

Critical skills shortage looms in logistics industry, warns SACO CEO

Yesterday - by Christiaan Schultz



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The global logistics and supply chain industry faces a "critical skills shortage", with South Africa experiencing the brunt of the crisis.

Speaking at an "Excellence Awards" event hosted by Metro Minds, Dave Graham, Group CEO of neutral consolidator SACO Shipping South Africa, the training academy's holding company, emphasised the importance of addressing the country's widening skills gap.

"There's a critical skill shortage globally, which is exaggerated here in South Africa," he said.

"Of all the service offerings that we as a group of companies put out there, none is more important than Metro Minds. And I stand by that."

During the event, the academy confirmed that current managing director Juliette Fourie would be passing the baton to Samantha Dorrington, effective February 28.

Fourie praised her successor's dedication, saying: "Samantha is extremely familiar with the business and industry, but there is a lot more to it than that."

“The main reason she has been afforded this opportunity is because of her total and utter commitment and belief in this company and what it does. She's passionate, and it was because of her passion that we chose Samantha.”

Dorrington expressed gratitude and determination in her new role.

"I feel like I won the lotto! I am extremely humbled to work for an organisation that believes in people and the future of the industry. I wouldn't have taken this role if it wasn't for our wonderful employees," she said, pledging to uphold Fourie's legacy.

Since its inception in 2006 with just four students, Metro Minds has expanded rapidly to serve over 14 000 learners. Its growth underscores the academy's commitment to equipping professionals to mitigate the industry's pressing skills deficit.

Graham acknowledged that without Metro Minds' efforts and the steadfast support of clients, the sector's challenges would be far more severe.

"It would've been bigger if not for the work of Fourie and her team," he added.

The event underscored both the achievements of Metro Minds and the urgent need for continued investment in industry training as South Africa grapples with the global skills shortage facing the logistics and supply chain industry.

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