



Welcome Message from the MD

The EThekwini Maritime Cluster has, over the years, entrenched its position as the platform upon which stakeholders from various sectors of the maritime industry, government, academia and other relevant areas of society meaningfully engage for the advancement of the maritime industry in KwaZulu-Natal in general and eThekwini specifically.

This glorious organisation has a sterling profile in its 10 years of implementation, and boasts an even more sterling history of astute leaders that have been at its helm - all of them achieving significant milestones towards the organisation's vision. I am therefore honored, to be entrusted with carrying forth the mission of EMC and solemnly pledge to take it to

even greater heights. A central pillar of the strategy of EMC is its stakeholder network, which is what I intend to leverage on. This is the key to ensuring that interventions envisioned in EMC programmes are successfully achieved.

One of our recent highlights was a fruitful AGM that was held on 27 June, where EMC presented an unqualified audit report. This is reflective of the seriousness with which corporate governance is viewed at EMC; such a feat would not have been achieved without the invaluable strategic guidance of our board of directors. As we bid farewell to those board members who have ended their term, in the same vein we would like to welcome on board our new directors.

July is an important month on South Africa's calendar, where we commemorate the life and values of Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Towards advancing one of Mandela Day goals, that is, active citizenship EMC used its 67 Minutes for Mandela Day in the Blue Lagoon's beach cleanup 'Green initiative.' This was done in partnership with the Green Hub, based at the Blue Lagoon in Durban.

As far as our initiatives go it does not end there, we will continue, with more vigor and verve, to showcase our value by playing a lead role in skills and SME development within the maritime industry. These interventions will ensure that we remain relevant to our country's broader goals, as envisaged in the National Development Plan, of reducing unemployment, empowering women and the youth, and growing the economy.

It is precisely against this background that on the 28th of August, we hosted a 'Women in maritime breakfast' themed: 'Providing mentorship to firmly anchor young women in the maritime industry.' This event saw women executives and leaders from various sectors of the maritime industry engaging with, and establishing meaningful mentorship links with young women aspiring to enter the maritime industry and those that have recently joined the industry. The event was also in keeping with our women's month focus where we profile the contributions made by an array of amazing women in the maritime industry. There are other exciting projects and events on the horizon at EMC some of which are detailed in this issue.

I hope you will have loads of fun reading our July-August newsletter as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you!

Ms. Zenzile Makelo | Managing Director EThekwini Maritime Cluster |



Women's Breakfast Aims to Support Young Women into Maritime Industry

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Enterprise Development Beneficiaries Hone Skills in Gariep Dam



From left: OSMG members Samukelisiwe Ngidi and Samkelisiwe Zulu engage in the aquaculture training at Gariep in Free State. The entrepreneurs found this opportunity organized jointly by EMC and DAFF to be invaluable in their quest to equip themselves with the required knowledge of fish farming.

In August, collaboration between EThekweni Maritime Cluster (EMC) and the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) ensured that SMEs in the EMC enterprise and supplier development programme benefit from a week-long aqua-culture focused training in Gariep Dam, Free State.

The Durban-based Olwandle Maritime Services Group (OSMG) attended a workshop/training hosted by the China-South Africa Agriculture Demonstration Center (ATDC). The focus of this training was to help the group acquire the fundamental expertise of aquaculture operations. ATDC is a project funded by the Chinese government and founded during the Beijing Summit of the Forum of China Africa Cooperation. This is the first project of this nature in South Africa, the ATDC project is divided into two phases: the first being the construction phase and the second being the technical phase. The ATDC institute is located in the Free State province's Xhariep District at the Gariep Dam along the Orange River. The responsibilities of ATDC are to conduct research; host workshops; research on fish nutrition; and aquaculture economics - a value chain that includes a fish processing plant, fingerlings production, grow out and bloodstock production.

The Olwandle Maritime Services Group' concept is of high standard and has the potential to positively contribute to the South African economy. Currently, South Africa's aquaculture sector production hasn't reached two tons per day. This group of vibrant entrepreneurs is planning on becoming the largest fish breeding entity in KwaZulu-Natal, and the knowledge they have gained from this workshop surely puts them in the right path to achieving their goal- EMC encourages more initiatives of this kind.

