

HOW MBC HAS SURVIVED A CHALLENGING OFFSHORE MARKET



MBC HAS SURVIVED THE CURRENT MARKET CHALLENGES BECAUSE WE'VE LOOKED BEYOND OUR OWN BUSINESS AND PROFITS TO HOW WE CAN HELP PETROSA FIND SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES THEY FACE.

– Daniel Ngubane, MBC Director

The Bourbon Ulysse



This year has been a battle for survival for almost everyone involved in the off-shore oil and gas market.

The significant drop in the international oil price has meant that several, if not all, producers have had to curtail operations in order to reduce costs wherever possible.

Deep-sea exploration activities, in particular, have drawn to a halt because it is no longer economically viable to justify the high production costs thereof.

PetroSA's operations off the South African coast have not been spared by the downturn in the market.

The company has been forced to terminate its drilling operations and the two MBC vessels supporting these drilling operations – the Bourbon Ulysse and the UOS Navigator – have been withdrawn from operation.

All credit must go to the vessel providers and the crew of these two vessels for the exemplary manner in which they have supported PetroSA throughout the contract period.

Although drilling has been suspended, PetroSA is continuing its production

activities off Mossel Bay and MBC, as the leading offshore vessel provider to PetroSA, is doing what it can to ensure the economic viability of these activities.

Not only have we have 'come to the party' by providing cost-effective vessels, but we've proactively introduced a number of fuel-saving measures aimed at reducing PetroSA's overall vessel operating costs.

Our focus throughout these challenging times has been on finding solutions to the challenges faced by PetroSA – and we believe this focus to be one of the key reasons why MBC has survived as one among other suppliers to PetroSA.

Furthermore, we believe many of the challenges facing PetroSA and the offshore industry, to be of a temporary nature, and our outlook for the future is one of optimism and confidence.

Our intention as MBC is to play an increasingly active role in the Southern African shipping and offshore industry in the months and years ahead.

Our decision to become an active member of SAASOA, the South African Association of Ship Operators and Agents, is a further indication of our confidence in – and commitment to – growing the local maritime industry.

We look forward to using the SAASOA platform as an opportunity to work more closely with all stakeholders in the South African shipping community.

Yours in maritime

**DANIEL NGUBANE
MBC DIRECTOR**



Deanna Collins, Director writes

From the MCS office

'IT'S ALL ABOUT OUR PEOPLE'



WELCOMING TNPA'S NEW SEAFARING TALENT ...

After the usual end of year logistical activity, which involves getting students back home for their holidays, 2015 began with preparations for the return of senior students and the new intake of students from TNPA's Corporate Social Investment (CSI) programme who had passed their 2014 final Grade 12 exams and were taking the next step in their sea-going careers.

A total of 135 students were welcomed by MCS at the start of this year and with the support of our accommodation service providers, the students were soon settled in at residence during the high season and at short notice. The MCS Training team successfully concluded all logistical arrangements and enrolments at Cape Town and Durban maritime colleges as well as registrations at vocational and further education training colleges.

We also welcomed senior students returning to their colleges in Cape Town and Durban to further their academic studies under the MCS-TNPA Continuous Professional Development Programme for Officers.

This programme was conceptualised and initiated by MCS in 2013 and we commend TNPA Chief Harbour Master, Captain Rufus Lekala whose support for the programme has ensured its success and contribution to TNPA's capacity building initiatives.

Also providing valuable assistance to the TNPA students were Mrs Moratoe Ncwadi (TNPA Human Resources Capacity Building Manager), Mr Vish Govender (TNPA Marine Training Manager) and Ms Nomusa Moyo (TNPA Marine Student Co-ordinator). We thank them for the valuable role they've played in supporting skills development in the South African maritime industry.

1 Back, left to right: Jan Rabie (Director MCS and MBC); Robert Knutzen (Founder and Director MCS, MBC and RKOffshore); Lester Peteni (Chairman, MCS and MBC); Jaco Rabie (CEO RKOffshore); Captain Rufus Lekala (TNPA Chief Harbour Master); Captain Sanjay Govan (TNPA Harbour Master Port of Cape Town).

Front, left to right: Ms Moratoe Ncwadi (TNPA HR Capacity Building Manager); Deanna Collins (Director MCS); Ms Nomusa Moyo (TNPA Marine Training Co-ordinator, School of Ports, Durban); Ms Rachael Naidu-Valentine (TNPA Training & Development Manager, Port of Cape Town); Mr Vish Govender (TNPA Marine Training Manager, School of Ports, Durban).



