

# THE DRY PORTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AS AN ENABLER FOR FREIGHT TRANSPORT

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## **ABSTRACT**

Growth in South Africa is critically constrained by multiple structural challenges – namely, high levels of crime, endemic corruption, underperforming infrastructure, and a rail system that is both inefficient and deteriorating. These challenges inhibit efficient logistics and trade, reduce investor confidence, and increase the cost of doing business. In this presentation, we take a holistic view of South Africa’s transport ecosystem, focusing on the bottlenecks and systemic failures within the current freight and logistics infrastructure. More importantly, we explore the potential of inland terminals or intermodal hubs as catalytic interventions to streamline freight movement, reduce logistics costs, and decentralise economic activity. These hubs can bridge the gap between road and rail, revive strategic corridors, and ultimately support inclusive and sustainable economic growth.