



Freeport Saldanha Press Release

11 December 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **AGM CLOSES BUSY YEAR AND BIDS FAREWELL TO CEO FOR FREEPORT SALDANHA**

Saldanha Bay, Western Cape – At today's (11 December 2023) annual general meeting of the Freeport Saldanha, the departure of Chief Executive Officer, Kaashifah Beukes, effective from 31 December 2023, was announced.

During Ms Beukes' tenure since 1 September 2019, Freeport Saldanha became the only Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in the country that includes a port area, as well as the only SEZ with a Customs Controlled Area (CCA). This is a unique benefit which means that the Western Cape offers a tangible and significant Ease of Doing Business benefit, reducing time and costs for private sector companies which operate within the zone.

Since the establishment of the Freeport Saldanha, R5.19 billion has been injected into the South African economy, with 6,931 cumulative direct and indirect jobs facilitated, making a difference in the Saldanha Bay area and beyond.

Freeport Saldanha expresses their gratitude to Ms. Beukes for her leadership, dedication, and contributions, especially for her role in solidifying Freeport Saldanha's potential as the first Western Cape Green Hydrogen Hub.

The Board of Directors have already begun the search for a new CEO. In the interim, Chief Operations Officer, Doug Southgate, who is well versed in the governance requirements of a state-owned enterprise of this nature, will fill this role in an acting capacity, ensuring a seamless transition until the new CEO is appointed.

Mr Irvin Esau, Interim Chairman of the Board, expressed the Board's gratitude for Ms Beukes' service and stated, "We thank Kaashifah for her significant contributions and leadership. Well before her role as CEO she was part of the team in 2010 undertaking its feasibility study and then joined the company in 2014 when we were designated."

"Under her guidance, Freeport Saldanha has maintained its clean audit outcomes since the company started its operations in 2014, facilitated a business enabling environment in our top notch properties and facilities, and equally important, developed programmes that are making a difference in Saldanha through the Smart Skills Centre initiative in partnership with CHIETA and the numerous contractor, skills, and enterprise development programmes we have facilitated over the years. We are confident in the continued success of the company and remain committed to our mission to strive to foster responsible investment, creating shared prosperity for Saldanha Bay as a sustainable pioneer in the region.", Mr Esau added.

Provincial Minister of Finance and Economic Opportunities, Mireille Wenger, thanked Ms. Beukes for her service. "I thank Ms. Beukes for all her efforts, especially the commitment to sound audit outcomes and wish her well in her future endeavours. I look forward to continuing our work with the board, and acting CEO Mr Southgate and I wish him well as he navigates the period ahead."

Mr Esau, emphasized, "We are excited about the opportunities ahead and look forward to welcoming a new leader who will contribute to the ongoing success and growth of Freeport Saldanha."

Freeport Saldanha will provide updates on the appointment process as appropriate.

**About Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone Licencing Company trading as Freeport Saldanha**  
*Freeport Saldanha, within the port of Saldanha Bay, is in the deepest natural port in the Southern Hemisphere. It is South Africa's first freeport, a special economic zone (SEZ) and customs-controlled area (CCA) dedicated to the maritime, energy, logistics and engineering industries.*

**Board of Directors**

I. Esau\*, K. Beukes,  
H. Boneschans, J. Smelcer,  
E. Obiri, H. Talmakkies,  
S. Jensma

Saldanha Bay IDZ Licencing Company SOC Ltd | Registration number: 2012/035625/30 |  
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The Saldanha Bay IDZ Licencing Company SOC Ltd (Trading as Freeport Saldanha) is a joint initiative of the Department of Trade, Industry & Competition (dtic), the Western Cape Government's Department of Economic Development & Tourism (DEDAT) and the Saldanha Bay Municipality (SBM).

**Your maritime, energy, logistics and engineering services freeport of choice.**

\* Interim acting board chairperson

*Freeport Saldanha is shaping a vibrant marketplace where investors, local businesses and communities can unlock economic growth. Eligible firms will benefit from the globally competitive customs and value-added tax (VAT) regime across 70% of the zone's land. It is a universal benchmark for ports and special economic zones. Moreover, it offers a streamlined, fast, secure, cost-effective customs and logistics system, saving industry target audiences time and money.*

*We aim to be Africa's premier maritime, energy, logistics and engineering freeport, offering a world-class integrated shipyard, engineering, fabrication, logistics, and related services within an SEZ to zone users and tenants. As such, our mission is to foster responsible investment that creates shared prosperity for Saldanha Bay as a sustainable pioneer in South Africa.*

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