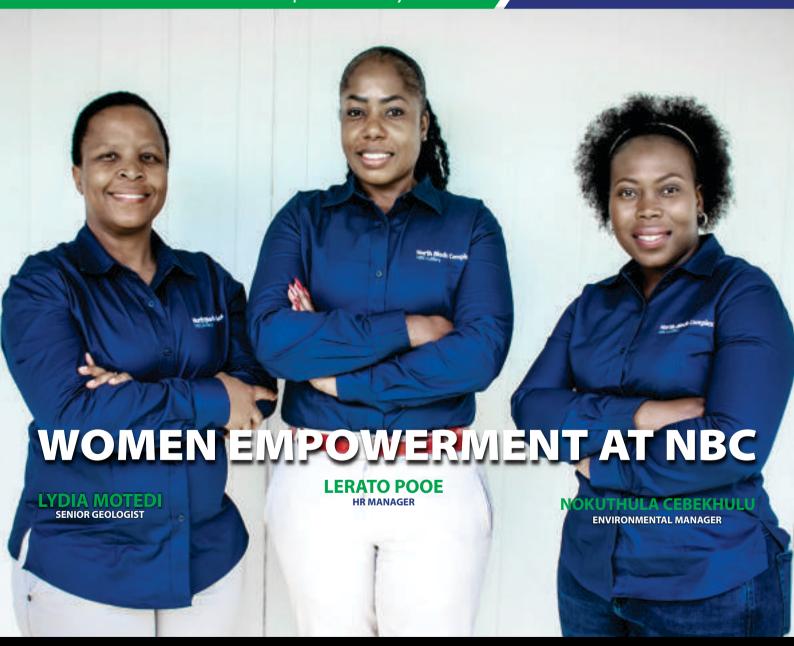
# Miningcs

Local Economic Developments by Mines

Volume 32 • 2022



### **ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:**

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SIYABANGENA WOMEN IN MINING – Woman Owned Mining Company Has Arrived
PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA – President Give Updates on His R1,2 Trillion Investment Drive

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**Resources 4 Africa** is pleased to announce the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of its annual Junior Indaba taking place on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022 as both an in-person and an online event.

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- Outlook for commodities: how are **commodity prices** faring in 2022 and what will this mean for iuniors?
- What **sources of finance** are available and how can juniors access these?
- How do we **revive exploration in South Africa** and reach the 5% target of global exploration spend in 5 years?
- How can government policy and regulation be reformed to promote junior mining and exploration?
- What lessons can be learned from successful junior miners who are already operating in SA and beyond?
- What are the opportunities for juniors in the energy transition and demand for strategic metals?

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### TRAINING OF MINE SLP MANAGERS, MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS & COMMUNITY LEADERS

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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.

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#### 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.

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.

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### **Contact Person:**

Michelle Dondolo Email: info@miningcsi.co.za

# Editor's Note

his quarter's publication comes at a time when South Africa is reeling from the devastation of the KZN flooding that caused the unfortunate deaths of more than 400 people and damaged countless infrastructures and businesses around the area. The people staying in the province have suffered from the Covid-19 pandemic, the looting that took place in July 2021 and now losing their livelihood. This gives an opportunity to mining, corporate and civil organizations to come together and make a difference to the lives of those affected by the flooding. As Mining CSI, we send our heartfelt condolences to all the families and together with our different stakeholders we will also be giving support and urge the broader public to do the same as well.

Coming closer to home, North Block Complex (Pty) Ltd (NBC) recently handed over eight houses to the Paardeplaats community farm dwellers on the 11th of February 2022. The Mine purchased the fertile land where the Paardeplaats residents currently reside, and subsequently commenced with consultations, of which today, resulted in the total expenditure of about R36 million for the Housing Project of the 28 houses. More on this story can be read on page 6. Another company that has also been building different houses for the community is Tronox in KwaZulu Natal. Housing and Infrastructure development in local schools has been key to their LED projects for the year 2020/2021 and were handed to the beneficiaries in March 2022 after the relaxation of the Covid-19 regulations.

Something interesting that we can all learn from is the massive investment of R1.2 billion that Anglo American Platinum has made to 10 community-owned trucking companies to transport its concentrate from its mines to its processing plants. This story can be accessed on page 19. More on innovation is what Sibanye Stillwater and other mining companies have decided to do with regards to helping municipalities with service delivery so that a good environment will be available for mining activities. This is important and bringing a new way that mining can assist in community development that is much needed, view the story on page 28. One thing we should all be looking forward to is the return of Mining Indaba that is schedule for 9-12 May 2022 at the Cape Town International Conference Centre. The mining community will be looking to the future with the overarching theme: 'Evolution of African Mining: Investing in the Energy Transition, ESG, and the Economies.'

