

Passion for sailing earns Durban boy a bursary.



Smangaliso Dlamini on a boat on voluntary service at Sub-tech Group, Durban harbour.

Smangaliso Dlamini (16) from J.G. Zuma High School has been awarded a full all expenses paid three year bursary by the SATS General Botha Bursary Fund to study for Nautical Studies (Sea going) at Durban University of Technology (DUT).

The bursary comes as recognition for Smangaliso's passion and dedication to both Sailing; his academic performance and his desire to pursue a career in the maritime industry.

Smangaliso from KwaMashu stays with his grandmother who has been his only financial support throughout his school career. Dlamini started sailing as a hobby in 2013 when he joined Sail Africa for a beginner's course. He used to attend sailing class once a week and during weekends, being helped by his grandmother with the transport fee from KwaMashu to the Durban harbor.

After falling in love with the sport he never looked back. Late last year Smangaliso was offered an opportunity by an organization called Marine Inspiration, based in Spain, to go to Spain to further his sailing, get exposure to the maritime industry and career opportunities in it.

"I think the bursary comes as recognition for my dedication that I showed in all the tasks we were given while I was in Spain. I really appreciate the help from both Sail Africa and the SATS General Botha Bursary Fund. I promise not to disappoint them but to prove that

I deserve this and I am looking forward to start my course soon," said Smangaliso.

The SATS General Botha Bursary Fund has managed the funding and mentoring of many students in its programme since 2012, supporting an average of ten students per year in secondary school grades 10-12 in maritime studies, and then through tertiary level studies or internships in the maritime industry.

Smangaliso says he always believed that sailing was going to be his gateway out of the poverty he grew up in. He also did well in his matric passing with 2 As and 5 Bs which ensured him a university entrance and the opportunity to attend DUT.

Nomkitha Mbele of the SATS General Botha Bursary Fund said: "Academic potential to be able to benefit fully from tertiary education, passion for maritime studies and a commitment to a maritime career, leadership qualities, teamwork and interpersonal skills, personal maturity and sense of responsibility, and the need for financial support is what we used as criteria to award Smangaliso a bursary."

Sail Africa and Marine Inspirations are two organizations using sailing and seamanship as an avenue to stimulate the personal development of young people from challenging backgrounds. Captain Steve Ray a founder Marine Inspirations is a master mariner with a strong commitment to youth development, focused on nurturing a love of seafaring and a passion for following a maritime career in young potential seafarers. All three have combined to make it possible for Smangaliso to pursue tertiary level studies in maritime sciences at DUT.

Smangaliso said he is planning to take part in the Maritime Summit Regatta which is the grand finale of the 2nd Annual Maritime Summit organized by EThekweni Maritime Cluster and which takes place from 29 to 31 March 2017.

The Summit promises to again be interesting and informative along with its industry trade fair including a career expo which in 2016 reached well over 1000 learners, undergraduates and graduates.