



EThekwinI Maritime Cluster

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As we wrap up the year, it is exciting to reflect on the many positive activities that the Maritime Industry has had in 2018. Particularly fascinating to see was the first ever Maritime Youth Innovation Challenge in the city. It was both a surprise and a huge pleasure to watch the enthusiasm and dedication with which the youth of Durban came aboard on this project which I would like to believe will bear the Durban Port some remarkable fruits in the future. We at EMC are tremendously honoured and proud to have played a role in this momentous project from its inception up until the prize giving event. This is one of our great reads in this year's last issue.

Needless to say, we cannot wait to see how these young and talented minds will use the opportunities given to them for the advancement of our ports.

While still on the topic of young minds, another appealing read to look out for in this issue is the Sail Africa Awards story in which learners from local maritime high schools were awarded for completing the sailing course, with some walking away with bursaries to study at one of the top maritime schools in the country, the Lawhill Maritime Centre in Cape Town. This undoubtedly makes it to the list of significant events we have had this year which will add a lot of value into our Maritime Industry in the future.

It is also notable to list the R2 million contribution made by the Transnet National Ports Authority to one of its adopted schools in Umlazi to build a multipurpose facility. Developing the industry at this level is certainly critical as it will ensure that we do not lack candidates who will nurture and sustain the Maritime Sector in impending times.

Also quite significant in our December issue is the story on the KZN Sharks Board Enterprise Workshop. We hope or many of these in the coming year since it is on platforms such as these that small up and coming businesses feed off and grow, thus developing the Maritime Industry at large. As we look forward to spending time with our loved ones during the festive season, we would like to wish you all safe and joyous holidays while you kick back, relax and close off the year. We will see you again next month, with a jam packed programme to celebrate EMCs decade of existence!

Message from the MD



From left: Sifundo Sithole (17), Sindiswa Dlamini (15) and Busang Tsukulu (15) from Sithengile High School were awarded with a bursary to study at Lawhill Maritime Center in Cape Town

Three learners from Durban are jetting off to Cape Town to study at one of the country's top marine centers. The learners from Sithengile High School were awarded with bursaries by the Old Boy Association Fund. The bursary will cover all school related expenses from grade 10 up to matric. The bursary was awarded to the three at a Sail Africa Awards ceremony on Wednesday, 5 December 2018 at the Point Yacht Club. Learners from Sithengile and Wiggins Secondary School were being awarded for completing a sailing course by Sail Africa.

15 year old Sindisiwe Dlamini, said words could not even begin to describe the joy she was feeling after receiving the bursary. "I am so happy, I'm just thinking of how my love for sailing started and how I never imagined it would lead me here. When I started this journey I poured all of my heart into it, I sacrificed a lot of time and would go and meet with friends at the library to learn more and discuss," she added. Being the only girl out of the three made her even more proud because it shows just how much she was dedicated. "I wasn't expecting it but now I feel even more encouraged to follow in the footsteps of Captain Pinkie," said the young girl in referral to Captain Pinkie Zungu, a marine pilot from Transnet, who was a guest in the event.

Another elated recipient of the bursary, Busang Tsukulu (15), said he owed a lot of gratitude to a friend of his, Derryn Mogandi, whom he said played a huge role in getting him where he is today. Pushed by the desire to lead, Busang said he wants to inspire a lot of young boys from the township through succeeding. "I plan on being a navigator, a harbor master and just keep growing.



From left Mrs. Jackie DeFin of Sail Africa, Acting MD for EMC, Mrs. Nomalanga Sokhela and Ms. Nomkhitha Mbele of General Botha Old Boys Association at the Sail Africa Awards ceremony

I want to lead by example, even where I'm going I want to shine and showcase my leadership skills and inspire many people," he said

Sifundo Sithole (17), another bursary recipient, said this opportunity will undoubtedly open doors and new arenas for him. "I appreciate it so much, I have made my family proud and I plan to keep on doing so."

Ms. Nomkhitha Mbele from the General Botha Old Boys Association said previously the bursary targeted Cape Town learners but having moved to Durban, she felt there was a need to expand. "We spoke to Jackie about identifying candidates who had the desire to be at sea. We now want our program to be a full on mentoring program and incorporate life skills into it," she said.

Acting Managing Director for EThekweni Maritime Cluster, Mrs. Nomalanga Sokhela, while giving a token of appreciation to the Maritime Museum, said incorporating edutainment into maritime related studies is just as important as learning. "Yes we need to teach but we must also make it fun. We want to develop a chess board that is maritime orientated."

Manelisi Mkhize from Umlazi a former recipient of the bursary to study at Lawhill gave words of encouragement to his peers, saying it came down to where someone wants to go and then working extra hard to get there.

