

MiningCSI

Local Economic Developments by Mines

Volume 42 • 2025

A large, bold, white text overlay on the left side of the image, reading "LEDILE LUCY TAU".

LEDILE LUCY TAU

CEO OF MATLA
SECHABA HOLDINGS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

GLENCORE MERAPE – Commitment to South Africa's Ferroalloys Industry

SAWEA – The Wind Industry's Role in Addressing Unemployment, Skills Development & Competency Gaps

KANGRA COAL – Social Projects Bring Meaningful Change to Communities

PAN AFRICAN RESOURCES – Empowering Residents With A New Community Hall

ANGLOAMERICAN ZIMELE – Helps South African Youth Rise And Thrive

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communities to collaborate.

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- HRD Managers
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- Traditional & Community Leaders
- Mine Union Representatives

SOME OF THESE TRAINING INCLUDES, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- SLP & LED Capacity Training
- Procurement and DMRET Form
- Enterprise & Supplier Development Training
- Conflict Resolution
- LED Projects Implementation Processes
- Mining Charter 2018
- SMME and Skills Development
- Women in Mining
- SLP Two Language Policy
- SLP Financial Provision
- Mine Rehabilitation
- Stakeholder Engagements
- Project Management

TRAINING OF MINE SLP MANAGERS, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY LEADERS

Com Consulting has expertise in training for Mining Management, Municipality Officials & Councillors, local community members and other affected stakeholders by mining operations. The training will equip both mines and municipal personnel to collaborate as required by the Mining Charter 2018 to benefit people and spur economic growth and development through mining activities.

It is very important for mine management to understand how municipalities IDP work, while it is critical for municipalities to understand SLP process. This is particularly urgent for all new municipal councillors within mining areas. Disruptions of mine operations by community unrests is mainly due to miscommunications and lack of engagements by all affected parties.

Com Consulting (Pty) Ltd is a BEE Level 1 Service Provider.

Attendants Certificates to be issued to all delegates.

YOUR EXPERT TRAINER - MOSES SIBIYA

He worked with President Cyril Ramaphosa during Shanduka days as Shanduka Group Transformation Manager at Shanduka Coal focusing on compiling SLP's for mining rights applications. Local Economic Development (LED) and Corporate Social Investments. Second Language SLP Translation/Draft Required by Mining Charter 2018
Communicating with all government departments including the DMRE and engaged with Local Municipalities and Community Stakeholders. He has 20 years working experience in both private and public sector.

BOOK YOUR SPACE FOR THIS TWO-DAY TRAINING

Contact Person:

Michelle Dondolo
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Tel: 073 446 9690

Monthly Training Dates: 27-28 March, 24-25 April, 29-30 May, 26-27 June, 24-25 July, 28-29 August, 25-26 September, 30-31 October, 27-28 November.

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8 - 9 October 2025

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The 2025 Joburg Indaba, now in its 13th year, will take place on 8 & 9 October 2025 at the Inanda Club, Sandton, with the **Gala Dinner** taking place on the evening of **7 October**.

Critical and constructive conversations are one of the stand-out features of the Joburg Indaba and we remain committed to serving the industry with robust discussions that get to the crux of the key issues. We once again bring together an outstanding panel of speakers, including CEOs and senior representatives from all major mining houses, local and international investors, government, parastatals, experts from legal and advisory firms and representatives from communities and organised labour.

Follow us on our website for the latest speakers and programme developments
www.joburgindaba.com

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Editor's Note

We are looking forward to 2025 Joburg Indaba taking place on 8-9 October, the 5th event of the year organized by Resources 4 Africa annually. The mining industry is facing a challenging times globally, while gold is an exception due to global conflicts around the world which creates a safe environment for investors looking to safeguard their wealth. Oil prices have also trended upwards due to the Middle East unrests affecting the oil markets world-wide.

The mining sector plays a vital role in empowering local Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in South Africa. Mining companies like Two Rivers Platinum (TRP), provide enterprise incubation techniques, opportunity recognition, and tender support to help SMEs grow and mature. The Mining Charter requires mining companies to procure goods and services from local SMEs, promoting economic empowerment and job creation.

TRP Mine, a significant player in the platinum group metals (PGM) mining industry, supports local businesses through its supplier development program. A notable example is TRP's partnership with Matla Sechaba Holdings (PTY) LTD, a 100% Black Women-Owned (BWO) business from the Buffelshoek community, which hosts TRP. Matla Sechaba Holdings has secured a Load and Haul contract at Two Rivers Platinum, and the mine has provided an interest-free loan to help them purchase an Articulated Dump Truck (ADT) also supported by Bell Equipment, read more on page 4.

Glencore-Merafe Chrome Venture announced the temporary suspension of ferrochrome smelting operations at the Boshhoek Smelter, effective 1 May 2025, and the Lion and Wonderkop Smelters, effective 31 May 2025. During this suspension, essential maintenance will be conducted at the Wonderkop and Boshhoek Smelters and the Lion Smelter will undertake its scheduled annual maintenance and planned rebuilds.

This extremely difficult decision has been necessitated by challenges facing the South African ferrochrome industry which pose a serious threat to the long-term sustainability of the industry. The Venture remains committed to engaging with all relevant stakeholders, including regulatory authorities, industry bodies, organized labour, and suppliers, to explore viable solutions. The goal is to identify cost-saving measures and policy interventions that can help safeguard the future of South Africa's ferrochrome sector, read the story on page 6.

Mining sector shift towards a Just Energy Transition presents unprecedented employment opportunities. According to the Just Energy Transition Skilling for Employment Programme (JET SEP), the wind industry could generate between 22,300 and 35,700 jobs by 2030, particularly in construction and end-of-life phases. Additionally, the Integrated Resource Plans (IRP2023 and IRP2024) project the deployment of 69GW to 76GW of wind energy capacity by 2050, potentially supporting up to 340,000 jobs. This massive potential highlights the urgency of developing a technically skilled, inclusive workforce.

Until the next issue, enjoy the read! ♦

Moses Sibiya



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THE RISE OF BLACK EXCELLENCE:

Black-Owned Companies in
South Africa - Empowerment
through Mining

In promoting economic transformation in South Africa, it is commendable to acknowledge the significant contributions of Black-owned companies to the economy. Following the enactment of the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) policy (Act 53 of 2003, amended as Act 46 of 2013), these companies have made notable strides. The B-BBEE policy has led to increased participation in the economy, growth of Black entrepreneurs, improved competitiveness, job creation, and innovation in various sectors.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH MINING

The mining sector plays a vital role in empowering local Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) in South Africa. Mining companies like Two Rivers Platinum, provide enterprise incubation techniques, opportunity recognition, and tender support to help SMEs grow and mature. The Mining Charter requires mining companies to procure goods and services from local SMEs, promoting economic empowerment and job creation.