In attendance at the event will be the President of South Africa - H.E. Cyril Ramaphosa, President of Botswana -H.E. Dr Mokgweetsi Masisi, President of Zambia – H.E. Hakainde Hichilema and the Prime Minister of DRC - H.E. Jean-Michael Sama Lukonde, Mining CSI wishes Duncan Wanblad, the newly appointed Chief Executive of Anglo American all the best as he started his new journey on April 2022 as Mark Cutifani retires and steps down after nine years in the role. Mark has overseen a 214% stock rise, taking Anglo from prodigal to pacesetter, "There has been no greater privilege for me than leading Anglo American and our incredible people.

Together, we have transformed our competitive position and led the way towards a very different future for mining - a safer, smarter future that delivers enduring value for all our stakeholders. By delivering our promises, we have established the credibility and capabilities that are the foundation for Anglo American's next phase of growth. I can think of no better leader than Duncan to pick up the baton and pursue the many opportunities that lie ahead for our business." Mark was quoted I hope you will enjoy reading this

publication as much as we did putting it together for you, our most distinguished readers. Remember that we can all make a difference where we all stay, a little contribution goes a long way in creating a different outcome for all those less fortunate.

Until next time, be safe!

Moses Sibiya Managing Editor







#### Cover picture: ©PIXELSCLICK ZA

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# Getting to Know North Block Complex (Pty) Ltd Leadership

aleho Musi - General Manager and Board Member he joined the company in November 2018 shortly after the acquisition of Glisa from Exxaro by North Block Complex. He was born in Mangaung, Free State Province where he completed his Grade 12 at Hodisa Technical Secondary School.

Musi later obtained his Mine Managers Certificate of Competency from the Department of Minerals and Energy in 2004. He graduated from the University of Johannesburg in 2007 after completing his B-Tech Mining Engineering Degree. "My biggest accomplishment at NBC has to be the extension of the Life of Mine by 10 years, creating shareholder value, making sure that the 1100 employee's jobs are preserved and improving the livelihood of the Community in which we operate".

Maleho enjoys interacting with different stakeholders which includes the Community, Municipality, Eskom, Water Affairs, Department of Minerals and Energy e.t.c. "Working at NBC over the years has really sharpened my business acumen, entrepreneurial and negotiations skills." His motto is "NEVER GIVE UP".

Lesetja Mankuru - Stakeholder Engagement Manager Lesetja started his career as a schoolteacher in the early nineties. His fascination in conflict management saw him join the trade union as an organiser, and thereafter joined the multinational petroleum company which he served as both the Labour Relations officer and HR Manager respectively.

Lesetja joined the mining sector in 2017 as Head of Employee Relations. Amongst his qualifications are Bachelor of Law, MSc in Human Resources, and MDP in BBBEE. He recently completed a certificate in Philosophy from Northwest University. As a seasoned negotiator, he recently managed to relocate farm dwellers to a site of their choice.

### Lerato Pooe-HR Manager

She joined the company on 1 May 2020. She has a degree in Human Resources Management and has 21 year's overall working experience in which 15 years is from different Mining Sectors. She currently serves as a member of REMCO for Thasasa (Pty) Ltd. Amongst many accomplishments she prides herself in achieving a BBBEE status from level 4 to level 2 where she managed all through means of "Best HR Practices".

She is very passionate about bringing change in people's lives through means of empowerment, particularly women in Mining environment. Lerato is a self-starter, go-getter, has strong interpersonal skills which assist her at the workplace, believes in being humble, with high integrity and principles.

### Phinda Mamba - Plant Manager

He joined the company on 1 November 2018. He has a degree in Chemical Engineering, and 12 years' experience in the Coal Processing Sector. His achievement includes setting records for all time record sales and production for the mine. "NBC is unique in the sense that it has given me the opportunity to be involved in taking major decisions regarding the business as a whole. I have been exposed to a lot of stakeholders and platforms that the average Plant Manager doesn't get a chance to be exposed to. This has broadened my understanding and increased my knowledge when it comes to the entire business value chain"

### Lydia Motedi - Head of Geology

She was appointed on 1 February 2019. She obtained her BSc (Hons) in Geology from the University of Pretoria and has been in the mining industry for 13 years. She is registered with the South African Council of Natural Scientific Professions (SACNASP) and is also a member of the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA). Lydia is currently the chairperson of the Women in Mining committee at North Block Complex and strives to ensure that women are equally recognised in this male populated industry.

