

**WHY DO WE NEED
YOUR SUPPORT?**



The Society is a self-supporting organization which provides its services free of charge.

We are committed to caring for all seafarers providing them with a "home from home" in our ports by ensuring they are made to feel welcome.

Therefore, we depend on you for your generous support to continue providing this vital service to visiting seafarers.



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*"Making the wellbeing of
seafarers our prime
concern"*



**Sailors' Society of South
Africa**

WHO WE ARE

The Society was established in Durban in 1877 to care for visiting seafarers.

Comprising **trained** Chaplains as well as volunteers, we provide a holistic welfare service for seafarers who visit ports in Southern Africa.

Seafarers are often unseen and unknown visitors, but are members of society who are vital for international trade which impacts on each and every resident of our country. [96% of all imports come by sea].

Constituting one of the largest group of visitors to port cities, many people do not know much about them, their needs or problems.

Each member of the Sailors' Society commits themselves to the Mission Statement which is paramount for service to the seafarer.

MISSION STATEMENT

Providing services for the well-being of all seafarers irrespective of nationality, gender, culture or faith through a Christian ministry that is relevant to the ever-changing maritime environment.



Sailors' Society chaplains and colleagues

WHAT WE DO

The life of a seafarer is lonely and often fraught with danger.

Frequently suffering from stress and the effects of separation from their families and loved ones, and in strange ports, the port chaplains become friends and confidants to whom they turn to for comfort and guidance.

THE SAILORS' SOCIETY CARES -

When seafarers are hospitalized

When disasters strike

About their idle hours at sea

About their families

About their recreational needs

About their spiritual wellbeing

AND

FOR VICTIMS OF PIRACY



Seafarers relaxing after a voyage

PERIL ON THE SEA –PIRACY

Dangers facing seafarers mainly concerned storms and disasters at sea. However a new danger has emerged in the form of piracy.

Initially attacks took place in the vicinity of the Somalia coastline but attacks have now extended to the Gulf of Guinea and into the Mozambique Channel. With the threat of piracy getting closer to South Africa the SA government has deployed a vessel to patrol the coast.

Counselling skills

The Society's response to the danger of piracy was to upgrade training to include specialised trauma counselling skills to chaplains. This now provides a network of care and support for piracy victims.

Not only have many seafarers been cared for, but through the Society's international network, the families of the traumatized seafarers have been visited and taken care of.

In the light of this ongoing situation, increasing emphasis on trauma counselling is included in the Sailors' Society's future plans.

In April 2015 a group of chaplains from ports in South Africa, Ghana, Madagascar, Mozambique and Reunion underwent an intensive trauma counselling course in Durban., thereby giving them added skills to put into practice when counselling seafarers affected by piracy.

Piracy and Crisis Centre

The Sailors' Society is also committed to develop a Piracy and Crisis Centre in Durban to -

- Create a plan for ongoing development of chaplains' piracy, crisis and trauma response training



Operations Room in Crisis Centre in Durban

- Conduct research into the ongoing activities of pirates on our east and west coastlines and develop best practice response procedures.