

Cape Town to get cruise terminal

Transnet has given the go-ahead for a dedicated berthing terminal for cruise liners in Table Bay Harbour, in Cape Town, it was reported on Tuesday (11 December).



Ports authority spokesman Coen Birkenstock told the *Cape Times* the new terminal would be completed within the next two years and would feature an arrivals and departures facility and restrooms for passengers.

From next month, the authority would finalise the process of identifying suitable investors and operators.

He said it would possibly encourage more international cruise liners to operate from Cape Town and include the city on their itineraries.

Since January, liners had been required to berth in the Duncan Dock because the home affairs department banned liners exceeding 200 metres in length from berthing at the V&A Waterfront, citing safety concerns.

Shipping agents and tourism officials reportedly felt Duncan Dock put Cape Town in a bad light, because it was inconvenient and unfriendly to wealthy passengers who enjoy international cruises.

According to Economic Development MEC Alan Winde, 19 visiting cruise liners brought about 11,444 passengers to the province last year.

He welcomed the authority's decision, which he said would probably attract more visitors.

Source: Sapa via I-Net Bridge