

Press Release

Friday 15th May 2009: the M/V Federal Elbe transporting the first Rio Tinto/QMM S.A ilmenite expedition left the Port of Ehoala in Fort Dauphin on Thursday 14th May without incident.

The vessel came alongside in the Port of Ehoala on Monday 11th May 2009 and the loading of the ilmenite took three (3) days. In spite of the heavy rains of the last few days which have retarded the operations, the loading operation has been completed in a professional and safe fashion.

Let us note that all the documents necessary to this first shipment expedition complied with the standards required by the Malagasy administration.

The M/V Federal Elbe is currently heading towards Sorel Tracy, Québec, and should reach her final destination after a 28 day crossing. Her arrival is planned for the 11th June 2009.

The achievement of the first shipment expedition is a great success both for Rio Tinto/QMM SA and its subsidiary Port d'Ehoala Madagascar, on a professional, security, technical and administrative level.

The company would like to thank the local and national authorities, the partners, the various people responsible of technical matters and all the staff who have directly or indirectly contributed to the accomplishment of this first shipment.