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Outlook looks bright for Durban port as volumes improve

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The outlook for growth in the Port of Durban looks hopeful as overall performance picked up during the month of May, according to port manager Moshe Motlohi.

In the monthly Port of Durban newsletter, issued late last night (Tuesday), Motlohi highlighted that the port's total container volume – at 434 663 TEU – was 3% above budget, as a result of high cargo output from the Far East as well as larger vessels calling at the port.

“Export volumes were equally positive due to the commencement of the citrus season, as well as high output from the mining sector encouraged by strong demand from China for raw materials,” said Motlohi.

Automotive volumes improved on budget by 23% year-to-date owing to sales of new cars and light commercial vehicles. It is however important to note that these figures show a marginal decline year-on-year.

Breakbulk volumes exceeded target with steel imports on a surge as a result of a steep increase in production in China. Dry bulk volumes remained in positive territory at 11%

above budget boosted by agricultural products including wheat, manganese ore volumes and fertilisers.

Motlohi added that maize exports were currently below budget due to a late start. “However, this will be short-lived as the total harvest for this season is 14.6 million tonnes. This is the second highest harvest since 1981 and will result in high exports in the coming months,” he said.

Liquid bulk also delivered a strong performance, exceeding budget by 26%.

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