

19 October 2021

### **AGRIPORT FIRE – IMPLICATIONS FOR GRAIN IMPORTS / EXPORTS**

According to a statement released by Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA): “...a fire broke out at the Agriport facility” on 16 October 2021. “The cause is not yet known. The Terminal has invoked its business continuity plans.”

The last ship to load (yellow maize) was the Momi Arrow, which was completed the day before. The next ship scheduled to load yellow maize is the Royal Knight. It was scheduled to load approximately 40,000 tons at Agriport and some 14,000 tons at the DBS facility. Indications are that this may be delayed for maybe three days, and if so, it will have few consequences. Since there will be a delay in the loading and removal of maize in storage at DBS, where storage is limited, it may have slight secondary effects on logistical supply and removal of cargo from the inland to and from the Terminal, but it is too early to tell. A more significant concern is the forecasted rain for the weekend and beyond, which often delays the loading.

At least three imported wheat ships are scheduled to berth during the remainder of October, but all are destined for the DBS and RBT terminals. There should therefore be no impact.

In summary, the fire at Agriport should have little impact on the loading or off-loading of exports or imports or transport operations servicing the terminals.

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