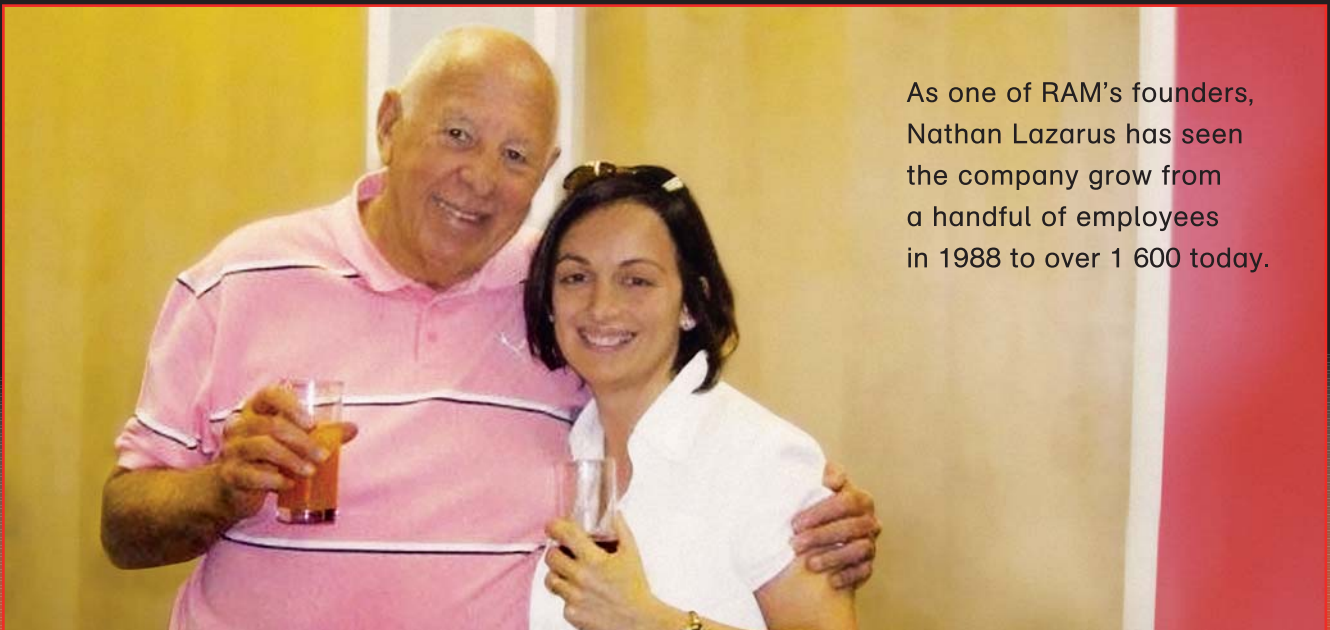


75 years and still going strong



Nathan Lazarus and Aurora Niemandt

As one of RAM's founders, Nathan Lazarus has seen the company grow from a handful of employees in 1988 to over 1 600 today.



The Cape Town hub recently held a surprise champagne breakfast to celebrate the 75th birthday of RAM Chairman Nathan Lazarus. Everyone at the hub was sworn to secrecy while the big day was quietly being planned.

Finally the day arrived, and the party elves were scurrying around from the crack of dawn to ensure the surprise was set to unfold as planned. Party

balloons, gifts, snacks and a big chocolate cake were set out.

"The challenge was to have everything in place for the party before Nathan's customary early arrival. He has been known to get to work as early as 05h30 in the morning. This is testimony to the fact that he's still very far from retirement," explains Cape Town Branch Manager Aurora Niemandt.

Nathan arrived at the office in his typical casual attire, to be met with calls of 'surprise!' from excited staff. He was showered with flowers, gifts and good wishes. "Nathan's sense of humour and infectious smile made the birthday celebration a very memorable occasion for us all," says Aurora.

Happy Birthday Nathan, we wish you many, many more to come!

New hands at the wheel in Joburg

RAM News posed a few questions to our newest members of staff to help you get to know them.



Gayle Ann Wilcox
Senior Bookkeeper, Isando hub



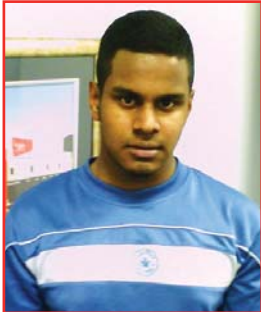
Martie Fouche
Credit Controller, Isando hub