Part of her responsibility involves interacting with different employees in the plant environment as well as mining. She makes decisions that influence the mines productivity and ability to be profitable. Lydia is a mother of three and enjoys spending time with her family.

### Nokuthula Cebekhulu - Environmental Manager

She joined the company on 1 May 2019. She holds a BSc Microbiology degree from UKZN. She is also a registered Scientist with the South African Council for Natural Scientific Professions, has 17 year's overall working experience of which 7 years is from the regulatory sector.

Her experience with regulatory sectors has positioned her to maintain all the necessary authorisations required for a mining operation. She thrives on being the conscience of the organisation in as far as resource protection is concerned.



### Thato Thobedi - Engineering Manager

With 18 years' experience in the Mining industry and has been with NBC since March 2019. Thato holds a qualification in Electrical Engineering, Project Management and currently in pursuit of his MBA. He is registered as a Professional Certified Engineer with Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) and also serves on the South Africa Colliery Engineers Association (SACEA) council. His hobbies include Golf and a keen interest in business and is a well-rounded family-oriented man.

### Gideon Joubert – Mine Manager

Has more than 30 years of mining experience. He is currently a Mine Manager at NBC Colliery and was appointed from 2019. Gideon Is passionate about planning the mining activities and socially enjoys fishing.

### Kenneth Thabo Mahlangu – Health & Safety Manager

Born in 1978 and started working in the mining industry from 1996 (26 years of experience) which gave him an experience in electrical, mining and safety. He joined North Block Complex in 2019 and since then has grown in management skills through working with authorities from the Department of Mineral Resources & Energy. He was also exposed to different cultures from his daily responsibilities and working with employees as well as contractors. "Being given the opportunity to work with people, ensure that they return home safe through managing risk dynamics and implementing safety protocols is a challenge and my contribution at NBC Colliery".

### Allan Bates - Finance Manager

He has been with the company since its inception in November 2018. He has a BCOM with specialisation in Financial Management Sciences, MDP from the University of Pretoria and Financial Modelling certification. He has over 12 years' experience in the mining sector with a background in Internal Auditing and Banking sectors.



fter two years of intensive negotiations since 2019, North Block Complex (NBC Colliery) had the pleasure of handing over eight houses to the Paardeplaats community farm dwellers on the 11 th of February 2022, through a glamorous event which was attended by the Executive Mayor of eMakhazeni, Councillor Thomas Ngwenya and his three MMCs, Officials from DMRE and DARRLD respectively were among the guests as well as the ecstatic Homeowners.

The General Manager of NBC Colliery, Mr Maleho Musi was thrilled for the occasion, having been involved throughout the rigorous process. It was indeed a huge and memorable day for the beneficiaries, where one said, "It was like a dream come true". Since then, an additional 10 more houses have been completed with 10 remaining, totalling 28 houses to be completed by mid-July 2022.

NBC Colliery prides itself to have built the beneficiaries four-bedroom houses which also offers ensuite bathroom, open-plan kitchen, and lounge, a separate bathroom, and built-in cupboards throughout. NBC Colliery is grateful that 75% of the people involved in

the construction of the homes are from the Paardeplaats communities surrounding the Mine, which will always remain a pride to see local SMME's growing and thriving in the current market.

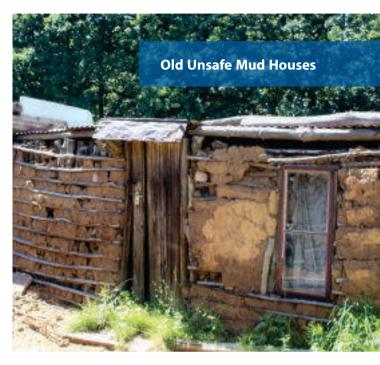
The construction project brought about hope to the local community and the local SMMEs respectively. The mine purchased the fertile land where the Paardeplaats residents currently reside, and subsequently commenced with consultations, of which today resulted in the total expenditure of about R36 million for the Housing Project of the 28 houses, which includes but not limited to the construction, sewer, roads, and the listed items that come with the houses.

The Housing Project is a flagship project as both NBC Management and the Authorities agree that the mine has given effect to the provisions of section 25 (6) of the Constitution of South Africa, Act No. 108 of 1996 and the provision of the Extension of Security of Tenure Act, No. 62 of 1997 ("ESTA"). During the ceremony, Mr Maleho Musi highlighted the various projects the Mine was involved in during the previous

financial year, where NBC Colliery spent a total of R12 million on Enterprise and Supplier Development projects, of which some of the initiatives included the purchasing of LDV bakkies for local entrepreneurs and various donations. A community development initiative, a project very close to the GM's' heart, the 'Saturday School Programme' where he believes that education is the only 'key' for the South African youth, a contribution of about R2 million is made to improve the matriculants livelihood by increasing the matriculant pass rate and decreasing the dropout rate for the Belfast Circuit.

