

DECEMBER 2020

# IN TOUCH

THE OFFICIAL SAS NEWSLETTER



## SANDOCK AUSTRAL SHIPYARDS



### WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

CEO MESSAGE; PROJECT FOCUS; COVID19; WOMEN'S MONTH, CSI; SOCCER DAY, MASK DRIVE  
ETC.

# CONTENTS

- 1. Message from the CEO**
- 2. Project focus**
- 3. Covid19**
- 4. Women's month**
- 5. CSI**
- 6. Soccer day**
- 7. In the News**



# From the CEO's desk



Prasheen Maharaj, SAS CEO

Dear Valued Colleagues

I'd like to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for your continued support, your hard work and relentless perseverance despite the adversities we have faced this year. Together, we have achieved exceptional milestones, even under difficult conditions. We have proved that nothing is insurmountable when determination, cooperation and collaboration are our drivers.

As we enter the festive season, we bid farewell to an extremely challenging year. The emotional and financial stress brought on by Covid-19 has taken a toll on many individuals. Our hearts go out to each person and family that has been affected by sickness, death, retrenchment and any other results of this pandemic.

Many companies have suffered the knock-on effects and our company wasn't exempt from taking strain. We were, however, fortunate enough to have a solid and essential contract as our current build, which is the main reason why our doors could remain open.

Despite the many challenges, we have achieved so much that we should be proud of during the year of 2020.

Amongst our big highlights was the recognition by the prestigious Black Business Quarterly Awards for being the Best Established Black Business. We also enjoyed global media coverage by the BBC World News and CNN. We featured on the front covers of highly reputable publications such as the Sunday Times Empowerment magazine and Ship Year magazine.

We made significant progress on the Hydrographic Survey Vessel, amidst the delays brought on by Covid-19. We successfully launched two of the three Survey Motorboats that form part of Project Hotel. We increased capacity and grew our ship repair business in leaps and bounds.

As we all know, Sandock Austral Shipyards became part of the

*Today we are a proud Corporation that operates beyond shipbuilding and ship repair, and one with a strong focus on creating a global footprint.*

PRASHEEN MAHARAJ,  
SAS CEO

Sandock Austral Group, putting us in a position to compete more efficiently and globally. As part of our plans to become a global player and African giant, we established a design and estimating office in India, and we continue to take big strides in Building the African Marine Legacy.

Our foundation, SAS Cares, is growing steadily and is making a significant impact within and outside of our organisation. We hope to continue to make a difference and do good in partnership with our employees.

I urge you to continue to persevere and let's work together in making our company a great success that we can all be proud of and in turn, reap the resulting rewards.

As we go into the holiday season, please stay safe, celebrate responsibly and enjoy your well-earned rest with your loved ones. We hope to see you all safe and sound in the new year.

“Building the African Marine Legacy” with you,

**Prasheen Maharaj**  
**CEO**



*The Barrier makes her grand entrance*

# **The Barrier**

## *In-water repairs*

While Covid-19 and the lockdown had a significant impact on our repair capabilities, Sandock Austral Shipyards' shipping ingenuity was on full display in July when The Barrier arrived for dry docking and AC Plant inspection.

The Barrier is a multipurpose coaster which operates around South, West, and East Africa.

Initially, the repair work required was dry docking but due to the lockdown, this could not be carried out, so our highly skilled engineers opted for a creative solution of in-water repairs instead.

The underwater work was carried out with a cofferdam built to suit the hull and installed by professional divers.

Other repairs on the vessel included a main engine overhaul, cleaning of the fuel oil tanks, as well as painting and manufacture of new saltwater pipes.

Our Ship Repair team pressure tested, repaired leaks and recommissioned systems. There were various additional faults found with unloaders, LP switch and possible internal leakages, that could not be rectified due to time restraints and will be subject to ongoing repairs.

Devan Nair, the Ship Repair Project Manager responsible for The Barrier said that it is not often that in-water



*The Barrier ready for in-water repairs*



*The Barrier at the SAS yard*

repairs are carried out, and that the team performed these tasks exceptionally well.

The repairs were completed, and the vessel was already loading cargo at the Durban Harbour by the 20th of July 2020.

“A big well done to all the teams involved in delivering this world-class ship repair project!” said Nair.