TWO RIVERS PLATINUM'S COMMITMENT TO LOCAL EMPOWERMENT: WOMEN IN MINING

Two Rivers Platinum (TRP) Mine, a significant player in the platinum group metals (PGM) mining industry, supports local businesses through its supplier development program. A notable example is TRP's partnership with Matla Sechaba Holdings (Pty) Ltd, a 100% Black Women-Owned (BWO) business from the Buffelshoek community, which hosts TRP. Matla Sechaba Holdings has secured a Load and Haul contract at Two Rivers Platinum, and the mine has provided an interest-free loan to help them purchase an Articulated Dump Truck (ADT).

ABOUT MATLA SECHABA HOLDINGS

Established in 2016, Matla Sechaba Holdings (PTY) Limited is a 100% Black Woman Owned (BWO) company with a B-BBEE Level 1 status. The company offers business, civils, and industrial construction services to the mining, minerals, and power generation sectors. Founded on the core values of teamwork, integrity, and commitment, Matla Sechaba provides personal and friendly, value-for-money services dedicated to fulfilling clients' requirements.

In a nutshell, Matla Sechaba Holdings is undoubtedly, a multifaceted company with various interests, ranging from:

- **Mining Industry Presence:** Matla Sechaba Holdings has a significant presence in the mining industry, particularly in load and haul contracts. They've worked with Bell Equipment, a renowned manufacturer of mining haulage equipment, to supply Articulated Dump Trucks (ADTs) for their operations;
- **Contracting and Services:** The company provides load and haul services to mines, with a notable contract at Two Rivers Platinum Mine. They've demonstrated growth and expansion in their operations, including increasing their fleet of Bell B30E ADTs. The company has 5 ADTs, 1 Excavator and 1 Front End Loader.

“ *Our Mission is to execute the projects through assertion and integrity, so that our clients are satisfied with the end product that yields high return on investment...*

— Ms Ledile Lucy Tau - CEO Of Matla Sechaba Holdings



“

This partnership shows our commitment to empowering women-owned businesses...

—
Mr Mamatsha Legodi, TRP's
Social Performance Leader



TWO RIVERS PLATINUM



According to the company's CEO, Ms Ledile Lucy Tau, Matla Sechaba strives to provide its clients with superior quality of consumer satisfaction, intuitive scheduling, competitive pricing and superior delivery. She further adds on that “the company's success is measured by team performance, strategic growth and excellence, all of which enable the company to continue building an unparalleled reputation for perfection. Our mission is to execute the projects through assertion and integrity, so that our clients are satisfied with the end product that yields high return on investment”.

Partnership Benefits:

Mamatsha Legodi, TRP's Social Performance Leader, emphasizes that “This partnership shows our commitment to empowering women-owned businesses and giving local companies the tools to thrive.” The partnership demonstrates TRP's commitment to creating opportunities for growth and success, especially in local communities. “I am very grateful for the support I received from Two Rivers to grow my company and employ local people” said Mrs Tau.

CONCLUSION

TRP's support for Matla Sechaba Holdings showcases what compliance with the BEE codes of good practice should be – changing lives and bringing hope to the host community. This partnership serves as an inspiration to other mining companies, highlighting the importance of empowering Black-owned businesses and contributing to the economy's growth and development ◆



Glencore-Merafe's Commitment to South Africa's Ferroalloys Industry

South Africa stands at the heart of the global ferrochrome industry, holding nearly 80% of the world's known chrome ore reserves, positioning the country as a key player in global ferrochrome production. Yet, despite this strategic advantage, the sector faces unprecedented challenges that threaten its long-term viability.

Glencore-Merafe Chrome Venture announced the temporary suspension of ferrochrome smelting operations at the Boshhoek Smelter, effective 1 May 2025, and the Lion and Wonderkop Smelters, effective 31 May 2025. During this suspension, essential maintenance will be conducted at the Wonderkop and Boshhoek Smelters and the Lion Smelter will undertake its scheduled annual maintenance and planned rebuilds.

This extremely difficult decision has been necessitated by challenges facing the South African ferrochrome industry which pose a serious threat to the long-term sustainability of the industry. The Venture remains

committed to engaging with all relevant stakeholders, including regulatory authorities, industry bodies, organized labour, and suppliers, to explore viable solutions. The goal is to identify cost-saving measures and policy interventions that can help safeguard the future of South Africa's ferrochrome sector.

The Vision That Set us Apart

Underscoring our commitment to responsible operations, Glencore prioritizes engagement with employees, local communities, and stakeholders in order that our operations benefit those in the areas in which we operate. As such, in 2010, Glencore invested over R100 million to build and develop a Mining Supply Park in the Steelpoort area of Limpopo which has become a catalyst for local entrepreneurship, enabling businesses to thrive in an area where infrastructure is scarce. We firmly believe that this investment served as a contributing catalyst to the designation of the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Special Economic Zone which borders the Mining Supply Park.

Furthering its commitment, Glencore and its mining peers are nearing completion of a R127 million infrastructure project in Sekhukhune, which includes refurbishing an existing steel bridge and construction of a four-lane concrete bridge in Ga-Malekane. These developments are set to unlock new economic opportunities across the province.

Glencore Ferroalloys committed to supporting local entrepreneurs across various sectors to bring about sustainable impact. We are optimistic that our ESD programme equips these entrepreneurs to enable economic activity of other community members through a ripple-effect, thereby transforming the livelihoods of members of the wider community.

Our three ESD business incubation hubs have been instrumental in building the capacity of local entrepreneurs with some attending company funded classes at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) to hone their business acumen, capacity, and experience in understanding the business landscape including risks.

Furthermore, we focus on localising the economy by bringing our procurement closer to our operations so that we remain competitive by reducing logistics, costs, lead times, and more. Amongst others, we supported a youth-owned business with a front-end loader and an established employee transport business with busses to fulfil their business objectives thereby creating further job opportunities particularly for unemployed youth.

Over the years we re-focused our skills and development programmes to include broader skills (not just mining-related) such that community members may become economically active in alternative spheres of the local economy either through self-employment or formal employment.

Our R7.1 million investment in portable skills training has already empowered 438 young people with hands-on experience in electrical work, solar installation, sewing, farming, and digital literacy. The portable skills programmes included several engineering courses including, business management, computer skills, carpentry, welding, plastering, tiling & painting, plumbing, road maintenance, brick manufacturing and vegetable farming, among others.

The Eastern Chrome Mine Water Project is set to bring clean water to 400 households while a R50 million local household electrification project is currently in progress. Our R6.5 million 100% black women-owned PPE manufacturing project is ready to launch, creating sustainable livelihoods for 15 women in Fetakgomo Tubatse.