Furthermore, the Mine has arranged 25 hectares of land for the farm dwellers for the upkeep of their livestock, in which the families will establish the 'Communal Property Association. The Executive Mayor Ngwenya highlighted the historic hardships the farm dwellers had encountered and congratulated NBC Colliery Management accordingly for having taken the challenge of poverty head-on. He further urged the new homeowners to maintain and take adequate care of their newly built homes, as this, is a gift of a lifetime. •



















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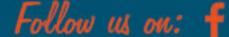
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### **BACKGROUND**

M4Foundation (NPO: 253-573) was registered in January 2021, not for profit organisation as an effort to address the trust deficit that exist between mining communities, local municipalities and mining companies. The founding members have a combined 20 years' experience within the mining sector, local municipality area and community engagement.

### **MANAGEMENT EXPERTIES**

The management and expert partners have done comprehensive research study in community engagements and development between different stakeholders.

The Foundation succeeded in collating data working with over 40 different mines in South Africa regarding Social & Labour Plans (SLP's) and Corporate Social Investment (CSI).

### **CASE STUDY**

In one local municipality the combination of twenty-three mines in the last five years budgeted and spent in access of R1,09 billion for their SLP expenditures while five mines spent a combined

R22,5 billion on procurement to service providers, but community unrests and mine disruptions continues unabated. M4 Foundation – For Mining Communities was founded to prevent these unrests and provide simple practical solutions that bring peace, social cohesion and economic development within mining areas.

#### **COMPETENT SERVICE AREAS:**

- Prevent community disruptions of mine operations by offering alternative value for communities
- Help mines and communities engage and understand each other (Conflict Resolutions)
- Bring business incubation expertise to establish and train local companies.
- Fund SMME's that are ready to provide services to mines and other businesses
- Coordinate community organization, traditional leaders and municipal officials
- Present community challenges to mines and mine challenges to communities
- Represents mines as collective entity for Public Relation purposes
- Handle responsibilities from mines to work with community •



# Remarks by The Honourable Minister Of Mineral Resources And Energy Mr. Gwede Mantashe On The Occasion Of The Platinum Group Metals Industry Day Johannesburg, 6 April 2022

adies and Gentlemen, The platinum industry, like other mineral sectors, was not immune to the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic. It fell by 18% in 2020 following the hard lockdown measures and recovered in 2021 when the restrictions were eased. In April 2021, the sector saw a 276% increase in production and 476% in year-on-year sales compared to April 2019.

This resulted from restored demand in the automotive, industrial, and jewellery sectors, increased commodity prices that performed above pre-covid-19 levels, coupled with stimulus packages implemented by developed economies. South Africa, as the world's largest producer, is the key contributor towards growth in world supply, with an increase in output of 26% in 2021. Given the economic sanctions by Russia, close attention needs to be paid to the global palladium supply. Norilsk-Talnakh contains 46% of palladium containing deposits, whereas Bushveld Igneous Complex contains 39% and the remainder is balanced by Great Dyke Zimbabwe

deposits, among others. Therefore, supply disruption in these regions affects the price of the metal. The PGMs sector continues to play a significant role in the country's economic, financial, and social needs by contributing on average 41% and 37% to total mineral revenue and employment. The new global dispensation of green energy offers South Africa a rare and tremendous opportunity to become a global leader in the production of hydrogen, as well as fuel cells. This is primarily because South Africa holds nearly 80% of the world's platinum reserves. It is the leading global supplier of primary mined PGMs, accounting for approximately 80% and 40% of the world's platinum and palladium supplies, respectively.

About 80% of global demand for PGMs comes from the automotive industry, as components for emissions control from internal combustion engines, with other uses emanating from the jewellery (2%), investment (11%) and general industrial (7%) demand. Implementation of tighter BS6 Emission norms, which

# 6 APRIL 2022

www.pgmsindaba.com

ND USERS OF PLATINUM GROUP METALS



came into effect on 01 April 2021, are expected to drive up usage and consequent prices of these rare metals.

