



## BUSINESS DELEGATION TO GERMANY: PORT AND MARITIME INDUSTRY OF BREMEN

31 MAY - 7 JUNE 2014

Report on the Visit to Germany- Bremen and Bremerhaven.

### South African Participants:

- EThekweni Municipality Council
- EThekweni Municipality Durban Investment Promotion Agency
- Transnet Port Terminals
- Trade and Investment KwaZulu-Natal
- Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency
- EThekweni Maritime Cluster
- Durban University of Technology
- Crescendo Venture Capital
- Flexible Workspace Business Centres
- Maritime Business and Computer College

### German- Bremen Participants:

- Sportgarten Bremen Project
- Bremen Chamber of Commerce
- Bremen Invest and Ministry of Economics and Ports
- GVZ Cargo Transport Centre of Bremen
- Hansa-Flex AG
- Institute of Shipping Economics and Logistics
- University of Applied Science (Nautik)
- Marine Environmental Services (MARUM)
- BHV-Hafenclub Bremen Port Promotion Association
- Bremerhaven Chamber of Industry and Commerce
- Bredo Werft (Shipyard)
- Kaiserhafen German Dry Docks
- North Sea Terminal Bremerhaven
- JadeWeserPort
- Port of Brake (J. Muller Terminal)
- Mercedes Factory
- GIZ-For

The Southern - African German Chamber of Commerce (SAGCC) in close co-operation with the Bremen Chamber of Commerce in Germany organized an outbound business delegation of the Port and the Maritime Industry. Torsten Grünewald had put together a dynamic and power packed program for the KwaZulu Natal and Eastern Cape Maritime Industry business delegates.

The purpose of this outbound delegation from South Africa to Germany was twofold. Firstly, it was to attend the 20 years of democracy celebration with Durban's sister-city - Bremen and secondly, it was to bring together the key role players from the Maritime Sector of KwaZulu Natal and expose them to the international standards practiced by the Ports of Bremen. The delegation was led by EThekwini Deputy Mayor Cllr Nomvuso Shabalala, with the CEO from Transnet Port Terminal Mr Karl Socikwa. Amongst the SA delegates was prominent business representatives, which included the Co-Chair of the KZN Growth Coalition Mr Moses Tembe, with representatives from the EThekwini Maritime Cluster, EThekwini Municipality - Durban Invest and Promotion agency (DIPA), Durban University of Technology - Maritime Unit (DUT), the Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency (ECRDA), Flexible Workspace Business Centre, Maritime Computer and Business College and Trade and Investment (TIKZN). This business trip proved to be successful because many of the South African organizations managed to build and foster meaningful relationships which will in due time, bear results.



The City of Durban has a sister-city partnership with the City of Bremen. Mr Ulrich Barde - the Chairman for the sister-city partnership arranged a concert performed by the Youth Symphony Orchestra to commemorate the 20 years of democracy that the citizens of South Africa now enjoyed. Further projects borne from this agreement include the Youth and Sports Development, the Climate partnerships and the Inclusive Theatre-Workshops in Bremen and Durban. Among the dignitaries that attended the celebrations were Honorary Consul of South Africa in Bremen and Lower Saxony, Mr Volker Schütte and State secretary, Ms Ulrike Hiller from the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen.

The IHK Bremerhaven Chamber of Commerce represented by Mr Stefan Farber, welcomed the South African delegates and delivered a full presentation about the development of the Ports in Bremerhaven. The delegates visited the Bredo Werft (Shipyard), the German dry docks in Kaiserhafen, as well as the Cruise Centre and Viewpoint in the harbour. A full day was allocated in the program at the Wilhelmshaven where delegates visited the JadeWeserPort and the Port of Brake. The Universal Ports Group of Niedersachsen offers

geographical advantages through efficient transshipment and storage facilities. Specialized Port Handling operators and logistics service providers in Niedersachsen's nine seaports develop high-quality, customer-oriented and cost-efficient solutions for all kinds of goods. This makes the seaports of Niedersachsen with their extensive portfolio of services, an integral part of the logistics chains of renowned industrial enterprise.



The final day was spent at the Mercedes Benz plant in Bremen. As the area's biggest private-sector employer, the plant is deeply rooted in the region. More than 6 million Mercedes-Benz cars have been produced in Bremen since 1978, and it has more than 10 455 employed at the plant.

Despite the SA delegates' tight scheduled whilst in Germany, the feedback received from the majority of the delegates was positive, and they were very happy with their experience in Germany.



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