



## Maritime Education and Training Bulletin

July 2016

# MSC's foundation for youth bears fruit

Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC), which has arguably been the principal shipping company in South Africa for at least the past two decades, has from the beginning taken its social responsibility seriously with a number of social programmes having been initiated.

One of these, and perhaps less well-known here in KZN because of its location in Simon's Town, is known as Izivunguvungu or sudden strong wind – MSC's Foundation for Youth.

This is a non-profit organisation based in the SA Navy facilities at Simon's Town. The Foundation has been in existence since 2001 as a joint venture between the navy and MSC.

Headed by Commander Mike Oldham, ex-director of the South African Navy Band, it was created to provide disadvantaged children with various disciplines, which in the process provides them with life skills.

The experience gained from the activities they are exposed to as well as the mentorship they receive, is invaluable in helping create leaders for the future of South Africa.

### Daily Activity

Education has a broader scope than mere academic learning – the traditional three R's. Learning life skills is vital in becoming equipped to face unknown circumstances 'out there' in the world as children become young adults.

The children of MSC's Foundation for Youth are taken to the Navy facility each day after school where mentors assist them with their homework, after which they start to receive lessons in sailing, boat-building, industrial fishing as well as learning music skills.

The youngsters are first taught how to swim, after which they learn how to helm and crew on dinghies. Depending on their progress, they learn how to race, serve on rescue duty and run racing. Most advanced children become instructors and are made responsible for the tuition of beginners, allowing a higher turnout of students exposed to sailing.

Teams are selected to compete in both provincial and national keel-boat and dinghy regattas and some students have succeeded in gaining their skippers' licences, and subsequently become involved in the delivery of boats worldwide.

Izivunguvungu's music academy teaches students musical instruments, drumming, singing etc and performs at concerts and workshops. The main performing group consists of about 40 musicians, which on occasion becomes more than 70, have marched in the annual Navy Parade through Simon's Town.

## 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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## UPCOMING EVENTS

African Ports Evolution| Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre | 17—19 October | For more info visit [www.portsevolution.com](http://www.portsevolution.com)

Call for Entries: For KZN Exporter of the Year Awards 2016- Closing Date:31 Aug 2016| For more information contact Rokeya Valli on 031 335 1000

2nd South African Maritime Industry and Investment conference| 25 –28 July 2016 | For more information contact Tebogo Ramatjie on 012 366 2600

*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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