Undoubtedly, the future PGMs demand will largely be driven more by the implementation of tighter emissions legislations which will boost platinum use in autocatalytic converters in the short to medium term. In this context, the Platinum Group Metals (PGMs) commodities are poised to make a significant contribution to domestic and global economies. They provide our country with a comparative advantage, thereby enabling South Africa to benefit in the trade of these commodities. The commissioning of the Hydrogen Valley Feasibility Study Report saw a successful Public-Private Partnership across national departments, the economic development departments of Limpopo, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, Anglo Platinum, Bambili and ENGIE towards the establishment of the Hydrogen Valley South Africa (HySA).

According to global trends, the demand for platinum in hydrogen-fuelled cell powered vehicles is expected to increase. Government has announced plans to establish a Platinum Valley project that will be built as a new industrial cluster for South Africa. We must support the conversion of truck diesel engines into hydrogen powered vehicles, which was initiated by Anglo American Platinum. This will enhance demand not only for PGMs but also the technologies to be championed.

South Africa's hydrogen valley will identify stable and established project opportunities for kick-starting hydrogen initiatives in promising hubs, with the aim of boosting economic growth and job creation. This in

turn is set to spur the development of circular industries, increasing local platinum demand, and reducing its carbon footprint.

The industrial corridor project is planned to start in a PGMs mining area in Limpopo, including the Limpopo Province Science and Technology Park, and continue through the Johannesburg-to-Durban corridor (OR Tambo International Airport to King Shaka International Airport). These initiatives are poised to be trend setters in the application of PGMs as green source of energy.

This requires bold leadership on our part as government and as the private sector. For mineral beneficiation to thrive in our country, the PGM industry must champion the implementation of our Beneficiation Strategy. Although the PGM business has been doing well before and during commodity boom, scrap/recycled metals has been a growing business for years. This has affected how primary producers of PGMs plan for their production.

Accordingly, scrap being one of the demand drivers in the PGM business. As the industry, you should unpack the potentials of the PGM industry and share insights on how we can collaboratively resolve challenges encountered. Bottlenecks existing in the legislative environment, trade policies and the various support required to kickstart the hydrogen production and fuel cell industries must be resolved. The Department is ready to support measures that will boost international investment and ultimately our economic reconstruction and recovery programme.

Ithank you.



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# Tronox handover of LED Projects

# TRONOX 💥

ronox, a global leader in the mining, production and marketing of inorganic minerals and chemicals has on Friday, 11 March 2022 handed over different Local Economic Development (LED) Projects to different community beneficiaries around their Fairbreeze mine in KwaZulu Natal.

The company initiated the 14 projects between 2020 and 2021 but could not hand them over due to the Covid-19 pandemic which also caused delays is some on the project timelines. The handover event was attended by Tronox South African Managing Director - Mpho Mothoa, Senior Mineral Economist at Department of Mineral Resources - Ncedisa Mahala, leaders from the different traditional authorities, principals of different schools and members of the communities.

The delegates attended only four flagship projects on the day and were impressed with the 20 million in total investment done by Tronox and its partners. Mr Mpho Mothoa shared with all representatives that the intention was to handover these projects for some time, but they had to comply with government different lockdown regulation and could only host this event when it was safe to do so "the safety & health of our people and community members cannot be compromised" he said.

On the day, the four LED projects officially handed over were at Gubhethuka Primary School in the Dube community, Nsingweni Primary School in the Nzuza community, Thekelimfundo Primary School in the Macambini community and Mbuyiseni High School in the Mkhwanazi community.

The Gubhethuka Primary School project involved the building of a new administration block, which was handled by Alson Group and 33 employment opportunities were created in the local community. Other school-based LED projects included a new fence at Inkosi Zenzo Primary School in the Madlebe community, and a new administration block at the Qhamuka High School in the Somopho Community.

The company focuses on education and housing projects as there is a belief that everyone regardless of age, gender and race deserves to be educated and live in an environment that is conducive and doesn't bring harm to them. Tronox also invested in the local Port Dunford Bakery in the Mkhwanazi community by building stands and supply lines for water tanks and an on-site generator. The project was completed in November last year.

### ABOUT US A company founded in 2021 to provide independent and balanced advisory and consulting services to the mining industry including all stakeholders affected by mining operations to ensure inclusive growth in line with the objectives of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA). Our pursuit is driven by commitment to deliver our promises to our clients by operating responsibly, executing with excellence, well informed and fair advisory and consulting services. Providing solutions that are based on research and innovative ideas to take advantage of opportunities for sustainable growth within the mining industry. The founder and CEO Mr Sunday Mabaso draws experience from 20 years of service in the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy in which for seven years he served as a Regional Manager (3 years in Northern Cape and 4 years in Gauteng). As regional manager he monitored and enforced compliance with Social & Labour Plans in terms of the MPRDA and Mining Charter, and Environmental Management in terms of NEMA and the NEMA: Waste Act The founder has acquired various qualifications in mining and recently completed an MBA with Milpark Business School, and a Post Graduate Certificate: Climate Change and Energy Law, with the University of Witwatersrand and certificate in 'Energy Efficiency and Sustainability with University **DUR BUSINESS** MPRDA and NEMA **Mining Charter** Cleaner Energy Transition **Enviroment, Social** & Governance (ESG) Advisory on compliance Advisory and training on Advisory on ESG in line Advisory on cleaner energy with legal requirements Mining Charter transition and reduction of with best practices in terms of the MPRDA compliance including carbon footprint in mining and Corporate Social and NEMA and related employees and operations and improve Responsibilities. legislations in the mining community share reliability of energy supply. participation schemes. industry.











