

ENVIRONMENT



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MOBILE MICHANICS

Michanic is a web app that connects motorists to professional, vetted mechanics for car repairs and services. It is currently the only online platform in South Africa providing instant pricing for services, with instant bookings for services and repairs performed by mobile mechanics at customers' homes and offices.

Supported by the MultiChoice Innovation Fund, Michanic has created over 45 job opportunities, with 10 per cent of mechanics female, and over 65 per cent youth. "To date, we have paid out more than R3-million to our mechanic network impacting over 250 lives," says Lesetja Dikgale, Michanic managing director. "And, we have processed over 57 000 quotes, valued at more than R142-million. We have over 45 000 monthly website visitors – up from 4 000, two years ago, and we are growing at 25 per cent month-on-month."

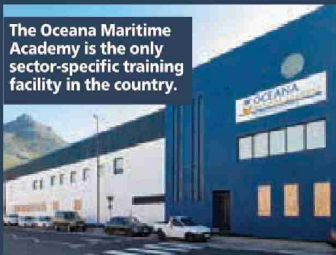
Michanic currently operates in Gauteng, Emalahleni and Cape Town with plans to expand to Durban shortly. "We have a vision of being a one-stop-shop for all car health needs in South Africa," says Dikgale.

"We're also looking to develop a training academy to provide upskilling and training for qualified and aspiring mechanics with the latest technological developments as well as in the subject of electric vehicles."



Lesetja Dikgale

The Oceana Maritime Academy is the only sector-specific training facility in the country.



FOSTERING THE FUTURE OF FISHING

A small-scale fishers programme called Co-operative Sense – a collaboration between the Oceana Group, its dedicated training facility the Oceana Maritime Academy, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE), National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) and Dyna Training – is teaching fishers how to manage and finance fishing co-operatives and earn a better living, safely.

The programme delivers comprehensive training and mentorship programmes around the country to enable fishing co-operatives to run as successful SMMEs. To date, nearly 600 small-scale fishers who belong to co-operatives in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu Natal have participated.

"The programmes provide practical training on running a financially sustainable co-operative, including on-site assistance from one of the major banks on how to open and manage business bank accounts.

The NSRI focuses on sea-safety training, teaching preventative safety protocols as well as how to manage emergencies," says Zodwa Velleman, group executive: corporate and regulatory affairs at Oceana Group.

The Oceana Maritime Academy is the only sector-specific training facility in the country. In addition to spending R4-million to transform an old fishmeal plant in Hout Bay into a bespoke training hub, Oceana is investing a further R35-million a year to deliver 18 courses, including skills at sea, safety, leadership and business development. "The Co-operative Sense courses will be delivered from there, supporting 2 000 small-scale fishers in the Western Cape, in addition to those who participate in the national outreach programme," says Velleman. "The small-scale fishing co-operatives provide employment and food security, often in communities where both are scarce. They are the bedrock of the fishing sector, and supporting them benefits their communities, the industry and ultimately the country."

Fishers receive medical and safety training.



Zodwa Velleman