

MBC'S VESSEL OWNERSHIP DREAMS REALISED WITH R300M ORDER FOR NEW ANCHOR HANDLING TUG AND SUPPLY VESSEL



Marine Bulk Carriers (MBC) and our partners have responded to the South African government's call to invest in and rebuild the South African merchant marine by placing a R300 million order for a new anchor handling tug and supply vessel purpose-built for South African conditions.

According to Lester Peteni, MBC Chairman:

further proof of MCS's commitment to investing in the local maritime sector."

"This vessel acquisition marks the start of MBC's dream to expand our business activities

Satisfying moment

For MBC directors Robert Knutzen and Jan Rabie, both of whom have been in shipping for over 30 years, MBC's move into vessel ownership is a special and "highly satisfying moment" and represents a "huge leap of faith and investment in the South African maritime industry."

Both directors have played a key role in building MBC/MCS from a small private company to its current status as vessel owner.

According to Jan Rabie: "MBC has taken the South African Government, which has expressed its commitment to rebuilding the local merchant marine, at its word and it's now a matter of seeing whether visions can become a reality and whether South African customers are willing to support local owners and operators."

THIS ORDER MARKS THE START OF MBC'S DREAM TO EXPAND OUR BUSINESS ACTIVITIES FROM VESSEL MANAGEMENT INTO VESSEL OWNERSHIP.

– Lester Peteni, MBC Chairman

from vessel management into vessel ownership and supports the call made by South Africa's Minister of Transport, Ben Martins, and the CEO of the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), Commander Tsietsi Mokhele, for South African companies to start investing in vessels for the local market.

"The demand for anchor handling tugs around Southern Africa – in particular South Africa, Namibia and Mozambique – is increasing. For example, PetroSA currently operates six foreign-owned tugs off Mossel Bay and the growth in the market is something MBC hopes to exploit through local ownership and crewing.

"MBC's sister company, Marine Crew Services (MCS), will man the vessel with local officers and ratings and also provide training berths for cadets and ratings as

1 MBC's Jan Rabie, Lester Peteni and Daniel Ngubane with a model of a similar vessel to the one ordered.

2 The new vessel, a sister vessel to the one pictured below, is due for delivery in mid-2015.



ABOUT THE NEW VESSEL

- Engine: 12 000 horsepower
- Length: 78m
- Built by Guangxin Shipbuilding of Guangdong in China
- Designed to meet the requirements of the local off-shore industry in terms of power, deck space and winch capacity

MOVING UP!



DANIEL NGUBANE APPOINTED MBC GENERAL MANAGER – OFFSHORE OPERATIONS...

The appointment of Daniel Ngubane as MBC's General Manager–Offshore Operations in March this year is a well-deserved promotion for a man with years of experience in the maritime sector, both on and offshore, and a solid track record of achievement.

Daniel joined MBC in its offshore division in February 2007 and over the years, has accumulated vast experience which has put him in good stead to head the offshore division of a dynamic company such as MBC.

According to MBC's Jan Rabie, "Daniel has an impressive track record in fixing contracts and overseeing the operations of numerous anchor handlers, platform supply vessels and shuttle tankers.

"He is widely-recognised as an expert in the highly specialised oil and gas industry and has also developed an unrivalled understanding of PetroSA's marine operations and has arranged the provision of vessels for PetroSA's various drilling and rig-moving operations."

Originally from KwaZulu-Natal, Daniel holds an S2 in Maritime Studies (DUT), an ISM/ISPS Auditor Certificate (from Wavelink College, Singapore) and has completed his qualification as a Chartered Shipbroker through the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers. He is due to become a member of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, London, soon.



... AND YVETTE DE KLERK PROMOTED TO GENERAL MANAGER AT MCS

Yvette has an interesting background. She studied physical fitness and sports psychology and graduated with a degree from the University of Pretoria. After graduation, she went to sea with the Norwegian Cruise Lines as a physical fitness instructor. While sailing around the world, she became interested in what the marine and technical personnel do on board and spent time, whenever she could, finding out about navigation in which she had developed a special interest.