In alignment with President Ramaphosa's National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence, Glencore partnered with the National Prosecuting Authority to build South Africa's first brick-and-mortar Thuthuzela Care Centre (TCC) in Dilokong. This pioneering facility offers comprehensive support to victims of abuse, setting a new standard for comprehensive care and justice in South Africa.

Glencore remains committed to helping stabilize and sustain this critical sector. By actively engaging stakeholders and pursuing practical solutions, we are focused on energizing the industry today - while advancing the future of South Africa's ferrochrome economy through innovation, collaboration, and long-term resilience ♦

GLENCORE



Igniting Artisan Excellence for South Africa's Future

At RSEC we are "not just a training academy" we are South Africa's launchpad for artisan brilliance. As a proudly Level 1 B-BBEE Contributor and a wholly owned subsidiary of ARCH Holdings, we exist to transform lives, uplift industries and build the nation through high-impact skills development.

Imagine an academy where *passion meets precision* that's RSEC! backed by ARCH's two decades of national workforce development leadership, we specialize in accredited welding and electrical apprenticeships for both ambitious individuals seeking rewarding careers and employers striving to build technically strong teams.

Why Choose RSEC?

- **Future-Proof Programmes:** Our QCTO-registered apprenticeships in welding and electrical are designed to produce job-ready artisans who can step confidently into South Africa's most demanding industries.
- **Tailored Offerings:** From gap closure and EISA readiness to short skills programmes and employer sponsorship packages we adapt to meet our clients' unique needs.
- **Compliance & Excellence:** Fully accredited by QCTO, MERSETA and EWSETA and registered with NAMB we guarantee industry-standard training and assessment, enabling our learners to qualify with confidence.

Purpose-Built Facilities

Our training centres aren't ordinary workshops. They are vibrant, technology-driven learning environments designed to integrate theory and practice seamlessly. Small class sizes ensure personalized attention while our facilitators seasoned artisans themselves deliver training that meets and exceeds industry expectations. Whether it's our fully equipped electrical or welding workshops, every detail is curated to maximize learning impact.

Impact That Matters

RSEC is not just about certificates; it's about changing lives and economies. We deliver artisan development programmes for learners with disabilities and have historically partnered with ETDP SETA by providing an impact skills training. We have similarly partnered with Arch to provide training for Orphans and Vulnerable Youth (OVY) in Kwazulu-Natal, North-West and Limpopo Provinces by providing technical skills courses. We have also provided programmes with leading industry players such as Gibela Rail.

Our strategic partnerships ensure that our graduates are aligned with real market demands making them highly employable and empowering local industries with world-class talent.

Driving Transformation

As ARCH's flagship B2C initiative, RSEC is shaping a future where youth unemployment is tackled head-on through practical, accredited artisan training. We remain connected to industry trends through active membership with EGCCI and are continuously innovating to stay ahead in South Africa's rapidly evolving skills landscape.

Choose RSEC – where dreams are forged into skills, skills become careers and careers build a stronger South Africa ♦



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Empowering Residents With A New Community Hall

In July 2025, Barberton Mines will formally handover a newly constructed community hall to the Fairview Community residents in Ward 44 Ext 9 Emjindini Township. The Fairview Community Hall is being built on a 4,000 m² plot of land and is a key infrastructure development initiative aimed at improving the quality of life of residents in the area.

"We, as Barberton Mines, pride ourselves in being more than just a mining company. We strongly believe in making a positive impact on the world and empowering the local communities in which we operate" says Fortunate Ngomane head of ESG at Barberton Mines. Planning of the building of the hall was a joint effort between Barberton Mines and the people of Fairview working together, as well as input from local councilors, community forums and local construction companies. The facility will accommodate up to 500 people and serve as a vital hub for community meetings, public engagements, social functions, and other developmental activities.

"We extend our sincere gratitude to our community leaders, local stakeholders, and residents for their ongoing support, patience, and collaboration throughout the implementation process. Your partnership has been instrumental in bringing this long-awaited project to life." Barberton Mines remains committed to delivering sustainable, high-impact projects that contribute to the ongoing social upliftment of our communities. The community is urged to protect and care for this asset for the benefit of future generations.

Barberton Blue Blending Economic Viability With Social Impact

Blueberries have found an unexpected home on the peripheries of mines in South Africa, where land and labor are in ample supply. Pan African Resources, in its initiative to uplift the community around its Barberton Mines in Mpumalanga, found the solution in blueberries, leading to the establishment of Barberton Blue in 2021, in collaboration with Primocane Capital.



The farm, spanning 14ha, employs 22 permanent and 320 seasonal workers, 80% of whom are local women from Barberton and neighboring communities. In addition, one local agricultural student has been recruited to complete a work-integrated learning placement, reinforcing the project's commitment to youth development and agricultural education.

The fourth harvest season, which runs from June to October 2025, officially began in week 23 with the first batch of fruit picked and sold in Barberton and surrounding areas. The season's first harvest comes from the Eureka Sunrise variety, known for its early ripening. The projected total yield for the 2025/26 season is estimated at 228 tones. Despite the challenges faced, including severe weather impacts reducing yields significantly farm manager Axola Qongqo is adapting practices to mitigate future risks. "I am very confident that we will be able to combat frost effectively and see a significant improvement in our yield this season".

As the fourth harvest continues, Barberton Blue is more than just a farm, it is model for ESG in action, blending economic viability with social impact. By creating jobs, building agricultural capacity, empowering women, and investing in climate resilience, Barberton Blue is proving that agriculture can be both profitable and purposeful, and the first step towards creating a parallel economy in traditional mining dominated economies.

Barberton Mines and Select PPE Collaborate to Keep Children Safe – to Commence with Road Safety Education and Donation of Reflective Vests

To kick-off our Mandela Month celebrations, Barberton Mines in proud partnership with Select PPE, launched an essential community awareness initiative under the theme "Caring for Our Children." The campaign focused

on the health and safety of primary school learners, especially during the current cold, misty winter mornings when low visibility poses a serious danger for children walking to school.

In a proactive move, 3,000 reflective vests were donated and distributed to five identified primary schools in the Barberton region. This effort aimed to increase visibility and help prevent road accidents involving children. The initiative unfolded over two days, on 2 and 3 June 2025, and reached the following schools:

Ekhiyeni Primary School – St John's Mission, Sheba Primary School – Sheba Siding, Khanyisile Primary School – Emjindini Trust, Makam/Moodies Primary School – Emjindini Trust and Sinqobile Primary School – Louville



Beyond the distribution of safety vests, the visits were made more impactful through interactive educational sessions. Learners were taught a fun, empowering song that encouraged them to be brave and visible when walking to school in their reflective gear. Additionally, learners participated in roleplay activity focused on road signs and safety while crossing the road. These activities not only entertained but also reinforced vital lessons about road safety in a child-friendly and memorable way.