La-kité Johannes
Receptionist, Durban hub

Favourite food?	Pasta	Pizza	Mutton breyani
What book are you currently reading?	<i>Battlefields of the Mind</i> , Joyce Meyer	Huisgenoot	<i>Tame the Restless Heart</i> , Patricia Matthews
Favourite TV show?	Master Chef	Army Wives	Big Shots
What do you listen to?	Meatloaf	Eden	Simply Red
What two things do you need to survive on a desert island?	Fresh water and soap	Essential oils and a cellphone	Food and water
If you could invite six people to dinner, who would they be?	Nelson Mandela, Oprah Winfrey, Joyce Meyer, Paula White, Whoopi Goldberg and Tina Turner	My two daughters, son-in-law and three grandkids	Mother Theresa, Barack Obama, Will Smith, Oprah Winfrey, Nelson Mandela and rapper T.I.
Ideal holiday destination?	The beach	Mosselbay	Paris
Pet hates?	Ignorance	Backstabbing	Lies
What word best describes you?	Tenacious	Persistent	Unique
What's your passion?	Cooking	Shopping!	Achieving my goals
What do you do at the weekend?	Read, shop and entertain	Go shopping of course!	Relax and go out partying

and Durban



Goolam Hoosen Sheik
Query Clerk, Durban hub



Rabika Manilall
CSD Agent, Durban hub

Mutton breyani

Pasta

Not reading at the moment

The Ranch, Danielle Steel

Prison Break

Generations

UB40

Lionel Richie

Food and my cellphone

Water and my family

Barack Obama, Priyanka Chopra, Madiba, Wentworth Miller, Ali Campbell from UB40 and Akon

Nelson Mandela, Oprah, Lionel Richie, Amitabh Bachchan, Donald Trump and my mom

Dubai

Mauritius

Women in tight-fitting jeans

Untidiness

Responsible

Ambitious

Working and helping others

Cooking

I like to go clubbing, and enjoy fishing and watching movies

Relax with my family

RAM Durban hub moves up



In September 2008, RAM Durban moved out of their old 563m² warehouse into a brand-new 1 300m² custom-built facility in Riverhorse Valley.

“The support of Nathan Lazarus and our employees made the move a seamless transition,” Durban Branch Manager Mohammed Nizamie says.

“I would like to say a special thank you to all who assisted with the move to ensure we stayed on schedule and were able to continue our operations,” he says. “Thank you to Nathan for his dedication and hands-on guidance during the move.”

The Durban hub would also like to thank Johan, Sampie and Dawie, who erected the burglar proofing at the hub. “They gave up time with their families to make sure we met our deadline,” says Mohammed.

We wish Mohammed and the bigger, better Durban hub every success in the future.

The Durban hub’s new address is Unit 1, 21 Quarry Park Place, Riverhorse Valley.

Ten years and still RAM'ing

Shadly Joseph



What positions have you held at RAM over the years?

I've been a sorter, a scanner, a driver. I've even worked in operations. Today I deal with the international courier side.

How has RAM changed over the years since you started?

RAM has gone from strength to strength, and continues to do so today.

What has kept you at RAM for this long?

The spirit of the people.

What makes RAM different from other courier companies?

RAM is the best!

What do you like most about your job?

Knowing that all our clients are satisfied.

What is the biggest challenge your job presents?

Giving my all. I love a new challenge.

How do you spend your time?

Doing home improvements and being with my family.

What motivates you?

Enjoying what I do and going the extra mile.

Vivek Soomer



What positions have you held at RAM over the years?

I started in Durban as a secure courier. These days I provide indoor sales support to two Sales Executives.

How has RAM changed over the years since you started?

When I started at RAM, I was one of 46 employees. Today, RAM employs over 1 600 people.

What has kept you at RAM for this long?

The promise of growth.

What makes RAM different from other courier companies?

We ensure the goods are delivered.

What do you like most about your job?

Knowing the client is satisfied at the end of the day.

What is the biggest challenge your job presents?

Trying to make impossibilities a reality.

How do you spend your time?

With family and friends.

What motivates you?

I want to excel and be successful in my job, both for my own personal satisfaction and for my employer's success.

Christinah Jabulile Mdiniso



What positions have you held at RAM over the years?

I started at RAM as a general worker. Later, when we moved to Isando, I became an administrator.

How has the courier industry evolved since you joined it?

When I started we were only seven people with a few small delivery cars. Today we have all kinds of vehicles that deliver across Southern Africa.

What has kept you at RAM for this long?

Job satisfaction, teamwork and mutual respect.

What makes RAM different from other courier companies?

We receive regular training to ensure we can maintain a very high standard of service.

What do you like most about your job?

I learn something new every day.

What is the biggest challenge your job presents?

To keep our clients happy at all times.

How do you spend your time?

With family. I also enjoy shopping, listening to music and reading.

What motivates you?

My husband and my two girls who stand by me, believe in me and trust me – that's all I need to make the best of everything.