She decided to change her career and enrolled at the Australian Maritime College to commence phase one of the maritime studies course. After returning to sea as a deck cadet with the Norwegian Cruise Lines, she enrolled at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) to further her studies for the National Diploma–Maritime Studies.

While studying, she also concentrated on furthering her career on the shore side and applied to Marine Crew Services. She joined the MCS team as Cadet Training Administration Officer in June 2011 and during 2012, worked in the MCS office while attending CPUT part time as she studied for the Master's phase of the National Diploma Course, which she successfully passed in November 2012.

¹ Yvette de Klerk, pictured at the CPUT graduation in November 2012.

From the Helm

Deanna Collins,
Crewing & Training Director, Marine
Crew Services SA (Pty) Ltd, writes ...

IT'S ALL ABOUT OUR PEOPLE

"The crewing and training business, which MCS is in, is all about people and MCS is incredibly proud of the very many young South African female and male deck and engineering officers who have successfully obtained their STCW Officer of the Watch Certificate of Competency under our training management in recent years.

Congratulations – you have done our country and our maritime industry proud!

At MCS we commend and fully support the South African Government's strategic national cadet training and job creation projects through the initiatives driven by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) and the Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA).

Since our participation in these progressive initiatives began in 2010/2011, MCS has been able to grow the pool of STCW certificated officers in our industry by a further 30 and we expect an additional 20 cadets to graduate this year.

We also aim to increase the number of new entrants for cadet, ratings and apprentice training by a few hundred during the next 12 months.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK HARD TO OPEN DOORS WITH REPUTABLE SHIPOWNERS TO ACCESS BERTHS FOR THE PLACEMENT OF OUR CADETS, RATINGS AND CERTIFIED OFFICERS.

– Deanna Collins, MCS



MAKING WAVES AT MCS ...



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Valuable berths

Finding sufficient berths for our cadets has

always been a challenge and we are immensely grateful to Mr Robert Knutzen (above) of RKOffshore Ship Management Pte Ltd in Singapore (RKO) and his marine, technical and crewing team for opening up the fleet of 23 anchor handling supply tugs to us for training berths for both our male and female cadets. These training berths make it possible for MCS to take our cadets from entrant to certificated Officer.

RKO's red anchor handling supply tugs have grown in numbers – and so too the number of cadets on board – and both have become increasingly evident in West African waters. Other shipowners have also given us their support and we are currently enjoying access to berths for our cadet training on a number of vessel classes.

Working together with RKOOffshore Singapore (who support our Government's maritime training initiatives), we have implemented a quality on-board training programme in the RKO fleet for all cadets under MCS training management. Together, we review standards of training at sea and ashore to ensure our trainees receive quality education and training."

2 One of RKOOffshore's many red anchor handling supply tugs.

3 Rob Knutzen.

Photo courtesy Maritime Review magazine

4 Congratulations all round from the MCS team to Amanda Beja. From left to right (front row), Second Officer Javier Borja, Kamilah Sauls (MCS Accounts & Payroll Manager), Amanda Beja, Deanna Collins, Merle Jacobs (Training Administration Officer), Angelique Blaauw (Accounts & Payroll Assistant). Back row: Christopher Adams (Crew Logistics Manager), Ernest Magerman (Crew Operations Manager).



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MCS'S FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK MASTER, CAPTAIN 'TSHEPI' SERERO

From Cadet to Command – MCS extends its congratulations to Captain Abraham Tshepi Serero on his promotion to Master on board the RKOffshore deep sea anchor handling supply tug, mv "HILDE K" in early June 2013.

According to MCS Director, Deanna Collins:

"Captain Serero is an example to many aspirant trainee deck officers and his promotion is well-earned and well-deserved. Always self-motivated and determined to succeed, he has worked hard, exercised self-discipline, demonstrated competence and led by example with sound principles, knowledge and experience.

We are very proud to have Captain Serero – who holds a full DP certificate – as MCS's first South African Black Master in command of a deep sea anchor handling supply tug operating in West Africa.

His appointment as Master with RKOOffshore Ship Management Pte Ltd., Singapore is a truly significant event in our maritime industry and one we believe will inspire others to follow in his footsteps."