Acting Ports Manager for TNPA, Ms. Nokuzola Nkozwane encouraged the learners to always remain focused on their goals no matter what. "It doesn't matter where you come from, don't ever let anyone tell you that you are good for nothing because only you can determine that," she said. As the Ports Authority, we always encourage young people and women to take up Maths and Science subjects, she added.

Winners of the Maritime Youth Innovation Challenge Crowned



Smartipants Technologies snatched away the first prize in the Maritime Youth Innovation Challenge.

Four groups of young Durbanites walked away with cash prizes, internships as well as free legal assistance to help kick start their businesses at an awards ceremony held at The Chairman on 30 November 2018. The event marked the conclusion of the five-month long Maritime Youth Innovation Challenge where the youth were tasked to come up with practical innovative ideas to tackle current maritime challenges in Durban.

The challenge was made possible through the partnership between Innovate Durban(ID), Transnet Port Terminal (TPT), EThekweni Municipality(EM), EThekweni Maritime Cluster(EMC), Aurecon, Durban University of Technology(DUT), Adams & Adams(A&A), Technology Innovation Agency(TIA), Domino and Oracle.

Smartipants Technologies scooped the first prize which comprised a R50 000 cash prize; 3 month Transnet internship; 6 month accelerated Mentorship Programme with Innovate Durban; free consultations, trade mark applications and free registered design application with Adams & Adams as well as a 3 month Aurecon internship. LoadBox were the runner-ups, walking away with of R35 000 cash prize; 3 month Transnet internship and a 6 month accelerated Mentorship Programme with Innovate Durban. Trailblazer and Sagiya Foundation drew a tie in the third position, walking away with R25 000 in cash each, a 3 month Transnet internship and also a 6 month accelerated Mentorship Programme with Innovate Durban.

Nonjabulo Gasa of Smartipants Technologies described being in the competition as somewhat of a roller-coaster ride. “It was quite a challenging process. When we first started out we were quite confident in ourselves. However, when we got down to the actual work, there were so many challenges so much so that at one point we felt like giving up. We managed to pull ourselves together just in the time.”

Philisiwe Ngamalana of Siyagiya Foundation foresees the 3 month internship with Transnet to be a fruitful one. “we’ve learnt a lot. Getting into the maritime space with Mpumelelo Tembe highlighted that seeing their efforts finally came to fruition has been a privilege Trailblazer’s Reddy Bambi said coming in third would definitely push them until they become among the best little knowledge, we’ve interacted with a lot of people who have been in the industry for a long time and they are willing to give a lot of guidance,” she said.

The Director for Innovate Durban, Mr. Richard Gever said they were looking forward to the winners’ involvement in the Maritime Industry. “The focus on maritime has been a great step because the country’s economy significantly relies on goods coming in and out.”

EMC’s Ms Zenzile Makelo said programmes such as the Maritime Youth Innovation Challenge were an indication that the industry is headed in the right direction in terms of development. “The contribution of innovative solutions to the industry challenges the youth as well as women can make towards making Durban a Smart Port City is extremely critical. We are certainly steering towards making the Port of Durban a much better port with developed infrastructure, enhanced capacity, advanced logistics as well as progressed environmental measures and practices,” she said.

Mr. Willie Coetsee from the TPT encouraged young people to keep themselves relevant. He concluded by announcing that TPT is engaging with Department of Education about financing the development of maritime industry within the curriculum of secondary and tertiary institutions “

Maritime youth innovation Challenge Awards Gallery



From left, Reddy Bambi (Trailblazer), Philani Duma and Philisiwe Ngamlana (Sagiya Foundation) both 3rd position, Sandile Gogo, Nonjabulo Gasa and Ntuthuko Msimang (Smartipants) 1st and Solam Dontsa and Mpumelelo Tembe (Load Box) 2nd



Smartipants Technologies snatched away the first prize in the Maritime Youth Innovation Challenge.



Umlazi School to Benefit from a R2 Million Transnet Project



GM for Corporate Affairs, Mr. Moshe Motlohi, Acting Port Manager, Ms Nokuzola Nkowane both from TNPA and Zwelibanzi High School Principal Mr. Sibusiso Maseko



Zwelibanzi High School Staff and learners with TNPA managers

One of Transnet National Ports Authority's (TNPA) adopted schools stands to benefit from a R2 million multi-purpose facility that was donated. Zwelibanzi High School in Umlazi, J section, is one of 15 schools adopted by the TNPA in the South Durban Basin. This is an initiative intended to cultivate skills essential to the TNPA within the port by developing the Durban community from foundation level. On Monday, 26 November 2018, a sod-turning event was held at the school to mark the official beginning of the project.

