in disease-free, true-to-type plantlets that can be grown rapidly in large volumes.

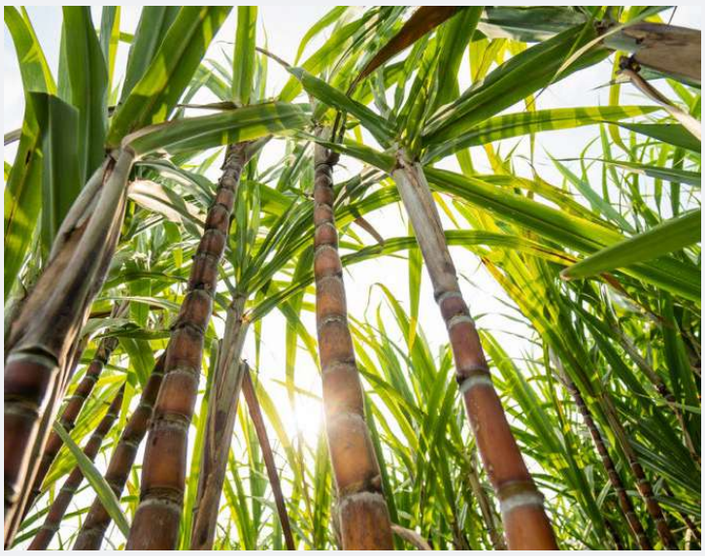
Dube AgriLab recently fulfilled an order for 2 417 organic bamboo plants for a private developer of a climate-conscious agroforestry project in Mpumalanga. The project is working with local communities to create sustainable furniture and green energy solutions. The project is projected to remove over 160 million tonnes of carbon emissions by 2025, which will contribute significantly to South Africa meeting its climate goals.

Dube AiRoad, Dube TradePort Special Economic Zone's world-class road freight distribution service, facilitated the delivery of the bamboo plants from the coast of Durban to the Mpumalanga heartland, providing an efficient and flexible trucking service.

Once the bamboo plants make their journey to Mpumalanga, they will be carefully cultivated to maturity under the watchful eyes of the local community. This will mark a crucial phase in the lifecycle, as the bamboo is then harvested and handed over to the next chapter of its sustainable journey.

The bamboo will then be crafted into eco-friendly furniture. Sustainably grown bamboo can be transformed into a renewable raw material for various sectors, including furniture manufacturing, construction, agriculture, and even fashion.

In undertaking this project, Dube AgriLab has demonstrated that it can achieve scale in the cultivation of true-to-type plants. Its collaboration with Dube AiRoad has proven the value of the integrated services of Dube TradePort Special Economic Zone in driving sustainable development.



AIRFREIGHT: DUBE CARGO TERMINAL HANDLES

20-FOOT OCEAN-GOING CONTAINERS

Dube TradePort has played a huge role in the movement of heavy and outsized cargo in the region. Notablely the relocation of various wildlife, including the iconic rhinos, as part of a broader effort to conserve these magnificent creatures, in a move to increase rhino populations across other parts of Africa.

Simultaneously, Durban's oil refinery operations have needed urgent shipments of critical components from time to time over the last 10 years. It has been during these times that, Dube Cargo Terminal has been able to demonstrate its flexibility, efficiency and reliability in coordinating these types of operations in a tight turnaround window.

Mr Ricardo Isaac, Dube TradePort, Senior Manager: Cargo Development and Operations said "Dube Cargo Terminal has also proven to be agile in providing customised cargo solutions. Previously, with only a 24-hour turnaround time, Dube Cargo Terminal working in close partnership with ACSA, the Freight Forwarder and South African Civil Aviation Authority, got all the required permissions to enable an AN-124 to transport to uplift a 54-tonne payload."

Dube TradePort Cargo Terminal has the capabilities to handle 20-foot ocean-going containers, having invested in a specialised outsized cargo handling facility, with hoists, mobile cranes, and conveyor systems, that have allowed the terminal to handle bulky and outsized goods like large pipes, machines, vehicles as well as live animals.