2 TNPA management Captain Rufus Lekala, Ms Moratoe Ncwadi, Mr Vish Govender, Ms Rachael Naidu and Ms Nomusa Moyo with a group of TNPA cadets, the majority of whom have graduated and now serve as Officers.

... AND STRENGTHENING THE MCS TEAM

In addition to growing the pool of South African and African seafarers, our focus in 2015 has also been on growing and strengthening the MCS internal team.

I am often asked what I am most proud of. Looking back on my over 35 year career in crewing, training and ship management, my answer has to be my involvement in the development and empowerment of women in the maritime industry, both ashore and at sea.

To date more than 60 women – all of whom have passed through MCS's doors – are serving at sea, many with foreign shipowners as cadets and ratings. They are doing incredibly well, as are the women who form part of the MCS internal team: Yvette de Klerk, Kamilah Sauls, Cindy Greyling, Merle Jacobs, Thembelihle 'Precious' Ngcobo, Amanda Sibanga, Zulfah Tyman, Gugu Nduola and Euna Mbandazayo.

Our newly-appointed team leaders – Cindy Greyling (Finance), Yvette De Klerk (Crew Administration and Marketing) and Merle Jacobs (Training & Personnel Administration) – will be expected to play an increasingly important role as MCS grows into the future, and we wish them all the best as they face the challenges ahead.

Every day, all of these women of MCS live their motto of 'we don't just talk about work – we do it and execute it' and I am incredibly proud to have them on my team!

– Deanna Collins, MCS Director

3 Introducing the women of MCS (back row, from left to right): Thembelihle 'Precious' Ngcobo (Accounting); Amanda Sibanga (Accounting); Merle Jacobs (Cadet and Trainee Ratings Officer); Zulfah Tyman (Assistant Cadet & Ratings Training Co-ordinator); Gugu Nduola (Receptionist and Admin. Assistant); Euna Mbandazayo (Senior Accounts Clerk).

(Front row, left to right): Cindy Greyling (Finance Manager); Kamilah Sauls (MCS Accounts & Payroll Manager); Deanna Collins (MCS Director) and Yvette De Klerk (Crew Administration and Marketing Executive).



AFRICA IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S YOUNGEST CONTINENTS; WE HAVE A HUGE POOL OF YOUTH LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT AND THE ABILITY TO CONVERT THESE YOUTH INTO SEAFARERS. THIS, TOGETHER WITH GROWTH IN THE AFRICAN GDP, CLEARLY INDICATES THE POTENTIAL FOR AFRICA TO GET INVOLVED IN THE GLOBAL MARKET AND WE, AS MCS, INTEND PLAYING A LEADING ROLE IN UNLOCKING THIS POTENTIAL.

– Deanna Collins, MCS Director



A QUALITY ACCREDITATION

Quality has always been an integral part of our business at MCS and we were particularly proud to begin the year with full ISO 9001:2008 accreditation!

The process of documenting our crewing and training procedures began in 2004 and our QMS has been kept up to date thanks to ongoing reviews and fine tuning over the years as well as annual audits by our international ship owning and ship managing clients.

We thank Mr Hein Hennig of Bureau Veritas who conducted the audit at our offices on November 6-7, 2014. We are proud of this achievement – well done to the MCS team!

4 Some members of the MCS team pictured with our ISO accreditation certificate are, left to right (front), Yvette de Klerk, Deanna Collins, Thembelihle 'Precious' Ngcobo and (back), Christopher Adams, Jasper Schoonraad, Merle Jacobs and Ernest Magerman.

5 'mv Ina K' cadets (left to right): E/C Mr. Emmanuel O. Seifegha, E/C Mr. Meipiekumo Asu, D/C Mr. Zachariah Z. Duniya, D/C Mr. Ibrahim W. Danlami, D/C Mr. Stephen I. Bidi.

6 Deck cadets onboard 'Ark Charly': Ms Adeboyejo Ifetayo Rhoda, Mr Juokemefa Adipere and Ms Aisha Adamu

7 Anchor handler 'mv Ark Tori' cadets: E/C Ms Weleayaziba Iruaro, E/C Ms Ileya W. Ogoriba, D/C Mr. Kabir O. Moronkeji, D/C Mr. Ibomani R. Jackson.