*The Barrier at the SAS docking station*



*The divers who assisted in carrying out the in-water repairs of the Barrier*

# Diamond Land



*The Diamond Land*

SAS commissioned the Diamond Land in June.

The Diamond Land is a General Cargo vessel that was built in 2004.

The vessel is 188m in length and 28m in width, it has an average of 9.7 knots and a maximum speed of 17.0 knots.

It has a carrying capacity of 32000m and a gross tonnage of 24918.

The repair work included corrosion protection to the four 4800 m<sup>2</sup> cargo hatches; degreasing and freshwater pressure cleaning to prepare for the full grit blasting.

After the surface preparation was approved by the painting inspector, two full coats of paint were then applied with airless spraying.

SAS Project Manager, Anthony Freddy said that the project required extra labour to be on standby and for the team to put in extra hours to complete the job on time.

“Our Ship Repair team worked around the clock and produced excellent results.” said Anthony Freddy.

SAS is proud of the Trainee blasters that were involved in this project, it is always rewarding to see the results of Skills Development initiatives.

The SAS Repair team did an excellent job and managed to complete the project within the stipulated two-week period.

# Caisson Gate



*The completed Drydock at the Port of East London*

The Port of East London's Princess Elizabeth Drydock has been successfully recommissioned after completion of two priority capital projects which will usher in a new era of optimised growth for the historic facility.

East London was previously identified by the Operation Phakisa ocean economy strategy as having significant potential and capacity to become one of South Africa's premier boat building and ship repair nodes. The two projects – refurbishment of the drydock's main shut-off valves, and rehabilitation of the caisson gate – successfully positions the port not only to start leveraging its facilities and capacities, but also to draw on the expertise and skill sets of the local community to develop the ship repair industry in the region.

“East London is uniquely positioned within the South African port system to facilitate and accelerate both ship repair and boat building operations,” says Port Manager Sharon Sijako.

“We have sufficient capacity to offer to the industry, and having newly

modernised and upgraded our facilities, we are on track to start writing an exciting new chapter in the ocean economy story.”

The revitalisation of the drydock not only positions the Port of East London for growth, it also unlocks significant economic opportunity for Buffalo City Metro and the wider region. “The eastern half of the Eastern Cape remains one of the most marginalised and under-developed regions in South Africa,” Sijako notes.

“As the local port authority, we have a responsibility to leverage the full extent of our resources and facilities to enable growth, development and, crucially, job creation in the communities we serve.”

It is envisaged that a revitalised drydock will create significant downstream economic activity benefitting local engineers, artisans, suppliers and services SMMEs. The local tourism industry also stand to benefit, as ship repair and boat building activities traditionally attract large teams of specialist contract workers.

The refurbished drydock has already received its first customer, and is this week preparing for the docking of its second – the TNPA tug, Orca, which has arrived from the Port of Ngqura for a regulatory bi-annual lay-up.

### **Refurbishment projects**

A R46-million project to refurbish the caisson gate addressed corrosion and leaks, successfully eliminated potential safety and operational risks and resulted in an improvement in the overall operational efficiency at the facility.

The project included design, fabrication and installation of steel plates on the main deck and outer shell, corrosion protection, replacement of anodes and D-fenders and installation of air pipes.

The final phase of the project, which was completed in September, saw the installation of the remaining seals, along with new valves.

At the peak of the project almost 100 workers were employed on site by SAS; who carried out the design and main works making use of their floating dock which was relocated from Durban for the duration of the project.

We were supported by site supervision consultant, Lodemann Holdings and a large team from local marine engineering company, East London Shipyard.

In addition, successful refurbishment of the drydock shut-off valves and related equipment have significantly reduced the time required to flood the dock and improved its operational efficiency. This project created 29 jobs, with 70% of the contract value subcontracting benefiting Exempt Micro Enterprises (EMEs) and Qualifying Small Enterprises (QSEs).

Other work already completed under the drydock upgrade project included the replacement of electrical switch gears, crane rails, capstans, compressors and the fire protection booster pump.

Total investment from these capital projects has been in excess of R60-million.

The 72-year old drydock was opened officially by Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth on 3 March 1947.

The Princess Elizabeth Drydock in the Port of East London, on the bottom left of image.



*Drydock at the Port of East London*

# LSS Success

The LSS Success; a livestock carrier was commissioned by SAS for refurbishments. The refit included alongside repairs of the vessel's alternator and a few equipment recertifications onboard.