Moreover, Dube Cargo Terminal and Durban's King Shaka International Airport became a logistical staging area, handling numerous humanitarian relief flights within the region, when devastating floods hit KwaZulu-Natal in 2022 and when tropical Cyclone Idai left thousands in neighbouring Mozambique needing to rebuild, underscored the versatility of the Terminal's operations.

DURBAN DIRECT: AIRLINE ROUTE DEVELOPMENT IN KWAZULU-NATAL

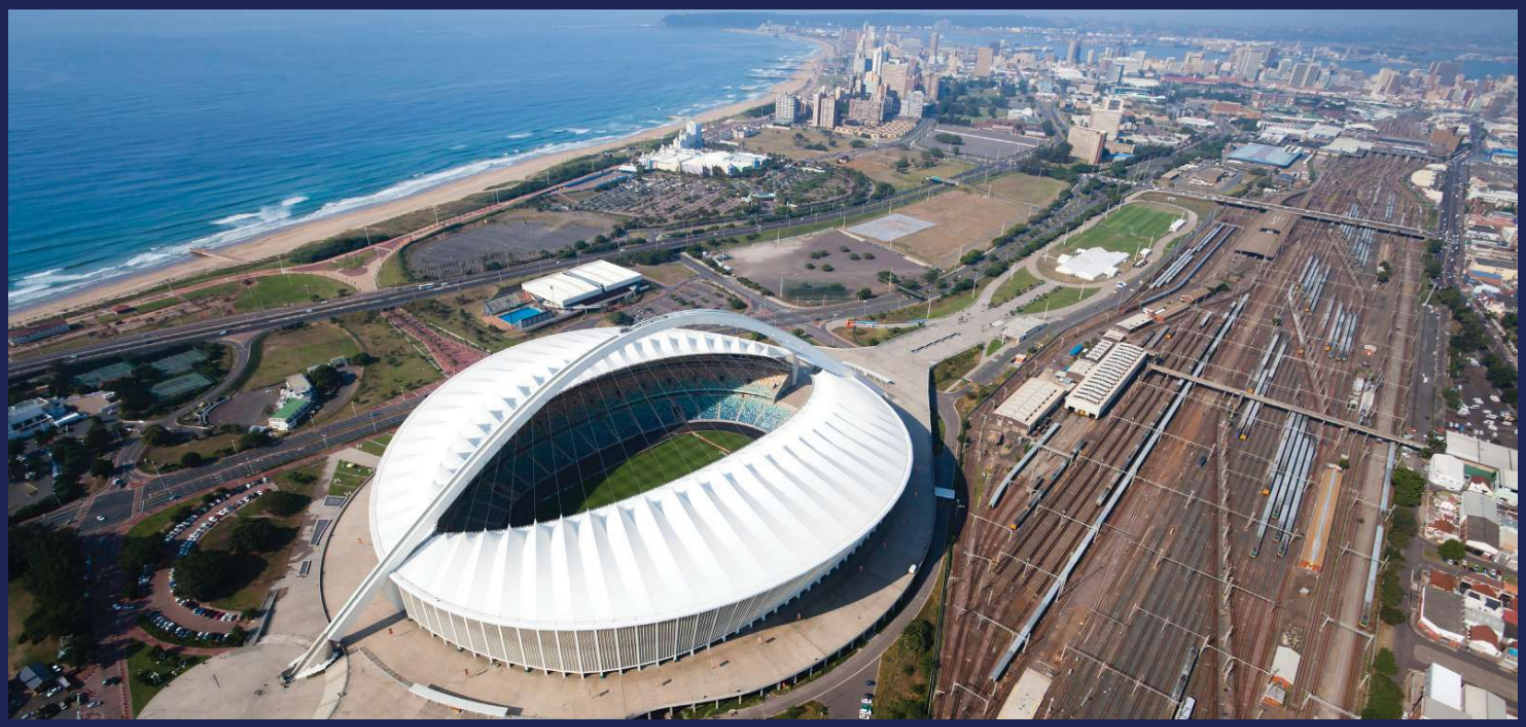
Launching a new route is a significant investment by any airline, and airports globally are fiercely competing to attract new airlines. Durban Direct is a group that has been driving airline route development in KwaZulu-Natal, resulting in the successful introduction of new airline routes into Durban's King Shaka International Airport.