### **Applications**

Mineral rights **Environmental Authorizations** Waste licenses Water use licenses Mine closure

### **Annual reports**

Statutory reports (MPRDA and NEMA) Carbon Tax reporting

### **Mine Rehabilitation**

Rehabilitation and/or repurposing land for alternative economic end-use objectives

### Inspections

MPRDA & NEMA compliance inspections

### **Small Scale and Artisanal Mining**

Assistance for artisanal miners to become formal small-scale miners



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# Latest Corporate Social and Local Economic Development Project News From Pan African Resources Barberton Mines

### Nawane Primary School New Facelift

arberton Mines is pleased to inform all our stakeholders of the successful completion of Phases 1 and 2 of the Ngwane Primary School Upgrade project at Emjindini Township. These urgent and much-needed improvements were undertaken under the supervision and project management of Barberton Mines Community Engagement and Development team and funded by the mines SLP commitments. Services from local contractors and suppliers from Barberton were used exclusively for the project.

Phase 1 of the upgrade involved the re-fencing of the entire school property to improve security. The existing old 8 unsafe classrooms were also demolished as they were deemed unsafe for use by learners and school staff.

Phase 2 consisted of the re-construction of the 8 classrooms, and as well as upgrading the school's ablution facilities to ensure hygiene and sanitation for our community learners. These facilities comply with the approved norms & standards of the national Department of Education

Phase 3 is scheduled to commence in July 2022, and will include the renovation and refurbishment of 7 old classrooms, construction of a science laboratory and the nutrition centre for feeding of the learners. On Tuesday, 5 April 2022, Barberton Mines celebrated the handover of Phases 1 and 2 of the Ngwane Primary School at Emjindini Township in order that the learners and teachers could start using the newly constructed classrooms and ablution facilities.

Barberton Mines is committed to improving the infrastructure of local schools to create a better learning environment and discourage absenteeism. classrooms and ablution facilities. Barberton Mines is committed to improving the infrastructure of local schools to create a better learning environment and discourage absenteeism. We look forward to completing Phase 3 of the building during 2023 when full details will be available.

# Furniture Manufacturing Project

Barberton Mines Transformation Trust in partnership with the City of Mbombela Local Municipality are cosponsors of the Morentho Institute South Africa (MISA), a private institution that provides accredited technical qualifications in furniture making and design at no cost to the students. Barberton Mines sponsorship covers the training and materials costs, as well as the provision of equipment and machinery. MISA opened its doors in Barberton on the 1 st of July 2021 and enrolled 50 young qualifying candidates from the Barberton and Matsulu regions.

The duration of the programme is for a period of 12 months, which includes 6 months of theoretic learning and another 6 months practical learning. The theoretic learning includes health and safety practices, reading and interpreting engineering drawings and plans, handcrafted design, and Computer Aided Design, which is incorporated with the six months of practical training.



On completion of the programme, successful students will be awarded a Diploma in Furniture Making and Design - National Quality Framework - NQF level 2 with the South African Qualifications Authority-SAQA.

The students have thus far produced quality furniture, including headboards, beds, couches, coffee tables and other custom designed furniture. MISA will soon launch its showroom in the Barberton Shopping Complex at the corner of Froger and Hospital Street, Barberton, which is expected to create job opportunities for the unemployed youth of Barberton, producing quality furniture at an affordable price. This is another initiative from Barberton Mines to create skills, entrepreneurial and alternative employment opportunities in its host communities, as the mining industry is unable to absorb all those seeking employment from the area.



# Art Development Project

Barberton Mines, in collaboration and partnership with the Umjindi Art Development Forum, designed a programme to assist upcoming local artists in different genres in and around Barberton. The objective is to discover raw artistic talents in the youth and further develop their potential.