Being based in Durban limits the group's production to warm water fish found in this area. "Cat fish and tilapia are our main focus at the moment. Knowing Durban temperatures, we can't farm any other fish even if we wanted to but we will focus on what is suitable

to farm in our area," said OSMG board member and project coordinator comfort Kunene.

The entrepreneurs found the trip to Gariep well organized and the modules studied to be beneficial. The group engaged in a number of tutorials including fresh water aquaculture species, basic fish nutrition, fish health, aquaculture economics and aquaculture farming systems to name a few. They were also exposed to practical work such as fish breeding, brood stock selection-weighing-injection of fish, breeding, water quality testing and cleaning of ponds.

Daily morning temperatures which went as low as seven degrees Celsius on other mornings did not deter the group as they always looked forward to the next learning session. "I have never been in training like this before. The guys here are welcoming and have been sharing with us invaluable insights into aquaculture- things I don't think I would've known if I had never attended this training," said OSMG member, Samkeliso Ngidi.

It was not all work and no play as the group got to go on a tour of the Gariep Dam, this historic dam is South Africa's biggest dam and its construction took nearly 27 years resulting in an establishment of a small township where the Bridge contractors resided. Lucia Matlala of ATDC thanked and wished EMC ESD beneficiaries well on their endeavor.

ports rail 15-16 OCTOBER
evolution evolution Durban ICC, Durban, South Africa

AFRICA'S MUST-ATTEND EVENT FOR PORT AND RAIL PROFESSIONALS

FREE-TO-ATTEND EXPO



Study Finds More Attention Needed for Shipbuilding Industry

A study by Jupilog Consultants found that the South African shipbuilding industry has gone progressively into decline since the 1990's when government continued to subsidize this sector. Lately, the industry mostly focuses on the small vessels like tugs, fishing, patrol, and search and rescue crafts.

The study reports that the future of this industry lies on aggressive expansion and sustainable positive policy intervention and relevant support from the government. Reports have shown that there is a lot of international credibility within this industry, which has undergone reconstruction and face steep international competition with respect to price, quality and durability. In some way this has seen the industry gain reputation from international boat designers, who often allocate orders and refer clients to South African boat builders.

Among some of the issues reported to be facing the South African vessel construction industry include: heavy competition which is caused by the shortage of the facilities in common use process; contract labour (common issue worldwide but made worse by the uncertainty of dock bookings and certainty of obtaining contracts); and lack of black and women owned firms. The industry hasn't responded to empowerment charters and lacks policy direction.

The study by Jupilog Consultants was commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry. It focus was on the maritime components supplier development and naval design research findings workshop in June 2019. The workshop looked at the demand from ship building and repair yards: data included components and material transactions, and inventory data. The data represented eleven built during 2014 to 2016. This however did not take into account further information available which was less complete. This amounted to two large patrol vessels over 30 meters. SA Shipyards director, Mr. Prashen Maharaj said: "The issue we have in South Africa is not having black-owned companies with adequate shipbuilding competence and government support in uplifting and getting these SME's to the required standards is limited".

Maharaj maintains that the ship building process is no child's play and requires standards of high and international level, and that SMEs require adequate financial resources to survive against international competition.

"As long as government keeps doubting or ignoring this sector and not giving enough required support to these SMEs, we will never successfully compete in the international market," continued Maharaj.

A New Crew Aboard for EThekwini Maritime Cluster

EThekwini Maritime Cluster (EMC) has turned a new leaf with a change of the MD and the introduction of a new board of directors. This was revealed at the organisation's AGM held on 27 June at the Royal Hotel.

The AGM was a solemn affair with representatives of key stakeholder entities present at the event. Now, former acting Managing Director, Nomalanga Sokhela, opened the meeting by welcoming all members present and provided a brief history of EMC, as well as, its mission, vision and objectives.

The various addresses on the day consisted of the chairman's report, the managing director's report and the audit report. Indeed, these various presentations gave stakeholders a concise overview of EMC and its operations.

