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The merSETA: Press Release

Attention: Business Editors; Education and Training Editors; Labour Editors

Newly qualified artisans honoured in Cape Town

For immediate release,

Newly qualified welders and boilermakers from the merSETA-accredited Damen Shipyards Cape Town (DSCT) Apprentice Training Centre received their certificates from the Dutch Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, Ms Lilianne Ploumen, recently.

The Dutch trade delegation visited DSCT with a view to getting first-hand experience on how South Africa, Dutch companies and entrepreneurs work together and also to honour the newly qualified artisans.

The proceedings started with a tour of the yard. The tour included the viewing of the ATD2909 (Azimuth Tractor Drive), currently under construction for the South African Navy; the impressive FCS 5009 patrol vessel; and Shed 6, which is also being constructed and is due to be completed in the last quarter of 2014.

The addition of Shed 6 to the DSCT's collection of production halls will add 1 280m² of invaluable floor space to its production portfolio.

In total, the 20 apprentices who passed their welding and boilermaker trade tests were presented with certificates.

The centre provides the DSCT with new generations of practitioners each year.

In total, there are 39 employees who have benefited from the centre, some of whom are apprentices and some are yet to qualify.



Speaking at the ceremony, DSCT Human Resources Manager, Ms Heather Dukas, said the company's aim was to be a learning organisation that attracted, trained and retained the best in the field.

"The company invites and encourages employees to improve their skills to get the maximum benefit from shared knowledge, competencies and talents. Training does not stop at artisan level. The company offers its employees training in budgeting, safety, First Aid, firefighting, scaffolding, crane driving and more.

"We believe in constant self-improvement for a healthy and competitive company, and so various training courses are offered at all levels within the organisation," she said.

The DSCT builds offshore patrol vessels, dredgers, tugs, naval craft and platform supply vessels, especially for clients on the African continent.

It also offers repair services and fleet maintenance programmes. In addition to shipbuilding and ship repair, the DSCT structurally invests in skills development.

Its apprentice training centre trains boilermakers and welders and has facilities for approximately 40 men and women.

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