

ECONOMIC SECTOR SUPPORT

# SECTOR INSIGHT

## Manufacturing Newsletter

December 2022

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The Department Economic Development and Tourism (DEDAT) is pleased to update the manufacturing sector on recent developments and initiatives in the industry.



## Vuya Knitwear

Vuya knitwear was founded in 2015 by Jacques and his wife, Marie. They manufacture fully fashioned garments for local and export markets. Vuya has chosen to focus on using natural fibres such as mohair and merino wool which are predominantly sourced locally. Vuya Knitwear offers design and product development services through the bulk production of finished goods that compete on a global scale.



They have worked with international designers like Rich Mnisi, and Thebe Magugu. This shows the quality of work they produce. Vuya wants to expand the business by facilitating training programmes and transferring mechanic skills to other people. They are interested in opening a training centre that could bridge the gap between the demand and the lack of skills in the industry for knitwear, quality controllers and pattern makers. The people that will be trained will be employable and join the working class. If you would like to make contact with Vuya Knitwear kindly contact Nathalie Green (Marketing & Product Development) at [Natalie.green@inke.co.za](mailto:Natalie.green@inke.co.za) or Jacques Burthy (Founder & Owner) at [jacques@vuyagroup.co.za](mailto:jacques@vuyagroup.co.za)



**Back:** Melissa Parker (DEDAT), Chantell van Niekerk (DEDAT), Marthinus van Wyk (DEDAT), Zaheer Hendricks (WESGRO), Nezaam Joseph (DEDAT), Bobby Fairlamb (K-WAY), Andy Thorvaldsen (K-WAY)

**Front:** Elspeth Sheldon (DEDAT)

## Cape Union Mart

Cape Union Mart have two factories, one in Ottery and another in Paarden Eiland. Between the two factories, they have about 570 employees. DEDAT and WESGRO visited the K-way factory in Ottery to discuss opportunities for skills development for the CTFL sector. The company has the intention to create an additional 220 jobs in the next two years. They want to focus on local manufacturing and import replacement opportunities, diversify their products, becoming the key supplier to your favourite “Dresstination” store (Poetry), and athleisure products, for the gym and the outdoors (Cape Union Mart).

The company also expressed an interest to provide job opportunities for 10 students from the Northlink College Clothing Production Centre in Bellville next year.

To find out more about DEDAT's work and skills programme click [here](#).

## Strassberger

Strassberger is a sole proprietor family business that is currently owned by JJ du Plessis and managed by Jevon. The company currently employ 45 people and the owner opened a Trust to sell 49% of the company shares to the existing employees. The company manufacture handmade leather shoes and mainly supply products to Co-operatives with the intention to expand into BUCCO and Chamberlains as well as the student market.

The company would also like to expand into the export market by selling 20% of the production online to buyers in other countries e.g., Germany and US. The company has one of the oldest shoemakers, who train young people on handmade leather shoes since there is no other institution that can provide these scarce skills. To read more click [here](#).



## The Ship Repair Forum

The Western Cape Ship Repair Forum was established to address the strategic issues to alleviate the declining growth in the industry. The outcome of the workshop hosted in May 2022 with the relevant partners and stakeholders was to focus on three strategic areas to address the needs of the industry i.e. infrastructure, operations and marketing.

A small working team was elected to conduct further assessments and to develop an action plan to address the challenges in the specific focus areas. The action plan will be developed in alignment with the OEMP as well as TNPA's development framework for the respective ports in the Western Cape. The plan is to host a ship repair industry workshop in 2023, as soon as the OEMP is signed off by cabinet.



## Ship Repair Dry Docks

TNPA agreed to host weekly ship repair meetings with industry members to discuss progress on the upgrading of infrastructure, machinery and equipment as well as any operational issues around vessels that must be docked or undocked at the respective drydocks and the Synchrolift.

### i) Sturrock Drydock (SDD)

The Sturrock Drydock is currently accommodating most of the bigger vessels that are scheduled for repairs and maintenance. During our visit to the dock, there was an offshore mineral vessel docked that provided employment for between 1700 and 2500 people per day.

### ii) Robinson Dry Dock (RDD)

The Robinson dry dock is still under construction and will be recommissioned again in February 2023.

### iii) Synchrolift Dry Dock (SDD)

The Synchrolift accommodates smaller vessels, mostly for the fishing fleet for repair and maintenance. TNPA replace and do maintenance work on the bogies and wheels and will put mobile cranes in place by January 2023 to ensure that operations can continue till RDD is recommissioned.



## FP&M SETA ENGAGEMENT

We had a meeting with Leigh Hayes (Regional Manager of FP&M SETA) to discuss funding opportunities and skills development programmes for the CTFL industry. The focus was on companies that are intending on upskilling their employees but need financial support and assistance. It was highlighted that the skills needed in the industry include pattern-making, machinists and cutters.

Ms Hayes mentioned that they do fund the NQF Level 2 qualification which is one of the main qualifications for FP&M SETA and they also have the sewing machine mechanics qualification. The FP&M SETA have 47 learnerships under the CTFL sector and they are constantly funded. The companies that provide on-the-job training are accredited in their own rights and they appoint their own training providers.

In the CTFL industry, about 99% of the companies provide on-the-job training themselves.

For funding, they open applications for funding or the discretionary grant from January to April each year. To read more click [here](#).

## DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BOATBUILDING INDUSTRY

We had a meeting with Thina Qutywa from SABBEX and Linsay Oberholzer from Blue Cape at their office in the V&A Waterfront. The discussions focus on developments in the marine industry and specifically on the boatbuilding industry as well as current and planned programmes of the respective associations.

The industry is growing globally since Covid-19 happened. However, they do have a shortage of skills in the industry which includes basically all skills that are needed in boatbuilding. There are apprenticeships that are in the pipeline to curb the shortage of those skills.

They are looking forward to some boat exhibitions next year. The dates are as follows:

- i) Miami: 15 – 19 February 2023
- ii) La Rochelle: 20 – 25 September 2023
- iii) Annapolis: 12 – 15 October 2023
- iv) METS: 15 -17 November 2023

They are planning on taking the small boatbuilders to the Miami show to get more exposure and learn. To read more click [here](#).

**For more information [click here](#) to visit our website**