The principals and SGB members welcomed the initiative with gratitude, especially in light of recent road accidents involving learners in the area. Their appreciation underscored the importance and need for such practical, safety-oriented community outreach. Barberton Mines expressed pride in joining hands with Select PPE for this meaningful project. This partnership highlights both companies' commitment to Corporate Social Investment (CSI) that delivers long-term impact, with children's safety and community well-being at the heart of it. Together, we are walking the talk of Mandela Month protecting, educating, and empowering the youngest members of our society ♦



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The Future of Isiphethu Water Services in Construction

As we envision the future, it is evident that the water service construction industry will play a pivotal role in ensuring access to safe and reliable drinking water. At Isiphethu Water Services, we are dedicated to staying ahead of industry trends and innovations to deliver exceptional solutions to the communities we serve.

Pipe Rehabilitation

The future of pipe rehabilitation at Isiphethu Water Services looks promising. By leveraging advanced materials and techniques, we are committed to implementing efficient processes to extend the lifespan of water infrastructure.

One of our most notable projects showcasing expertise in pipe rehabilitation is the refurbishment of the Thabong Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) and its associated sewer network. Emerging trends and technologies in pipe rehabilitation include:

1. **Pipe Lining and Coating** – Applying protective linings and coatings to prolong pipe durability and prevent corrosion.
2. **Smart Leak Detection** – Utilizing cutting-edge technologies to detect leaks and minimize water losses.
3. **Trenchless Technologies** – Employing methods such as cured-in-place rehabilitation to restore damaged sewer systems efficiently.

Water Conservation

As a leading water service construction company, Isiphethu Water Services acknowledges the critical importance of water conservation and climate change in ensuring a sustainable future for our communities.

The Challenges of Climate Change

Changing precipitation patterns, increased evaporation, and more frequent extreme weather events pose significant risks to water resources. Rising temperatures contribute to water scarcity, impacting human health, economic development, and ecosystems.

Isiphethu's Commitment to Water Conservation

1. **Efficient Water Appliances** – Promoting the use of water-efficient appliances, fixtures, and irrigation systems.
2. **Leak Detection and Repairs** – Implementing advanced technologies and repair strategies to address water losses effectively.
3. **Public Education and Awareness** – Engaging with schools, customers, and communities to foster understanding of water conservation and climate change mitigation.

A Game-Changer for Water Infrastructure

Isiphethu Water Services is transforming the water infrastructure landscape through innovation and a commitment to sustainability. We tackle complex challenges in the water sector, from aging infrastructure to climate resilience, with forward-thinking solutions.

Innovative Solutions

1. **Trenchless Technologies** – Minimizing disruptions, reducing costs, and promoting sustainability through advanced construction methods.
2. **Pipe Rehabilitation** – Extending the lifespan of water infrastructure to ensure reliability while reducing waste.
3. **Water Conservation** – Advocating for efficient technologies and public education to ensure sustainable water use.
4. **Climate-Resilient Infrastructure** – Designing and constructing water systems that can withstand extreme weather events, safeguarding communities.

Community Engagement

At Isiphethu Water Services, we firmly believe that community engagement is vital to our mission of providing reliable, efficient, and sustainable water services. We are dedicated to building strong relationships with the communities we serve by actively listening to their needs and delivering tailored, effective solutions.

Debrief one of our recently completed projects, the Kromkloof Water Treatment Works and High Lift Pump Station project

The Design and Construction of the Kromkloof Water Treatment Works and High Lift Pump Station

The construction of the Kromkloof Water Treatment Works (WTW) and High Lift Pump Station commenced in November 2021. This project was funded by DWS, under the RBIG initiative, with the project aiming to provide safe and reliable drinking water to 26 surrounding villages from 3 wards. The treatment plant is supplied with raw water from multiple boreholes, delivering an expected supply rate of 5.8 million litres per day (ML/d) with a turndown ratio of 6:1. The project entailed the design and construction of all Mechanical and Electrical components within client's specifications and scope.



Filtration and Chemical Treatment Process

To ensure future scalability, our design reserved space on-site for additional flocculation and sedimentation units. At present, the plant utilizes four autonomous gravity filters, providing the necessary contact time for oxidation reactions. Once filtration is complete, the water enters a chlorine contact tank, where calcium hypochlorite is dosed for disinfection. The contact tank is designed with baffles to optimize mixing and retention time. The treated water is then directed into the clearwell for final distribution. Given the limited capacity of the clearwell, it does not function as an on-site storage facility but serves as an intermediary before high-lift pumping.

Backwash Water Management and Dewatering

Filter backwash water is collected in a dedicated channel and directed to a dewatering buffer sump. From there, it is pumped into geotextile dewatering tubes (geotubes) with the assistance of polymer dosing. The geotubes facilitate solid-liquid separation, allowing filtered water to be recovered and redirected to the elevated blending tank. The retained silt within the geotubes is periodically disposed of upon tube saturation, ensuring efficient sludge management.

Construction and Execution

The execution of this project was managed in-house, with the Civil Construction Division overseeing all earthworks, concrete, and steel structures. Meanwhile, the Mechanical Division was responsible for fabricating pipework, supports, and gantries. This integrated approach ensured streamlined coordination and adherence to design specifications ◆



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Kangra Social Projects Bring Meaningful Change to Communities

Kangra's Social and Labour Plan (SLP) team collaborates with community representatives, traditional leaders, and local government officials to identify essential requirements of communities surrounding the mine.

Access to clean water and an ambulance for the local medical facility were identified as crucial needs by stakeholders. Kangra's water project was launched to provide tap water to eight farms in Donkerhoek, located in Ward 2. With an average of about 30 households per farm, the project will ultimately benefit approximately 240 households by ensuring they have tap water directly in their yards. The first phase of the project, which involved the installation of taps for 30 households under the Yende Farmers Trust was completed and handed over to the community in December 2023.

For this project, Kangra partnered with several stakeholders, including the Mkhondo Local Municipality, the provincial Department of Agriculture, the provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), the Local Community Forum, and the Community Works Programme (CWP). "We saw the need to implement this project because of the community's challenges with water. Access to water is a human right, and we had to ensure we implement the project so people can benefit," says Kangra's Stakeholder Relations Manager, Mpfuneni Mulaudzi.

In addition to enabling communities to access clean, drinkable water, the project has other positive knock-on impacts such as skills development and creating employment. Eight individuals received plumbing training through CoGTA and CWP, ensuring skill transfer and local capacity building.