Airline Route Development is essentially all the work that governmental, tourism, trade and development bodies, as well as private enterprises, with their support leading productive route development initiatives.

Mrs Xolile Shabalala, Route Development Project Manager "As Durban Direct continues to grow route development in the province, we're looking to cultivate more partnerships, to drive traffic systematically, leading to more sustainable goes behind answering the question,' Why should I fly here?' posed by Airlines when selecting a destination to fly to. To answer this question, Route Development bodies need to provide a business case that unpacks issues that include forecasting the number of passengers and cargo volumes the airline is likely to attract and calculating the overall financial sustainability of the route.

Durban Direct has been presenting business cases to airlines for the past decade and has attracted eight airlines that have connected KwaZulu-Natal to over 360 destinations worldwide. The Durban Direct's success can be attributed to its collaborative nature, with local stakeholders, including routes in the long term. Regional developments such as the implementation of the Single African Air Transport Market, the African Free Trade Agreement, and Africa's growing and young population which is expected to have a significant contribution to the world's GDP over the next 20 years are some of the factors making it increasingly important for us to prioritize collaboration among all economic stakeholders in driving air connectivity."

Durban Direct is working to improve the region's connectivity with strategic destinations throughout Africa and the world, unlocking aviation's potential to drive socio-economic development.



DUBE TRADEHOUSE A TURNKEY LOGISTICS SOLUTION
ENSURING EFFICIENCY

In logistics, "location is key" Dube TradeHouse strategic positioning within the Dube TradePort Special Economic Zone provides security for freight forwarders seeking optimal intermodal efficiency.

Dube TradeHouse facility offers direct access to KwaZulu-Natal's airfreight terminal at King Shaka International Airport that's linked to two of the busiest seaports in the region and is supported by a complex road network (SIP 2 corridor) seamlessly connecting Durban's northern transportation node to Gauteng. This strategic location not only minimizes transit times but propels connectivity to new heights, elevating Dube TradeHouse as the strategic centre for logistics operations.

The Dube TradeHouse, provides a functional space for freight forwarders, with units ranging from 375m² for a single unit to 750m² for a double unit, with ground-level warehousing spaces, dedicated loading bays, and a third of the unit being a mezzanine-level offices. These units serve as control centres for local and international operators, streamlining the intricate tasks of collecting, processing, and dispatching cargo through to meet the fast-paced demands of the industry.

Amongst the factors that set Dube TradeHouse apart is its seamless integration, with a Unit Load Device (ULD) conveyor bridge that links each unit directly with the airside Dube Cargo Terminal at King Shaka International Airport.

This direct conduit ensures the seamless movement of cargo, reducing turnaround times and enhancing the pace of freight forwarder operations.

If you want to improve the efficiency of your logistics operations, Dube TradeHouse currently offers several leasing opportunities, for units that have a dedicated office space and warehouse. These units are complemented by covered parking bays, a loading ramp, and a shared forklift ramp, ensuring operational ease.

Underpinning the Dube TradeHouse facility is security. Located at the heart of the airport precinct, the facility boasts controlled access and 24/7 security, safeguarding valuable cargo and also creating an environment where forwarders can operate with the confidence that only a highly secure location.

Dube TradePort Special Economic Zone is a commitment to redefining efficiency in airfreight by creating an environment that is especially suited for freight forwarders.

For more details on leasing opportunities, the investments team at **Leasing@dubetradeport.co.za.**

AIRFREIGHT VOLUMES THROUGH DURBAN'S
DUBE CARGO TERMINAL SPIKE

Airfreight volumes through Dube TradePort's Cargo Terminal have risen significantly over the past six months as the effects of congestion and slow-throughput capacity at South Africa's major ports ripple across the supply chain.

Durban's air cargo operations, handled through the Dube Cargo Terminal at King Shaka International Airport, have been on the rise over the financial years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.