The equipment recertification ensures vessels are safer and more reliable, as their component parts conform to rigorous standards approved by international maritime regulations.

The alternator repair and overhaul included the rewind of the main stator including the bind and epoxy of the exciter rotor.

Our Repair team was able to get her certified to sail in only three weeks as well as load all cattle in before expected departure.



*LSS Success awaiting repairs*

# Fumana Durban



*Fumana Durban arriving at SAS*

Home is where the anchor drops.

SAS welcomed the vessel Fumana to our quayside where she was docked for a few days. She arrived into the capable hands of our experienced ship repair team.

The Fumana is a Bunkering Tanker, used to refuel vessels in the port. She was built in 2010 and is sailing under the flag of South Africa. Her length overall (LOA) is 69.8 meters and her width is 17.6 meters.

The SAS Ship Repair team successfully completed steel repairs and tank cleaning on the Fumana.

# **RB1 Uhuva**

The RB1 Uhuva is a Transnet National Port Authority (TNPA) tug . Its main function is to berth vessels at the port.

She arrived at the Prince Edward Graving Dock after a trip from the Richards Bay harbour.

The tug required a major refit which included paint work, pipe and steel repairs, overhauls to the electric motors, valves, coolers and pumps.

Refit work of the RB1 Uhuva are underway, and the vessel is scheduled to commence its function of berthing vessels in January 2021.



*The RB1 Uhuva at the Prince Edward Graving Dock*

# Akademik Aleksandr Karpinskiy



*The Akademik Aleksandr Karpinsky*

SAS is currently conducting an exciting ship repair project at the port of Cape Town.

Akademik Aleksandr Karpinskiy, a Russian Research/Survey Vessel that was built in 1984 is undergoing maintenance ahead of a 70-day survey in Antarctica in early January 2021.

The multi-faceted project scope includes steel works around various areas of the vessel; piping; guard rails; annual lifeboat survey; valves overhauling; anchor windlass repairs; pumps and electric motor repairs; Volvo diesel generator maintenance; turbo overhauling; air-conditioning and refrigeration plant overhauling; radar servicing; gangway load test; Palfinger Crane

maintenance and load testing.

The extensive scope of work presented challenges that include finding mechanical spares for pumps, diesel generators and compressors due to outdated equipment and some spares need to be flown in from Europe for the generation of new equipment.

These challenges have posed opportunities for creativity in the manufacturing and sourcing of the required spares.

Our exceptional team is working around the clock to ensure successful completion of this multi-faceted project by the end of the year.

# Covid-19

Working during a pandemic.

From the time the first positive COVID-19 case was reported in South Africa, the Sandock Austral Shipyards (SAS) Health Safety and Environmental (HSE) Department started developing guidelines in response to COVID-19 which included infection prevention control measures and getting SAS Facility ready to manage COVID-19



*SAS employees wearing protective masks*

when organising meetings, events and inspections.

Travel precautions and management of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 cases were also included in the COVID-19 response guidelines.

We ensured that all staff were also sensitised about the virus through giving HSE Awareness based on COVID-19 induction.

When the country was on level 5 lockdown, the SAS Management team worked tirelessly in preparation for the return of employees to work which happened in May.

Preparation involved disinfecting the entire yard, investing in Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and safety gear, developing COVID-19 awareness strategies as well as outsourcing Covid-19 professional healthcare workers.

We acquired the services of health nurses to ensure the screening process and six HSE field officers for monitoring compliance with safety protocols.



*Covid19 health test*

We developed training material to raise awareness about COVID-19 and proper control measures to be taken by all employees, visitors, clients, contractors and suppliers.

SAS Health, Safety, Security and Environmental Manager, Thumela Mkhize, said that employee safety, health and wellness is of the utmost importance to SAS. “Our people are an asset to the organisation” added Mkhize.

Investing in temperature testing devices and trained dedicated personnel, reusable masks, gloves, hand sanitisers for all staff was inevitable as we understand the role we can play to help curb the spread of the virus and keep our people and organisation safe and COVID-19 free.

SAS took a step further by employing a COVID-19 waste disposal system for the disposal of contaminated PPE.