Among them is Sphamandla Nyembe, who received training as a plumber. Before that, Nyembe was unemployed and searching for opportunities. "I'm able to learn a new skill and work. I also think these skills will help me secure other jobs in future," says Nyembe. The second phase of the project is complete and ready for handover. During this phase, an additional 90 households in Donkerhoek received tap water.

New Ambulance For Mkhondo Communities

Kangra invested R1.2 million to purchase and customise a Volkswagen Crafter in line with the Department of Health's specifications for emergency medical vehicles. Fitted with standard medical equipment, the ambulance serves communities under the Mkhondo Local Municipality. It is designed to provide relief for injured or sick residents who need urgent medical assistance while in transit to health facilities. The ambulance was handed over to the Driefontein Community Health Centre in early 2025.

Mkhondo Municipality Executive Mayor Ngelosi Ndhlovu expressed excitement at the benefits that would accrue to residents. "The ambulance can penetrate remote or underserved areas, guaranteeing that a greater number of community members receive emergency medical treatment," she said.

Kangra GM Paul Redelinghuys highlighted the company's role in fostering sustainable development and improving the quality of life for residents beyond its mining operations. Through further consultation with stakeholders, Kangra's SLP team will continue to uplift communities through similar initiatives in future ♦



Driefontein is over 50 kilometres from Piet Retief Hospital. "The donated ambulance will contribute immensely to the community of Mkhondo, especially in Driefontein, in that it will reduce the delays in responding to the sick and injured," said Mpumalanga Health MEC Sasekani Manzini, at the handover.



3t Arch Launches in South Africa:

*The Future of Workforce
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3t Arch: The result of a powerful partnership between 3t Energy, the UK's global leader in immersive workforce technology and ARCH has officially launched in South Africa. This landmark entry promises to revolutionise skills development, safety and productivity across sectors.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

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3t Arch brings cutting-edge VR, AR and digital modules to the energy, water, mining and industrial sectors. These innovative solutions accelerate skills development, boost productivity and ensure safety compliance. Combined with ARCH's proven national deployment capability these programmes transform workforces rapidly and at scale.
- **Training Administration System (TAS):**
The TAS platform streamlines scheduling, learner management, assessments and reporting. Integrated with ARCH's expertise in SETA-accredited programmes, Municipal skills academies and public sector training TAS ensures operational excellence for employers seeking seamless training delivery.
- **Training Management System (TMS) & 3tX Technology:**
The 3tX platform enables real-time skills tracking, immersive simulation and digital twin-based competence management. ARCH's local implementation expertise ensures effective roll-out in Mining SLP projects, Artisan placement pipelines and Municipal development initiatives.
- **Safety Passport & Connected Competence:**
3t Arch ensures workers have verified, standardised safety and competence records across sites and sectors. Combined with ARCH's national reach this enhances compliance, reduces site risks and improves employment mobility.

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Water Sector: Utilities improve operational safety, compliance service delivery by integrating immersive training and safety passport solutions.

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Construction & Energy: Companies can deploy safety and skills passports to ensure solar and energy project teams are competent, compliant and community-inclusive.

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ENGIE South Africa Wins IFLR Africa Award

ENGIE South Africa is proud to announce that its Legal team has been named In-House Energy Legal Team of the Year at the fifth annual IFLR Africa Awards held on 27 March 2025 in Cape Town. This accolade, presented by the International Financial Law Review (IFLR), recognises outstanding legal innovation and excellence in cross-border energy transactions.

The award showcases in-house Legal teams that have played pivotal roles in complex, market-shaping deals across the African continent. Led by Katy-Lynne Kay, ENGIE's Chief Legal and Ethics Officer for Renewables and Flex Power, the ENGIE team has consistently demonstrated deep expertise, innovative thinking, and a continued commitment to legal excellence within the renewable energy sector.

"This recognition by IFLR is a celebration of the phenomenal talent and dedication within our legal team. We are honoured to have played a role in transactions that not only contribute to the continent's energy future, but also set new benchmarks for legal innovation and collaboration," says Kay. "At ENGIE, our legal professionals are more than just advisors. They are transition makers, driving the energy transition through legal insight, strategic foresight, and a commitment to excellence."

The IFLR Awards celebrate the legal industry's most innovative work, with a particular focus on cutting-edge achievements in cross-border transactions. The recognition is based on legal complexity, innovation, and the team's role in shaping a stronger, more sustainable investment environment. Additionally, the awards highlight those reshaping financial law, from leading practitioners to rising stars, and champion innovation in legal tech, ESG, and financial regulation that enhance the global investment landscape.

The ENGIE legal team includes Hellen Bodeli, Kaitlyn Krishna, Leanie van der Walt, Louis Moyse, Michelle Makhado (née Zibane), Mzwandile Frank Khumalo, Siviwe Mcetywa and Sizwe Nhlapo. Each of these professionals has contributed to landmark projects across South Africa and beyond, supporting ENGIE's mission to deliver flexible, renewable energy solutions across the continent.



In recent years, the team has advised on several high-impact, cross-border energy transactions that combine legal precision with market innovation. Their ability to navigate complex regulatory environments and deliver comprehensive legal frameworks has supported ENGIE's growth and leadership in the African renewables market.

About ENGIE

ENGIE is a major player in the energy transition, whose purpose is to accelerate the transition towards a carbon-neutral economy. With 98,000 employees in 30 countries, the Group covers the entire energy value chain, from production to infrastructures and sales. ENGIE combines complementary activities: renewable electricity and green gas production, flexibility assets (notably batteries), gas and electricity transmission and distribution networks, local energy infrastructures (heating and cooling networks) and the supply of energy to individuals, local authorities and businesses. Every year, ENGIE invests more than €10 billion to drive forward the energy transition and achieve its net-zero carbon goal by 2045 ♦

The Wind Industry's Role in Addressing Unemployment, Skills Development, and Competency Gaps



As South Africa commemorates Workers' Month, the wind energy sector reflects on the critical role skills development plays in building a sustainable green economy and tackling the country's biggest challenge - unemployment. Investment in effective training initiatives is essential not only to stimulate economic growth but to ensure long-term workforce readiness in this evolving industry, writes Morongoa Ramaboa, Chief Communications office at the South Africa Wind Energy Association (SAWEA).

South Africa's Constitution affirms in Section 29(1) that every citizen has the right to basic and further education, with the state responsible for making such opportunities progressively accessible. Yet, the renewable energy sector has historically been difficult to enter, with young South Africans - particularly school leavers and unemployed individuals, facing barriers such as the high cost of training and a lack of clear career pathways. These challenges have limited participation in what is otherwise a high-growth and future-focused industry.