Seven RAM employees recently celebrated their ten year anniversaries with RAM: Theo Carelse, Sello Philemon Ranthimo, Shadly Joseph, Vivek Manilall Soomer, Christinah Jabulile Mdiniso, Linsey McGarry and Donovan Mothlal. RAM News spoke to some of them about their long careers at RAM.

Linsey McGarry



What positions have you held at RAM over the years?

I was employed as the Durban Branch Manager from 1998 to 2005. I then decided to move into sales.

How has RAM changed over the years since you started?

When I first started working here, we had only seven staff members and three vehicles. The Durban hub has grown tremendously – we now have 43 vehicles and 120 employees.

What has kept you at RAM for this long?

I have enjoyed being part of a growing family business.

What makes RAM different from other courier companies?

We have an extensive network of offices which enables us to properly service our clients. We're also able to move valuable goods and firearms.

What do you like most about your job?

Every day brings new challenges and excitement. I enjoy meeting people and building solid relationships with my clients.

What is the biggest challenge your job presents?

Winning new business in a very cut-throat and competitive industry.

What advice would you give to someone considering a career in the courier industry?

This industry is all about customer service. No day is the same, so you need to be adaptable.

How do you spend your time?

I like nature and animals. I enjoy my quiet time gardening at home with my cats and dogs.

What motivates you?

I really enjoy being part of a team working towards a common goal. Positive interaction with my colleagues is a critical motivating factor for me.

Donovan Mothlal



What positions have you held at RAM over the years?

I started my career at RAM as a driver. In 1999 I moved across to the import department and later switched to the export department. I am now working as the Export Manager.

How has RAM changed over the years since you started?

RAM has become one of the biggest and the best couriers in the industry. I started working here when there were about 80 staff members, today there are well over a thousand.

What has kept you at RAM for this long?

I have been able to work in most departments in the company,

dealing with both domestic and international shipments. This has given me invaluable exposure and experience.

What makes RAM different from other courier companies?

Most of the other couriers are content with the business at hand, but not us. At RAM we pride ourselves on always going the extra mile. It's all about ensuring that we continually improve our services.

What do you like most about your job?

I'm fortunate to work alongside a group of hard-working and responsible people. Having their support makes my job so rewarding.

What is the biggest challenge your job presents?

Keeping to deadlines and ensuring that our clients are happy at the same time.

What advice would you give to someone considering a career in the courier industry?

The industry has a lot to offer. You have the power to decide on how far you want to go.

How do you spend your time?

I enjoy watching action, comedy and Sci-Fi movies, and spending as much time as possible with my family.

What motivates you?

Knowing that I need to provide for my family.

Making a difference in Orange Farm

In May 2008, RAM concluded a three-year agreement with MaAfrika Tikkun to help build an Early Childhood Development Centre.



RAM will cover the capital costs and operating expenses of the extension to the Arekopaneng Community Centre in Orange Farm. Construction began in August last year.

The centre will care for orphaned and vulnerable children under six years old, giving them a safe haven, warm meals and loving care. The children will also be taught age-appropriate literacy, numeracy and life skills.

MaAfrika Tikkun CEO Marc Lubner says, "This partnership is a fine example of how capital, business acumen, community involvement and service delivery can be combined to address problems faced by township communities."

"RAM shows a mature understanding of community needs, and we are proud that they chose to partner with us. We always prefer intelligent and well-informed donors with whom we can build a brighter future for South African kids," says Marc.

The centre is due for completion in early 2009. We hope to feature the opening of the facility in our next edition.

A helping hand for children in need

RAM donated funds towards the annual festive season charity drive, coordinated by Chanel Taylor. The funds were used for food parcels, Christmas parties, gifts and stationery for families at Place of Refuge and Tents of Sharon, as well as toddlers at the Etembeni Orphanage.

Chanel says, "I would like to sincerely thank RAM for the difference they made in many

people's lives over the festive season." She was especially touched by a five-year-old boy who hugged her and said, "Thank you for my present, I prayed to Jesus and wrote to Father Christmas for a big car, it's all I wanted for my whole life!"

"RAM's assistance and generous donation has put smiles on so many little faces, and it is greatly appreciated," says Chanel.

Showing solidarity in the face of HIV/Aids



On 1 December 2008, RAM employees exchanged their regular attire for World Aids Day T-shirts. From Witbank to Cape Town, RAM employees across the country showed their support for creating awareness of the epidemic in South Africa.

Shopping vouchers ease financial woes

As 2008 drew to a close, the doom and gloom of the credit crunch hit home.

To help employees ease their financial burden over the festive season, the Directors decided that instead of having the customary year-end party, they would rather use the funds to hand out Checkers shopping vouchers to staff.



This decision was met with elation and heartfelt gratitude. Many people used their vouchers to buy food for their families, while others bought Christmas gifts for their loved ones. All in all, the shopping vouchers put a spring in their step and gave them a reason to smile.