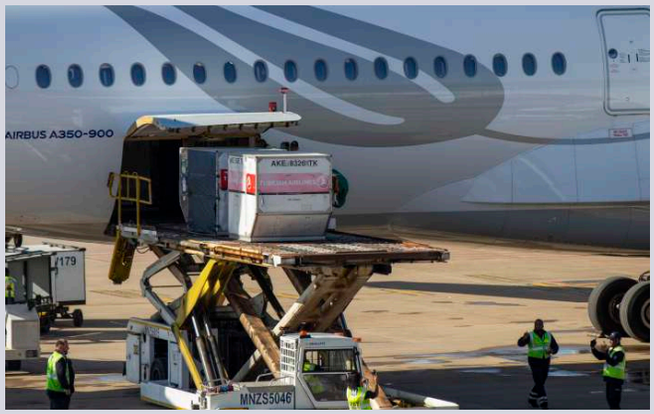
However, demand for airfreight spiked over the past four months leading into 2024 with cargo throughput rising by 57% quarter-on-quarter from September to December 2023, and port challenges continued to drive significant demand towards airfreight in January 2024.

However, demand for airfreight spiked over the past four months leading into 2024 with cargo throughput rising by 57% quarter-on-quarter from September to December 2023, and port challenges continued to drive significant demand towards airfreight in January 2024.

“This significant increase in airfreight has been observed across various industries, from perishables to automotive, the latter traditionally being reliant on ocean freight. This emphasises the need of these industries to ensure uninterrupted production and timely delivery to export markets,” said Mr Ricardo Isaac, Dube Cargo Terminal Senior Manager: Cargo Development and Operations.

"From September through to December 2023, we saw fruit exports to the Middle East and European markets double in volume compared with the same period last year.
On the automotive side, in November we saw volumes approximately 30% higher than normal being moved through our airfreight cargo terminal,” he said.

This trend shows that for time-sensitive commodities and in cases where production stoppage risks are heightened, having an efficient air option, such as the Dube Cargo Terminal, has become invaluable, and remains an important part of the supply chain, concluded Isaac.



AIRCHEFS

DISCOVER THE ESSENCE OF CULINARY EXCELLENCE
WITH AIR CHEFS: FEED YOUR SOUL, FUEL YOUR SMILE!

Air Chefs under the leadership of Ms Juanita September, is sharing their extensive experience in producing thousands of meals for passengers in the sky to now cater for hundreds of guests at events and conferences. With world-class chefs and top-notch kitchen equipment, Air Chefs is utilizing their mega kitchen that is ISO 22000 & ISO 14001 certified and located within the Dube TradePort Special Economic Zone to prepare gourmet meals for staff canteens, events and vending solutions, in addition to their already established in-flight and Airport Lounges catering business.

"As Air Chefs we are proud to present our corporate clients with First Class dining experience, serving a variety of popular South African and continental cuisine. Our scale and expertise in the airline industry have ensured that we can handle any size of event with a high quality of attention to detail and finesse." Says Ms Thuli Hlabane, Business Development Manager, Air Chefs

'We already have established an exceptional reputation with our corporate clients, for whom we provide premium restaurant quality catering services. We're now excited to unveil a vending solution featuring trendy flavours and premium ingredients, guaranteeing a delightful and nourishing snack experience. Our offerings include an assortment of filled wraps, fresh salads, a selection of homemade sandwiches, and hot coffee, among others " Continued Ms Hlabane.

Air Chefs, has already showcased its culinary mastery, by providing appetising catering services to First Class and Business Class lounges at airports.

"Airline catering naturally concentrates on efficiently preparing and delivering meals for flights, off the strength of this systematic approach, we have built systems and infrastructure to enable us to deliver food timeously. However what we have done now with this service, is allowed our chefs to share their talents, by creating a diverse menu that can be customised in collaboration with each client, and emphasising the fine dining presentation we offer through the catering service." Adds Mr Mpho Mokoena, Procurement Manager, Air Chef

Air Chefs, has a dedicated Research and Development team of chefs that consistently pioneers cutting-edge recipes and menus to cater seamlessly to every taste and dietary requirement.

Indulge in a Culinary Odyssey with Air Chefs, where passion meets precision to create unparalleled dining experiences. Whether you're soaring through the skies, unwinding in exclusive lounges, fuelling corporate productivity, enjoying ready-made convenience, or hosting memorable events, our commitment to quality, freshness, and innovation remains unwavering. Air Chefs — where every meal is a celebration of culinary excellence.

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