However, the shift toward a Just Energy Transition presents unprecedented employment opportunities. According to the Just Energy Transition Skilling for Employment Programme (JET SEP), the wind industry could generate between 22,300 and 35,700 jobs by 2030, particularly in construction and end-of-life phases. Additionally, the Integrated Resource Plans (IRP2023 and IRP2024) project the deployment of 69GW to 76GW of wind energy capacity by 2050, potentially supporting up to 340,000 jobs. This massive potential highlights the urgency of developing a technically skilled, inclusive workforce.

Bridging The Skills Gap

At a pivotal moment for South Africa's wind energy sector, the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) has celebrated a milestone - the approval of the NQF Level 3 Wind Turbine Operator Skills Programme by the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO). This programme, also backed by EWSETA bursary and grant funding, provides much-needed financial support to students from low-income households, thereby reducing cost barriers and ensuring accessibility.



Developed through an industry-led process, the programme was initiated by SAWEA's Social Impact Standing Committee (SISC). A working group of training providers was formed in collaboration with the Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA), reinforcing the sector's commitment to a skills-driven transition.

This newly approved programme serves as an entry-level qualification, offering a practical and accessible route into the wind energy industry without requiring prior technical experience. By helping demystify renewable energy careers, it raises awareness and enables young South Africans to connect with previously unattainable opportunities.

Grassroots Skills Development: Wind Industry Internship Programme

Another initiative shaping the future workforce is SAWEA's Wind Industry Internship Programme. This programme provides aspiring graduates with hands-on experience across various disciplines in the renewable energy sector. It not only nurtures talent, but also builds a skilled and knowledgeable cohort of green professionals poised to lead the industry's expansion. The programme continues to receive a high volume of applications annually, with over 5,000 submitted for the 2025 intake - a notable increase from the 256 applications received for the 2024 intake.

Collaboration: The Key to a Stronger Workforce

The Skills Development Act 97 of 1998 provides a framework for national, sectoral, and workplace strategies aimed at improving workforce skills while facilitating recognised occupational qualifications through learnerships. However, addressing the gap between industry demands and post-school education requires collective action.

Recognising this need, the South African Wind Energy Association (SAWEA) actively fosters collaboration through initiatives such as PowerUp, a digital skills facilitation hub that connects industry leaders, educational institutions, and key stakeholders to tackle critical skill shortages in the renewable energy sector. By working alongside the

Energy and Water Sector Education and Training Authority (EWSETA), SAWEA strengthens workforce readiness and reinforces the importance of coordinated efforts in South Africa's energy transition.

Mpumalanga: A Case Study in Transition

Drawing from Mpumalanga's evolving skills landscape, the province's transition from a coal-based economy to a renewable energy hub presents a compelling case for South Africa's broader energy shift. Historically home to many of the country's coal-fired power stations, Mpumalanga is now witnessing the growth of wind energy projects - these are reshaping workforce dynamics and necessitating large-scale reskilling and upskilling efforts. The Just Energy Transition in Mpumalanga is expected to have significant socio-economic effects, particularly in towns like eMalahleni, where coal has long been central to the local economy ♦



Morongoa Ramaboa

Chief Communications Officer

South Africa Wind Energy Association (SAWEA)

About Us



MTrendz Group is a black youth-owned multidisciplinary engineering and built environment consultancy offering consulting engineering, project management, mining services and consulting, and general engineering services. Established 10 years ago, the company has grown into a preeminent leader, renowned for delivering innovative and impactful solutions across its diverse range of services.

Our commitment to achieving and sustaining excellence is driven by a team of highly skilled professionals who uphold a strong ethic of delivering exceptional, innovative, viable, and sustainable solutions. These solutions are carefully crafted in alignment with International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards, ensuring the highest level of quality and consistency in every project we undertake. At MTrendz Group, we remain focused on delivering impactful results that not only meet industry standards but also exceed client expectations, reinforcing our position as a trusted leader in the industries we operate.

MTrendz engineers are not only qualified GCC Engineers (holding both factory and mine and works tickets), but they are also registered professional engineers with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA), Engineers Australia, and the International Register of Professional Engineers, enabling them to sign off on projects of any scale with the highest level of expertise and accountability.

Additionally, this group of engineers plays a pivotal role as mentors in our candidacy programmes, fostering the growth and development of the next generation of engineering professionals. Their combined experience and leadership ensure the continued success and quality of our projects and training initiatives.

Committed to developing future leaders in the industry, MTrendz Group actively invests in graduate training programmes to support professional registration. This dedication is demonstrated through two of the following comprehensive candidacy programmes, which are currently active and fully managed by the company as part of its commitment to professional development

- **Candidacy Programme (ECSA)**

Also known as "Training under a Commitment and Undertaking (C&U)", provides candidates with the necessary mentoring, practical experience, and workplace training to meet the competency standards required for registration as a professional with ECSA.

- **Candidacy Programme (DMRE)**

The GCC certification prepares engineers to take up legal responsibility for the health, safety, and management of mining operations in South Africa. Governed by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE), it certifies individuals with the knowledge, skills, and experience required to hold key statutory positions under the Mine Health and Safety Act.

Our Mission

We are committed to providing efficient professional engineering services and consultancy of consistent and uncompromised high quality to precise requests of our clients.

Our Values

Integrity
Respect
Accountability
Diligence
Teamwork

Our Vision

To be the preeminent provider of engineering services and consultancy that are customer focused and innovative.

Mr. Mashego, originally from Riba Cross village in Burgersfort, grew up in Nokaneng-Kalkfontein Village and completed his matric at Gobeste Secondary School. He is an alumnus of the Xstrata (now Glencore)-Ukuqonda Grade 12 Maths and Science Programme, as well as the Post-Matric Programme, both of which inspired his pursuit of a career in Mechanical Engineering.

With a BTech in Mechanical Engineering and a Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education, Mr. Mashego spearheads MTrendz Group as its Group Managing Director, championing strategic growth, fostering innovation, and advancing impactful community-driven initiatives.



Mahele Mashego

Group MD and Founder of MTrendz Group of Companies

Our Services

MTrendz Group is a corporate entity comprising three companies, strategically organized into four core operational units to deliver comprehensive services to its clients. The Group is active in and holds significant interests across diverse sectors, including Engineering, the Built Environment, Energy, Mining, and Engineering Management. This diversified structure enables MTrendz Group to offer tailored solutions and innovative expertise to meet the needs of its clients across various industries.