The lockdown offered a different perspective into the functionality and productivity of the organisation. Technology ensured that the business could continue in the confines of our homes while we were under a nationwide lockdown and we could not physically be present at the office.

“SAS boasts a workforce of passionate employees who are disciplined. We are proud of our employees for remaining motivated, positive and for delivering on tasks from the comfort of their homes.” she followed.

“A pandemic such as COVID-19, has highlighted the importance of nurturing a culture of excellence and hard work within the organisation. I can confidently say that the SAS workforce possesses these attributes as we were ready for an unprecedented nationwide lockdown.” said Mkhize.

The fight is not over, but we will forever be indebted to our government, the National Health Department, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the support they have given us during this time. SAS is committed to continuously working with the government to ensure the safety of our employees, their families and the nation.



*SAS employee wearing our branded mask*

# Women's Month

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."- Michelle Obama

SAS is proud of its female employees. These women stand tall and strong in a male-dominated industry, displaying excellence and perseverance in their work. As a company we are committed to women empowerment and strive by all means to foster equality by deliberately seeking to hire young, exceptional females where possible.

SAS celebrates all our female employees, mothers, sisters and female friends, not only in the month of August but all year round.



“  
There is no limit to what we,  
as women, can accomplish.  
”



# Mask Drive

SAS Cares is the Corporate Social Investment (CSI) wing of Sandock Austral Shipyards (SAS). This foundation was born out of an existential purpose and vision of being “In Business for the Greater Good”.

SAS Cares seeks to empower and assist individuals wherever possible. We rose up to the occasion when the COVID-19 pandemic broke out and sought ways in which we could provide assistance.

Covid-19 is a respiratory infection that spreads through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread.

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases of South Africa (NICD) advised that wearing a cloth mask added as a prevention measure to help limit community transmission of Covid-19. This presented an opportunity for SAS Cares to assist in flattening the curve by providing masks to SAS families and our less fortunate communities to ensure that people are not severely affected.

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In May, SAS Cares conducted a Mask drive in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition to educating our communities about Covid-19, it was important that SAS Cares actively assists to curb the spread of Covid-19 within the organisation as well as within the local Durban community. Wearing a mask, among other hygiene methods form part of the broader solution to fighting the cause.

Initially the masks were intended for SAS employees and their families. We expanded our reach and offered masks to local community homes, churches and schools.

The external recipients of the masks were St Martins, St Margaret’s Church, Roseway Waldorf School and the Greenwood Park community.

A total of 9000 masks were distributed to staff members and communities.

We as SAS will continue to do our bit by providing support/relief for our SAS families and our communities as Covid-19 has now become part of our daily lives. Every small gesture counts from giving food parcels to impoverished communities to handing out masks.



*SAS Cares team preparing the masks*

# Soccer Day

Sandock Austral Shipyards hosted a soccer day on the fourth of December, which was a fun team building exercise. Chicken Daniels assisted in the organisation of the event which saw great success.

Initially the rain put a damper on proceedings as two departments were unable to field their teams. Nevertheless, those that braved the inclement weather were treated to some exciting football on the day.

Well done to the boilermakers team for playing exceptionally well and maintaining an unbeaten record.

All in all a most enjoyable day. Players and supporters alike must be commended for their exemplary behaviour throughout the day.



*Kitted out for a good game of soccer*



*Ready for a good game*



*SAS soccer day*



*Refreshments station*

# In the News

## SanDock Austral is South Africa's largest Black-owned defence company

Written by Guy Martin - 7th Aug 2020

3306



## Sandock Austral Shipyards making progress with Project Hotel

Written by defenceWeb - 27th May 2020

1619



## Second Project Hotel Survey Motor Boat launched

Written by defenceWeb - 20th Nov 2020

908



## Paramount Maritime launches survey motor boat for SA Navy

Written by defenceWeb - 25th Aug 2020

2202



## Southern African Shipyards refurbishing Navy strike craft

Written by Guy Martin - 30th Oct 2012

10925



Durban-based Southern African Shipyards is refurbishing the South African Navy's three surviving strike craft, converting them to offshore patrol vessels.

Southern African Shipyards told defenceWeb that the main work being performed on the

vessels related to electrical, mechanical and general hull maintenance and involved refurbishment, replacement and repainting.

## Empowerment award for Southern African Shipyards

Written by defenceWeb - 17th Mar 2020

226