AMANDA BEJA – THE FIRST DECK CADET FROM THE MCS/SAMSA NATIONAL CADET POOL TO GRADUATE TO DECK OFFICER

Amanda underwent training as a deck cadet under the MCS/SAMSA national cadet programme which MCS embarked on in late 2011.



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Amanda joined her first vessel, an anchor handling supply tug, the "Ragnild K", on 27 May 2011 and continued her experiential on-board training on two other foreign-going tugs with RKOOffshore.

Our sincere congratulations to Amanda on obtaining her STCW Deck Officer of the Watch Class III Certificate of Competency in April 2013. Amanda, we know you worked hard for this and now deserve a placement as a deck officer in the offshore industry.

Amanda will soon join a RKOOffshore anchor handling supply tug as Third Officer.

MY AIM IS TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS AS A WOMAN IN THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AND ASSIST OTHER CADETS IN REACHING THEIR DREAMS.

– Amanda Beja



MAKING WAVES AT MCS ...



MCS'S FIRST ANGOLAN SENIOR MARINE ENGINEERS FROM SONASURF – ADRIANO DOMINGOS AND JOAO CHINGANGELA

Well done to Adriano Domingos and Joao Chingangela whose hard work and determination paid off when they passed the oral examination at SAMSA Cape Town in June to achieve their STCW Second Engineer Officer of the Watch Certificate of Competency.

According to Deanna Collins, "These newly-promoted officers from Sonasurf Ltd. Luanda initially came to MCS in October 2004 as marine engineering students, with little English at the time and with no idea of what life outside of their fishing village in Namibe, Angola, would be like.

"Always ready for the challenge, hardworking, enthusiastic and seeking further knowledge and experience they soon adapted to a new environment, conquered the various challenges and went on to complete their seetime and obtain their STCW Officer of the Watch Class IV certification. Never resting on their laurels they are now armed with their STCW Second Engineer Officer of the Watch certificate of competency and have returned to Sonasurf Luanda for service at sea.

"I know that they will return to Cape Town after further seetime to present themselves to SAMSA for their Chief's Certificate of Competency. Congratulations to Adriano and Joao and to the General Manager of Sonasurf, Mr Albano Fernandes, who recruited them for the MCS programme in 2004."

1 From left to right: Deanna Collins, Adriano Domingos, Ms Goreth Remy (Adriano's fiancé), Joao Chingangela and Yvette de Klerk



MCS ACHIEVERS

SANDRO CESAR

Sandro Cesar, an Angolan officer from the Luanda-based company, Oilfield Production Services (OPS), is a young man who continues to impress.

Sandro came to Cape Town in January 2008 at the age of 18 and started under the MCS cadet training programme with English lessons, before he was enrolled at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) for the maritime studies (navigation) course.

In his first year at CPUT he not only passed all his subjects, but he did so achieving distinctions in almost every subject! He also went on to complete the Mates and Masters course the following year, again achieving many distinctions. Thereafter Sandro proceeded to sea and, after completing his seetime, returned to Cape Town and passed the SAMSA Oral examination for his Deck Officer of the Watch Class III Certificate of Competency.

Sandro is now back at CPUT, this time undergoing studies in Chemical Engineering to further his career with OPS in the Angolan oil and gas industry. And once again, Sandro has come up tops – he achieved distinctions in all six subjects!



CLAUDINO JORGE

At a recent graduation ceremony at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT), another MCS-trained Angolan student, Claudino Jorge, was honoured for passing the Semester 4 maritime studies course.

Claudino is also from Oilfield Production Services (OPS) in Luanda, Angola.



TALENTE NGEMA

MCS was proud to have one of our current students, Talente Ngema, win the Maritime Student of the Year Award at the South African maritime industry's awards held on Saturday, April 20, 2013. The awards evening celebrated the industry's many achievers.



THULEKA VILI

In July, Thuleka Vili became the latest candidate from the MCS/SAMSA pool to successfully pass the SAMSA oral examination for the STCW Deck Officer of the Watch Class III Certificate of Competency.