Mining Operations and Services

- Contract Mining
- Advisory, Legal Compliances and Training
- Contract Crushing and Screening
- Project Engineering and Consulting
- Outsourced Plant Operations (O&M Services)
- Lean Consulting
- Cleaner Energy Transition
- Mine Closure and Rehabilitation

Project Management

- Project Management and Contract Administration
- Quality Assurance and Audits
- Project Cost Management and Cash Flows Reports
- Project Executions Plans
- Planning and Initial Process Development
- Risk Management
- Construction Management

Consulting Engineering

- Civil Engineering
- Structural Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Fire Engineering
- Automation (C&I)
- Wet Services
- Alternative Energy and Green Building
- Facilities Management

General Engineering

- Hardfacing
- Repair welding
- Fabrication and installation of plant equipment
- Reconditioning and maintenance
- Mechanical design
- Onsite Services

MTrendz Group remains consistent in its commitment to compliance and adherence to industry standards across all sectors in which it operates. Below are the associations and affiliations that reflect this dedication.



MTrendz Group is actively involved with a diverse range of clients, either directly or indirectly. Our presence spans various industries, reflecting our commitment to delivering excellence and achieving impactful results. Below are the esteemed clients we proudly serve.



Experience Expert Engineering Solutions – **Let's Work Together! Join Forces with Us Today!**

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CAR RENTAL SERVICES

SAGIS Logistics is a car logistics company specializing in facilitation of transportation for car rental and hiring in South Africa. Due to high demand of transportation services post covid-19 period, SAGIS Logistics was established to cater for the traveling market for social, business, tourism and economic travel needs.

SAGIS Logistics has partnerships with most car rental companies in South Africa, such as AVIS, Europcar, Hertz and Dollar Thrifty of which are all available throughout the country and all the airports.

TRANSPORT FACILITATION SERVICE

The company is able to provide vehicles with unlimited km in most cases due to wide range availability of vehicles from car rental companies which makes it easy and possible.



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- All car groupings available
- Individuals, corporates & groups

Handover of Five High-Impact Community Projects at Impala Rustenburg



Impala Rustenburg, the subsidiary of Impala Platinum Holdings Limited (Implats), was honoured to officially hand over a suite of transformative Social and Labour Plan (SLP) projects on during the month of June 2025, marking a significant milestone in the Group's ongoing commitment to community development. The handover event, attended by national, regional and local government dignitaries, traditional authorities and other key stakeholders, celebrated the completion of key infrastructure and social projects that will benefit thousands of residents across our mine communities.



Moses Motlageng, Chief Executive of Impala's Western Limb operations, said: *"At Impala Rustenburg, we take great pride in delivering community development projects that reflect our deep commitment to building sustainable communities during and beyond mining, ensuring shared progress and meaningful partnership. Our social projects represent a shared vision for progress, dignity and opportunity. Our investment in the facilities we hand over today reaffirms our commitment to genuine partnerships, where development is driven not just by obligation, but by our belief in the potential of the people we serve."*

The Implats Group's social performance framework is directed at four key focus areas – community wellbeing; education and skills development; enterprise and supplier development (ESD) and inclusive procurement; and infrastructure development.

Seraleng Primary School: New Ablution Facilities

The Seraleng Primary School project centred on constructing new ablution facilities to accommodate the school's growing enrolment of 1 420 learners.

Constructing The Maithufi Road in Phokeng

A 660-metre stretch of gravel road in Phokeng was upgraded to surfaced standard, including the construction of a bridge over a river at a cost of R13.3 million, the project created 20 jobs and involved five local SMMEs.

The Community Centre For Bobuanja

The Bobuanja Community Centre was developed to provide a gathering space for the community, at a cost of R7.2 million, creating 106 jobs and involving 13 local SMMEs.

Building The Tsitsing Water Pipeline

The Tsitsing water pipeline project entailed building a one-kilometre pipeline with chambers to ensure a reliable supply of water from the pump station to the Tsitsing reservoir.

Upgrading Retlakgona Primary School

As a "beyond compliance" corporate social investment project, the Retlakgona Primary School upgrade focused on enhancing the learning environment for 1 529 learners from Meriting and surrounding communities. at a cost of R13.9 million, the project created 153 jobs and involved 14 local SMMEs ♦

Anglo American Zimele Opens Global Doors for SA Youth

From rural South Africa to luxury cruise liners, a new generation is rising: Confident, skilled, and globally connected.



Anglo Zimele Participants, Maselo Makoa, Fiona Mokgalaka, Lorraine Serothwane, Moloko Mabulane, Marwale Maphori and Monica Madere

From the quiet streets of **Limpopo, Rustenburg,** and the **Northern Cape** to the dazzling coastlines of the Caribbean and Europe, a powerful new story is unfolding. It is one of transformation, mobility, and second chances. Dozens of unemployed youth from disadvantaged backgrounds are being trained in international hospitality and placed into life-changing work opportunities aboard luxury cruise ships.

And they're not just travelling; they're thriving.

*"This is a great milestone for the programme and youth development in our host communities," says **Larisha Naidoo**, Head of Anglo American Zimele. "Youth unemployment remains one of the major challenges that South Africa is facing, and this partnership is one of the ways we are contributing to reducing unemployment and poverty through impactful skilling."*

The programme combines hospitality training, personal development, and international placement to provide young people with the tools, mindset, and opportunity to succeed beyond borders.

From No Opportunities to Global Experiences

For many participants, this is their first formal job, their first flight, and their first time leaving South Africa. But more than anything, it's their first real encounter with dignity and possibility.

"This is not just about employment. It's about reclaiming identity," shares one of the programme leads. "These young people left behind communities where poverty had swallowed hope. Now, they're earning international salaries, learning new cultures, and believing in themselves in ways that once felt out of reach."

Some have used their income to build homes. Others are supporting entire households. Many are saving to start businesses of their own. The financial impact is real, but the personal growth is where the magic lives.





“ I Never Thought I’d Make It Out ”

Behind every uniform and passport stamp is a story. A young woman who once dropped out of school due to finances is now working in Europe and supporting her siblings. A young man who had never seen the ocean is now docking in cities across the Mediterranean, learning languages, and sending money home to his grandmother.

“I never thought I’d make it out,” says one participant stationed in Italy. “I used to wake up every day wondering if life would ever change. Now, I wake up in a new country with a sense of purpose and pride I’ve never felt before.”

*“Coming from **Kutullo Village in Steelpoort, Limpopo**, I never imagined I’d be travelling across the world,” says **Monica Madere**, one of the programme beneficiaries. “This opportunity didn’t just change my location — it changed my mindset. I believe I can build a future now.”*

They speak about the discipline they’ve developed, the friendships they’ve formed across cultures, and the way this experience has redefined what they believe is possible.

Beyond Jobs: Building Personal Brands and Future Leaders

The transformation doesn’t stop at sea. As part of the programme’s reintegration phase, returned beneficiaries

are being supported through personal branding and career development workshops, ensuring their global experience becomes a launchpad for greater opportunities.