Artists are linked with established, talented artists related to their streams to nurture their talents, train and thereafter prepare artists for professional roles in the field of art while at the same time develop a range of other skilled workers that will be involved in the production (pre-post production) and presentation of artworks. The focal areas of this programme includes performing art and musicals, and has already launched a locally produced film and traditional music band, with the film trailer currently out in the local media to advertise this locally produced movie.

The management of Barberton Mines believes that the artistic programs provide significant positive impacts on academic and social development in the youth, while production teams require a large number of relevant support services, from transport and logistics to costumes and catering, amongst others, which has the potential to create a significant number of local jobs. •





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R1,2 Billion to 10 Community-Owned Trucking Companies Driving Anglo American Platinums Ambitious Community Procurement Agenda.

nglo American Platinum continues to grow its procurement from communities in 2022, following the award of a groundbreaking contract of R1.2 billion to 10 community-owned trucking companies to transport its concentrate from its mines to its processing plants in 2021.

The contract means that 100% of concentrate produced by Platinum's mines in Limpopo will be transported to its processing operations in Rustenburg, Polokwane and Northam by the community- owned companies. Previously, host community suppliers only transported about 17% of the concentrate volumes, and were largely sub-contracted to larger logistics companies.

Natascha Viljoen, CEO of Platinum, said that between 2016 and 2021, the miner had increased its procurement from host and doorstep communities around its operations by more than 500% to its current level of R5.3 billion.

"Our local procurement spend demonstrates our commitment to building sustainable and thriving communities. Anglo American has always seen mining as a catalyst for broad-based development, and community procurement goes far beyond philanthropy or corporate



social responsibility to ensure that our host communities become direct beneficiaries of the mining operations that take place in their back yards," said Viljoen.

The company's commitment to community upliftment includes the promotion of various empowerment initiatives, including an enhanced engagement of suppliers from previously disadvantaged sectors of the economy, with a specific focus on black-owned, women-owned and youth-owned businesses. Skills and enterprise development play a critical role in successful community procurement.

For the transport contract, while the local trucking companies are contracted directly to Platinum, their schedules, administration and technical support is being managed by JSE-listed Imperial Logistics, ensuring that those skills are transferred to these businesses for them to be able to do it on their own in future.

The five-year contracts will allow the transporters to obtain financing to purchase their own vehicles, and ultimately provide services to a wider range of customers by learning from Imperial's world-class logistics practices. "As part of our inclusive procurement programme, our supply chain teams worked closely with Anglo American's enterprise development arm, Zimele, social performance and site production teams to ensure host community suppliers can benefit from concentrate transport tenders.

This agreement demonstrates Platinum's commitment to building thriving communities where we operate and to support the creation of off-mine jobs through inclusive procurement," said Viljoen. Concentrate is produced at Platinum's mines by removing some of the waste material from the rock. This concentrate is then transported to the smelters, where more waste material is to produce furnace matte. Matte, which contains a higher proportion of platinum group metals (PGMs), is ultimately moved to the Company's refineries, where final products, such as platinum bars, are produced.



rogramme Director, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, Welcome to the 4th South Africa Investment Conference. We meet at a moment when our country, like many others, is facing huge challenges as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet it is also a moment of great opportunity and promise. For two years, our world has been battered by a pandemic far worse than any experienced in more than a century. Our economy, like so many around the world, has been severely damaged. Unemployment has deepened, resulting in the loss of almost 2 million jobs, businesses have closed and families across our nation have suffered great hardship.

But it could have been far worse, had we not acted swiftly to contain transmission and strengthen our health facilities, many more people would have gotten ill and many more lives would have been lost. Had we not introduced an unprecedented social and economic relief package, many more businesses would have closed, many more jobs would have been lost and many more people would have gone hungry. Not only did these measures provide vital support to those most affected by the pandemic; they also established a foundation for the recovery of our economy. This 4th South Africa Investment Conference could not be taking place at a better time, just as the country is casting off the long shadow of the pandemic and embarking on a concerted and determined recovery.

In December last year Eskom met its deadline of establishing a separate transmission entity, and is set to complete the process of unbundling into separate entities for generation, transmission and distribution by the end of this year. We have a deficit of some 4,000 MW of energy supply. We are working with the private sector to fast-track investment to unlock a potential 4,000 MW of embedded generation. We have increased the licensing threshold for embedded generation projects from 1 MW to 100 MW. For South Africa's economy to realise its potential as a supplier of products to markets across the world, it needs roads, railways and ports that work. While we undertake a range of measures to improve operational performance, we are also implementing structural reforms to increase investment, introduce new technologies and skills, and improve efficiency in our rail and port infrastructure. We have revised our Critical Skills List, which will enable us to attract skilled professionals to work and do business in South Africa.