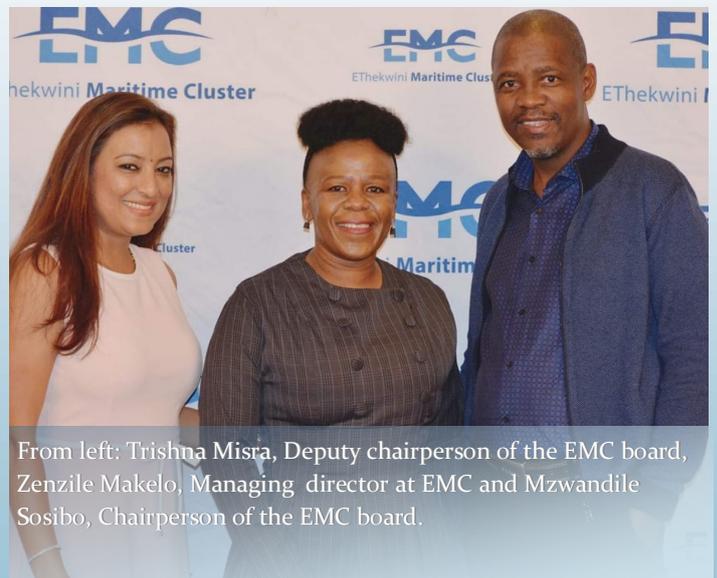
Nontobeko Mthiyane, advised that the annual financial statement presented the financial position of EMC in all respects, and shows the organisation's financial report to be in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards. She further noted that the audit report was unqualified, thus there were no material mistakes on the annual financial statement.

The CEO of the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), Mr Sobantu Tilayi, was invited to deliver the keynote address at the meeting, he unfortunately could not attend. However, Mzwandile Sosibo, senior manager industry development at SAMSA, was at hand to comment on behalf of SAMSA.

During his address, Sosibo highlighted key factors that need to be addressed by industry stakeholders.

"The maritime industry and EMC need to be a cluster which spearheads all maritime related activities. All those in need of any services relating to the maritime industry should be able to receive services within the cluster. And, those that seek to provide services should be able to supply them, which would result in a well-defined and articulated industry", said Sosibo.

"We would like extend a warm welcome to our new board members, and we look forward to working and forming strong partnerships with them. Lastly, we would like to congratulate newly appointed Managing Director, Ms. Zenzile Makelo, who has extensive experience of EMC programmes and operations," said Sokhela. "The contribution of our outgoing board members has been immensely invaluable and has indeed left an indelible mark in the history of our organisation," continued Sokhela.



From left: Trishna Misra, Deputy chairperson of the EMC board, Zenzile Makelo, Managing director at EMC and Mzwandile Sosibo, Chairperson of the EMC board.

Women's Breakfast Aims to Support Young Women into Maritime Industry



Pictured above: Innocentia Motau, CEO of Shosholozza Operations, encouraged young women to equip themselves with information and specialized knowledge in order to be a success in the maritime industry.

The Women in Maritime Breakfast session held at the Elangeni Hotel in August was a solemn yet, entertaining and inspirational affair. The Breakfast was held under the theme 'Providing Mentorship to Firm the Anchor of Young Women in the Maritime Industry.'

The event was attended by an array of prominent women within the various sectors of the maritime industry. The guest list included Trishna Misra, deputy chairperson of the EMC board of directors and CFO at SA Shipyards, Palesa Phili, CEO of Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Norma Wheeler, EMC board member and senior associate at Bowmans, Tarryn Lange, EMC board member and operations director at Bidfreight Port Operations and Innocentia Motau, CEO at Shosholozza Operations, to name but a few. Sitting among these industry captains were young women who have graduated from the EMC graduate placement programme to being industry professionals; those who are currently in the graduate placement programme; and young

ladies from Sithengile Secondary School, situated in Clermont – west of Durban.

The purpose of this event was to establish a meaningful and practical mentor-mentee link between young women who have just started out in the industry and those aspiring to be maritime professionals, with women who have vast experience of the maritime sector. The programme for the day was filled with informative and yet inspirational addresses from various speakers – young and old alike.

Guest speaker Motau chronicled her ascent in the maritime industry and highlighted the importance of being a persistent and resilient person; working hard towards educating one's self; and keeping abreast with the latest developments within the maritime industry.

"Present merit rather than entitlement; don't feel entitled because you are a black woman. To the graduate be in it to win it, show up and connect with the key industry role players, stay passionate about what you do have a plan and come conquer – the industry needs you. A huge thanks to the Ethekwini Maritime Cluster to contributing such platforms," said Motau.

