

International Graduate Hopes to Plough Back her Expertise into SA Maritime



Pictured: Lihle Ngcobo's Graduation Ceremony at World Maritime University in Sweden

Born and bred in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, 30-year-old, Lihle Ngcobo has spent over seven years working in shipping and maritime space. Lihle studied part time and completed her degree and various other international advanced diplomas in trade and shipping. It seems nothing has yet satiated her eagerness for learning about the Blue Oceans Economy for the ever ambitious and enthusiastic Lihle. Having just recently graduated with a Master's of Science in Maritime Affairs at the World Maritime University is sufficient evidence to the fact.

The World Maritime University graduate was firstly informed about this overseas opportunity through an online article which contained a speech of former president Mr. Jacob Zuma where he highlighted this specific opportunity. With several years of experience working for the South African Maritime Industry under her belt, she described this experience as one that has inspired her to learn even more about the maritime industry.

"I am currently in London on an international Maritime Organization (IMO) internship, returning to South Africa on the 18th of December 2018" says Lihle. She further informed us about the project she's working on with Ocean Maritime Awareness (OMA) Organization in promoting the maritime industry and facilitating ocean sustainability. This

project, she said, is being effected together with other World Maritime University graduates. She described it as one that has grabbed a lot of her interest in such a way that she is willing and happy to further pursue it when she returns to South Africa.

"Maritime is a broad and very crucial field as it connects the world together. People across the globe are fed, clothed and sustained through shipping. The sea needs to be governed and protected by lawyers through administrators. There is a need for scientists that monitor life in the ocean and many more career opportunities that need to be taken into consideration by the youth of South Africa. More especially females for a reason of balancing gender equality since this industry is known as a male dominated industry" she added.

Her experiences in working for the Blue Oceans Economy has served as a motivation for her to make it big and further her studies abroad. "The Maritime industry is in need of transformation to create more room for females, I believe females are more capable to do the practice in any field of expertise. Transformation may balance gender equality in the maritime sector everywhere even in offices and boardrooms" she advised.