Masterclasses have begun across provinces, starting with Limpopo, where returned seafarers are now learning to articulate their stories, update their CVs, and position themselves for long-term career growth. They are no longer just “former cruise workers.” They are global citizens, future business owners, community role models, and storytellers of resilience.

A Model for Youth Empowerment Done Right

As Youth Month comes to a close, this initiative offers more than inspiration. It presents a blueprint for measurable impact. It proves what happens when intentional investment meets real opportunity. Back home, families are hopeful. Communities are inspired. And a generation that once felt forgotten is finally being seen, supported, and celebrated.

This isn’t just youth development. This is nation-building. Because when we dare to believe in the potential of our young people, they show us exactly what they’re capable of and the world, quite literally, becomes their stage ♦

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- Local Economic Development
- Community Mining Unrests Prevention Solution (Conflict Resolution)
- Media Communications
- Contract Mining and Mining Equipment Repairs and Leasing
- Transport Logistics
- Load Haul
- Fuel & Oil Supplies
- Mining Sector Coordination Management

2. ADVISORY & CONSULTING SERVICES

We offer expert-led Advisory and Consulting services focused on but not limited to:

- Impact Funding Advisory
- Impact Project Management & Measurement
- Skills & Employment Consulting Services

3. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

We deliver integrated Workforce Development strategies through:

- Skills Development, Placement & Talent Management
- Skills & Impact Development Programmes
- Employment Solutions & Workforce Development

4. FUNDRAISING & INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Our specialised services in Fundraising & Investment Management include:

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- Design, construct and maintenance of water Schemes for provinces through the Department of Water and Sanitation.

b. Sanitation Services

- Construction and maintenance of groundwater and surface water systems.

c. Rural Water Sanitation

- Providing water and sanitation to rural communities.
- Providing innovative and sustainable solutions, to ensure equitable access to clean water for all citizens.

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Including Renewable Sustainable Solar Energy Services



KIA Sorento

Feature

Article by Willem van de Putte

Up to 79% of all vehicles sold in the South African market are in the sub R550,000 bracket which is one of the reasons Kia South Africa introduced the Kia Sonet LS at a smidgen under R300,000 and has seen them slowly inching their way back up the sales charts.

However, they're still very much aware that the market hasn't completely forgotten about the premium segment, especially family SUVs which has seen them refresh the fourth generation Sorento range.

Diesel Continues

The upgrades are refreshing but most importantly they have stuck to its diesel engine, taking advantage of our oil-burner preference when it comes to large SUVs and the fact that diesel options are becoming more scarce as the world focuses on New Energy Vehicles (NEVs).

It's their four-cylinder 2.2-litre producing 148kW and 440Nm paired to a new eight-speed wet double-clutch transmission driving the front wheels of the entry-level EX+ and all four corners of the SX and SXL models.

Exterior

Interestingly, the exterior remains the same throughout the model walk, the differences focused on various interior upgrades. It gets a new higher volume bonnet with a more defined silhouette, new front and rear vertical LED headlights, new grille with a 3D mesh design and a redesigned front lower bumper with a wide skid plate. Around the back there's a high-mounted LED brake light, updated bumper and exhaust trim as well as a wide skid plate, black cladding and 20-inch rims emphasising a more rugged SUV look for the Sorento.

Interior

It's fantastically roomy inside; more van than SUV that adds to the appeal of the seven-seater. The refreshed Sorento also signals the first time that Kia has broken through the R1-million barrier, which people might balk at, but shop around, and that's in the ballpark when it comes to legacy brands like Kia who have been around locally for almost three decades. It's certainly reflected in the interior with plush soft touch surfaces made from leather and recycled materials.



There's a panoramic sunroof, black headliner, metal pedals and ambient lighting along the dash, redesigned gear knob and front door trims. It's an impressive cockpit with a 12.3-inch infotainment touchscreen, a 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster and a 10-inch head-up display. It gets a wireless phone charger, six USB-C charging ports (two per row) and a digital rear-view mirror. Thankfully Kia has opted for all the important and regular adjustments to be operated by dials and not hidden in a sub menu somewhere on the screen.

Driving

The driver's position is commanding and comfortable with the seats providing ample support.

What also impressed was the attention to the noise, vibration and harshness (NVH) levels especially for a big SUV with virtually nothing signalling a diesel mill while wind noise is outstanding even into the teeth of a cold Cape Town Northwester. There's more than enough grunt and it made short work of Sir Lowry's Pass and giving it a bit of stick, easily gets past slower traffic because Cape Town drivers are generally pedestrian but add rain and it gets even worse.

We drove the mid-specked SX and going up the pass we used the Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS). It kept us between the lines without any fuss and the adaptive cruise control would slow down for cars ahead of us. There was no sudden jerking of the steering wheel or emergency type braking. It's not a scythe through corners and was never intended to be but it has a refined suspension that combines well with the chassis.

There was some pitch and wallow as you would expect but not really any noticeable body roll, providing a comfortable and unhurried experience. When we returned the cars to the airport our consumption stood at a very respectable 6.8l/100km.

Safety

The safety front is taken care of with seven airbags, Electronic Stability Control (ESC) with Trailer Stability Assist (TSA), front & rear park distance control, Rear view camera, Reverse camera with dynamic parking lines and as the Sorento's level increases so does the additional systems and technology. For a full walk through the Sorento's different specification levels I'd suggest looking at their website.



The Kia Sorento is out and out a family car and it does that with sophisticated aplomb and considering what you get including its diesel USP, the price is competitive in this segment.

It comes with an unlimited kilometre/five-year warranty (inclusive of roadside assistance), as well as a six-year/90,000km maintenance plan.

Pricing

- Sorento 2.2 CRDi 7-Seater EX+ 2WD 8DCT: R999,995
- Sorento 2.2 CRDi 7-Seater SX AWD 8DCT: R1,199,995
- Sorento 2.2 CRDi 7-Seater SXL AWD 8DCT: R1,299,995 ◆



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Mineral Regulation Branch

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Local Economic Developments by Mines

3rd Annual
GOLF
CHARITY CHALLENGE
8 February 2026



RONDEBOSCH GOLF CLUB, CAPE TOWN

AGENDA

10h00: Registration Starts
11h30: First Tee Off
18h00: Prize Giving

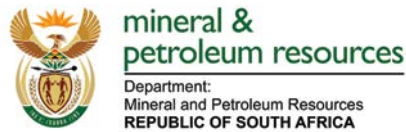
Closing date for bookings: **20 January 2026**
To book your package, visit www.miningcsi.co.za

FORMAT

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For information and bookings email: info@miningcsi.co.za / +27 73 446 9690

Our Partners



Mining Conference Partners



9-12 February 2026
CTICC, Cape Town

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