Motau continued to say that in order for her to be where she is she identified her knowledge gaps and made a decision to study, she now holds a masters degree in maritime economics and she says that has helped her to have in-depth knowledge of the maritime industry. She also added that women in Durban have the advantage of being close to the ocean and the port of Durban.

The event was not without entertainment as Sithengile Duo, Siphokazi Apolisi and Amuhelang Nkoliseng, from Sithengile gave a riveting musical performance that left the audience breathless. "People are complaining about the industry ageing and risking the loss of institutional memory, in order to mitigate this risk lets groom young ones. We are serious about looking for industry mentors for our graduates, this is even reflected in our sitting arrangement – we have made sure that there is a mix of youth and experience around every table," notes Zenzile Makelo, managing director of EMC.

Mbhali Mbhele, an economic analyst at Transnet National Ports Authority, Mandisa Hlubi, system support analyst at Transnet Port Terminals, and Sibusiso Mngadi, new business development specialist at Transnet National Ports Authority, all ex-graduates of the EMC graduate placement programme delivered powerful testimonials that evoked hope and inspiration to the youth present at the breakfast.

"I would like to thank Thato Tsautse, Zenzile Makelo and Nomalanga Sokhela for their astounding leadership during our time in the EMC graduate placement



Some of the young women that attended the Women in Maritime Breakfast (from left): Aadila Khan from Subtech, Mandisa Hlubi from Transnet Port Terminals, Pretty Molefe from SAMSA, Londiwe Ngcobo, dredger master at TNPA and Ayanda Sikobi from EMC.

Newly Appointed MD Plans to Steer EMC on a Growth Path



The new EMC managing director, Zenzile Makelo (pictured above), has big plans to take the EThekweni Maritime Cluster to greater heights.

Zenzile Makelo, recently appointed Managing Director of EThekweni Maritime Cluster, has big plans for EMC.

These plans include the re-engineering of the organisation's operations and engaging more stakeholders to accomplish the organisation's mission.

A seasoned professional with the qualifications and management experience to back it, Makelo has an unwavering resolve to grow the organisation, regardless of the budget constraints characteristic of an NPO such as EMC. She believes the organisation can take it all in its stride by leveraging on the strategic partnerships it has fostered with the maritime industry, key entities of government and other international stakeholder bodies.

"Association with the EMC brand is definitely something to consider, we have a range of programmes aimed at key areas such as development of skills for the maritime industry, the development of enterprises within this industry, as well as, growing marine manufacturing in and around the EThekweni region," said Makelo.

"EMC is perfectly positioned to play a lead role in supporting the implementation of interventions seeking to exploit the potential economic benefits of the maritime industry, as envisioned in

various policy documents of government," continued Makelo.

As if the important responsibility of navigating EMC to its desired destination is not challenging enough, Makelo successfully juggles this task with parenthood and enterprising in her own business. Her dynamism, driven by her appetite to re-invent herself and explore new challenges, has seen Makelo transit from a prolific career in the financial sector to joining EMC, in 2015. Her initial position was programme manager of the training and skills unit, a duty which was coupled with an operations assistance role, Makelo later headed the enterprise development unit.

During her tenure at EMC Makelo has overseen a capacity building programme for maritime high school teachers; the graduate placement programme that has successfully placed many graduates across the maritime industry with some going to study abroad; an annual maritime careers expo the reach of which has increased from 1200 to 10 000 learners in 2019; and she has also played a significant role in developing a maritime career booklet in 2015.

Makelo said: "My management experience includes being a regional business development manager for Old Mutual Private Wealth Management, and a regional manager at ABSA Private Bank." Her educational background is equally noteworthy - she holds a BCom degree and a masters in business administration, both obtained from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The AJ Mwelase matriculant, hailing from Lamontville, says that it is during her high school life where she discovered her uniqueness, the awareness of her power to change her circumstances and honed her decision-making skills - this has helped her build on her strengths and pursue her goals.

Makelo's values are firmly built on Christian principles and her passion for people's development, particularly the youth, is starkly notable.

"It is important to find your passion, invest time in nurturing it and stay focused in order to become an expert in it. Importantly, avoid trying to find short cuts to success. Life is not easy embrace challenges they are there to grow you," said Makelo.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Message About Upcoming Events

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

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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.

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