

MEDIA RELEASE

Immediate release

6 October 2026

Urgent dry-docking ensures SAS Amatola safely return to sea

Arm Scor Dockyard, working in close collaboration with the South African Navy, has successfully completed urgent maintenance on the SAS Amatola, demonstrating a renewed focus on responsiveness, operational readiness and improved service delivery to the country's maritime defence capability.

The vessel required immediate dry-docking to address defects identified on its underwater hull and to undertake essential maintenance before she could safely return to sea. The underwater hull is a critical component of a naval vessel's seaworthiness, providing structural integrity and protection against the demanding effects of the marine environment.

Through the combined application of engineering expertise, disciplined project management and decisive response to the operational requirement, Arm Scor Dockyard and the South African Navy completed the maintenance project in approximately three weeks.

The work included addressing identified repair requirements, surface preparation and the restoration of the vessel's marine coating system. These interventions are essential to preserving the integrity of the vessel and supporting her continued operational availability.

Reflecting on this milestone, Arm Scor CEO, Advocate Solomzi Mbada, said the successful completion of the project demonstrates the organisation's commitment to delivering responsive and effective solutions to the South African Navy.

"The successful completion of the SAS Amatola maintenance project in approximately three weeks is an important demonstration of what can be achieved when technical expertise, collaboration and focused execution are brought together around a clearly defined operational requirement. This is the kind of responsiveness that our clients expect from Arm Scor, and it reflects our commitment to continuously improving the way we deliver on our mandate."

Adv. Mbada said the project should be viewed not only as a successful maintenance intervention, but also as an opportunity to strengthen the approach to future urgent maintenance requirements.

"The SAS Amatola project has provided us with a valuable model for responding to urgent vessel maintenance requirements. It reinforces the importance of alignment between Arm Scor

Dockyard, the South African Navy and our industry partners, supported by clear accountability and disciplined project execution. We intend to build on this experience and continue finding ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.”

The successful turnaround also highlights the flexibility and capability of Armscor Dockyard to respond to both planned and emergent maintenance requirements. As part of its mandate, Armscor remains committed to supporting the restoration and sustainment of the South African Navy’s fleet through appropriate maintenance interventions and collaboration with relevant service providers.

“The readiness and sustainability of the South African Navy’s fleet remain important priorities. Armscor Dockyard has an important role to play in supporting this capability, and we are committed to working closely with the Navy and our service providers to ensure that maintenance requirements are addressed with the necessary urgency, professionalism and technical rigour,” said Adv. Mbada.

The SAS Amatola project demonstrates the value of collaboration, engineering capability and focused execution in achieving a rapid maintenance turnaround. Armscor will continue to strengthen these approaches as part of its broader commitment to improved service delivery and the sustainment of South Africa’s maritime defence capabilities.

Caption - SAS 1: A combine efforts between Armscor Dockyard and South African Navy deliver a rapid turnaround on SAS Amatola maintenance to ensure operational readiness.

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

Ms Liziwe Nkonyana

Senior Manager: Corporate Communication

Tel: +27 12 428 3645

Email: liziwen@armscor.co.za