Transnet's General Manager for Corporation Affairs Mr. Moshe Motlohi said the project is a result of a need analysis that was done and saw Zwelibanzi fit for this initiative. Mr. Motlohi, also the Chairman of the board for EThekweni Maritime Cluster, said projects of this nature were long overdue. "With Durban being a major port city, communities seem to be isolated. We need to put the port where it belongs and EMC has been at the center of doing just that. Let us make maritime popular, the learners from these schools will feed into the industry," he said. In addition he also emphasized that not only students, but teachers as well, needed to be given platforms to be more involved in growing the maritime industry by initiating sessions and meetings with them.

Principal of the school Mr. Sibusiso Maseko said they felt honored to be recipients of a world class facility in their school and said, "We promise to get a lot of learners and staff members too who will build and maintain a good working relationship with Transnet,". Their school is one that prides itself in promoting the maritime industry and other industries which have, for a long time, been known to be male dominated.

Circuit Manager, Mr. Petros Mdabe said Zwelibanzi deserved the contribution as it is one of the best performing schools in the country, regardless of the setting it is in and it's various challenges. Mr. Mdabe also commended Zwelibanzi for offering subjects which will ensure that their learners are employable. "Because the school offers technical subjects and maritime studies, these will no doubt assist the learners get opportunities worldwide," he said.

Acting Port Manager at TNPA, Ms. Nokuzola Nkowane encouraged the learners, especially girls, to focus on their school work because there are many opportunities awaiting them when they complete their studies. The multipurpose facility will be up and running by the end of 2019. It follows a fully equipped lab construction in Ndukwenhle High School, also another one of the TNPA's adopted schools.

Maritime Experts and SMMEs Unite to Tackle Enterprise Development Challenges



SMMEs and Maritime Experts held a workshop to discuss enterprise development in the maritime sector

Maritime Enterprise Development took center stage in a workshop that was held by maritime experts and Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) at the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board on Friday the 23rd of November 2018. In this workshop, experts were invited to come and share insight on challenges currently faced by the Maritime Sector with regards to enterprise development as well as opportunities available to SMMEs and how to access them.

Speaking on the current state of enterprise development within the sector, Mr. Nkanyiso Mzimela of EThekweni Maritime Cluster's (EMC) Enterprise and Supplier Development Unit encouraged business owners to be proactive and unrelenting as there were still many challenges faced by the sector. He said one of those challenges is that cohesiveness is highly needed from maritime major role players in assisting infant maritime entities. The problem right now is that seeking help from potential future competitors therefore it is urged that the industry co-operates in assisting upcoming small businesses. "These SMMEs they are capacitated with trainings and in a lookout for opportunities to practice their skills" he said. He expressed the wish for government to be committed now more than ever but also for entrepreneurs to meet the government halfway. He further emphasizes that SMMEs should conduct a proper market research to find out the relevant avenues.

Mr. Mzimela said EMC was currently trying to formulate a programme that will allow for huge transition from being an unexperienced entrepreneur to a fully compliant and working company.

Project Manager for the IT'S MARITIME! Career Development Program, Mr. Khulekani Hlophe said a definitive system had to be designed and stuck to in order for progress to take place. He also advised that small businesses identify gaps within the industry and fill them instead of relying on the private sector.

Mr. Mgwaba, a beneficiary of EMCs Incubation Programme, raised a concern about funding and its limited accessibility within institutions. Some SMME owners shared their concerns regarding access policies into the ports saying these sometimes posed a hindrance in terms of accessing business opportunities thus justifying review. Mr. Terry Mavundla of Wisolve said it would benefit them a lot if they had all the knowledge pertaining to dos and don'ts when entering a port with context of considering marine life and other important majors.

Mr. Lungisani Gasa from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries who spoke on the status of Aquaculture in South Africa. He educated entrepreneurs about the opportunities available to them as well as how to access them. "Currently, there are two projects under Operation Phakisa with a specific focus on Aquaculture Development Zone. Such projects will help to have a structure where it can be determined how much fish are there so that we know how much of that needs to be exported," he added.

In words of encouragement, Dr. Ankit Katrodia, a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the University of KwaZulu-Natal said even though there were still many challenges within the Maritime Industry, there should be a perseverance on women empowerment and developmental projects.



The eThekweni Maritime Cluster (EMC) is a non-profit company that was launched in 2009. The EMC provides a platform for collaborative engagement between different levels of government, state owned enterprises and the maritime community to implement programs of common interest that support the growth and improve performance and competitiveness of the maritime industry.

For maritime related news or events that you would like published on this newsletter or our website please contact:

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