TRAINING OF NIGERIAN CADETS

Another success story for MCS in Africa



MCS continues to play a significant role in the training and development of cadets, ratings, artisans and officers from the African Continent.

For more than 10 years, we have trained seafarers from Angola, Nigeria and Namibia for deployment on vessels in these countries and it's a track record we intend building on into the future.

According to MCS Director, Deanna Collins: "Since establishing MCS in 2003, we remain committed to building a pool of quality seafarers from South Africa and the African continent in order to service the local content requirement and to offer the international shipowner another source of supply of quality seafarers to man their fleets."

MCS, in collaboration with its offshore ship managing client, RKOOffshore Ship Management Pte based in Singapore, conceptualised and developed a programme in 2012 for the training of new entrant cadets serving on RKOOffshore vessels in Nigeria. Prior to the launch of this programme, MCS had been active in a training project for the Nigerian Ports Authority. A number of tug personnel successfully graduated from the programme.

Since the launch of the RKO/MCS cadet training initiative in October last year, over 40 Nigerian cadets – 22 deck cadets and 18 engineering cadets – have participated in the programme. Five of the deck and two of the marine engineering cadets are female.

The first of the cadets are expected to qualify in their chosen fields in the third quarter of 2015, subject to meeting the requirements of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency.

Did you know?

MCS specialises in managing training programmes for various local and international clients. Our training programmes are fully-accredited and cover various disciplines within the broader maritime industry. We also have the expertise to develop, implement and manage such programmes on behalf of any of our clients.

It is through this combination of know-how and experience that we have achieved a 95% overall pass and graduation rate. This is an achievement of which we are collectively proud and which we are happy to share with international ship owning and ship managing clients who wish to partner with us for training and crew supply.





SHOWING OUR SUPPORT

• AT THE IMLA 2015 CONFERENCE

“The 23rd International Maritime Lecturers Association (IMLA) Conference – which took place in Durban at the end of June – was hosted by the Durban University of Technology (DUT) and proved to be an ideal opportunity to present the achievements of the South African maritime industry as well as share regional experiences and exchange ideas.

A total of 17 papers, covering a number of valuable and interesting topics on maritime education and training, were delivered by top academics from around the world. Topics ranged from e-learning and education technologies to specialised training, maritime English, simulation, and how to prepare students for employment in a diverse working environment.

Marine Crew Services, Marine Bulk Carriers’ Offshore Division and our student accommodation service provider, Maritime Facilitators of SA (MaFSA) were particularly proud to support the event as contributing sponsors. MCS has enjoyed a long and successful collaboration with the DUT Maritime Studies department and currently has 42 students enrolled.

As the Chair of the DUT Maritime Advisory Council Board, I extend our thanks to Professor S Singh, Mr Leon Govender and the wonderful team from DUT who made this an excellent conference. We look forward to reuniting with presenters and delegates at the 19th International Navigation Simulator Lecturers’ Conference (INSLC19). The conference will be hosted by the Cape Peninsula University of Technology and conference dates confirmed in due course.”

- Deanna Collins



1 Deanna Collins, Merle Jacobs and Yvette de Klerk of MCS at the IMLA conference.

2 A group photograph of participants at the IMLA 23rd conference held in Durban from 29 June to 3 July 2015.



• AT THE INAUGURAL AFRICAN MANNING AND TRAINING CONFERENCE

In March this year, Cape Town hosted the inaugural African Manning & Training Conference and MCS took the opportunity to exhibit at the conference and share its 12 year crewing and training success story with delegates from around the world.

Topics covered at the two-day international conference included the continued growth of the global vessel fleet, the shortage of trained and skilled officers and the potential of Africa to fill the industry shortfall of quality seafarers.

Africa, despite its size and youthful population, is currently not among the top 10 seafaring nations. This illustrates the potential should Africa invest in developing a seafaring culture and in training and supplying quality seafarers to the international market.



3 MCS Director Deanna Collins (far right) with SAMTRA's Andy MacLennan and Maretek's Kieran Cox.

4 Lawhill Maritime Centre's Nino Mhlakoana (centre) with engine cadets Tebogo Manamela (left) and Siyabonga Ludziya (right).

5 Delegates at the African Manning and Training Conference.



Remembering BOSUN RANDALL MAGOLIE

Bosun Randal Magolie (48), who passed away on May 22, will be sorely missed by all at MCS. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family.



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