We are establishing a special unit in the Presidency to deal with bureaucratic red tape and to improve the operating environment for businesses and to reduce the cost of doing business. These reforms are contributing to an economy that, despite the setbacks of the last two years, developing and transforming. We see signs of this everywhere. We see this in Postmasburg, a small town in the Northern Cape, where the country's largest concentrated solar powered plant is being built as part of our Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer's Programme. We see it in the upgrades to the passenger terminal at Durban harbour, as part of a public private partnership with Transnet. It can be seen at the Toyota plant in KwaZulu-Natal where the first hybrid vehicle produced in South Africa is being manufactured. It can be seen in Cape Town where the Nant SA vaccine manufacturing campus is being built. It can be seen in Ggeberha in the

Eastern Cape where the largest pharmaceutical manufacturing site in Africa, owned by Aspen Pharmacare, is producing products for domestic consumption and export. These are all places where investment commitments are being realised, where plants are being built, where jobs are being created, and where production is underway.

We are supporting these investments with a renewed focus on expanding the country's economic and social infrastructure. We have established the Infrastructure Fund, with a R100 billion allocation from the fiscus over 10 years, to leverage blended financing from private investors and multilateral development banks for infrastructure. We have prepared a pipeline of projects in water, sanitation, energy, transport, digital infrastructure, agriculture, agro-processing and human settlements.

A Presidential Climate Finance Task Team has been established to lead the mobilisation of funds for our just transition to a low-carbon economy. Headed by former Reserve Bank Deputy Governor Daniel Mminele, this task team will lead engagements on the R131 billion just transition partnership with the European Union, France, Germany, United Kingdom and the United States. This partnership will involve repurposing and repowering some of the coal plants that are reaching the end of their lives, and creating new livelihoods for workers and communities most impacted by this change.

All this work is part of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan that we put in place in October 2020 to drive growth and job creation in the aftermath of the pandemic. The measures that form part of the plan underpin the social compact that we are building among social partners, and specifically between government, labour, business and the community constituency. We seek a new consensus that draws together the resources, capabilities and efforts of all sections of society to achieve our common goal of a rapid and sustained recovery. We see this social compact in action through initiatives like the Youth Employment Service, which is a collaboration between government and business to provide work experience opportunities to unemployed youth. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, It is nearly four years since we embarked on the ambitious drive to raise



### THE PRESIDENCY REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

R1.2 trillion in new investment over five years. Despite the impact of the pandemic, by the time of the 3rd South Africa Investment Conference in 2020, we had raised a total of R774 billion in investment commitments. We are two-thirds of the way to reaching our target. Of the R774 billion committed, around R316 billion has so far been invested. Of the 152 investment pledges, 45 projects have been completed. A further 57 are under construction. Fifteen have been put on hold, in several cases due to the impact of the pandemic.

Whether it is a young person employed in a data centre, a worker at an auto plant, or a small business supplier to a renewable energy plant, these investments are changing people's lives. Today, at this 4th South Africa Investment Conference, many companies will come forward to make new investment commitments. They will do so because they see opportunity in this country. They see beyond the difficulties and challenges. They see reform and progress. They see an open society that has enabled us to weather many storms. They see a strong and vibrant democracy, a diverse media and an active civil society. They see durable institutions, an independent judiciary and the rule of law. After a decade of state capture, they see a country that is confronting corruption and criminality, and that is rebuilding its law enforcement agencies and strengthening the capacity of the state.

We therefore invite you to be part of South Africa's growth story. We invite you to be part of a young, dynamic, resilient nation positioning itself at the forefront of progress and change. We are forging ahead to transform our economy, to unlock our country's potential and to create meaningful livelihoods for all our people. And we are determined to leave no one behind.

Ithank you.



# Glencore Coal Hands Over a Municipal Service Centre to Local Community

n the 30 th of March 2022, Glencore Coal handed over a revamped service centre office to the community of Klarinet situated in eMalahleni, Mpumalanga.

The Klarinet Municipal Pay Point Centre will be used as a functional rates and taxes municipal service facility for community members who were unable to access the only other available service centre in eMalahleni due to distance. The project was undertaken as part of Glencore's social and labour plan commitments as stipulated in the Tweefontein Social Labour Plan. Glencore consulted with eMalahleni Local Municipality (ELM) to identify projects that they could assist with according to the socioeconomic needs in the municipal area.

This led to a service centre being identified as a crucial need in ensuring adequate service delivery and ease of access to municipal services for the community of Klarinet. Klarinet community members came out in their numbers to receive the revamped centre. The handover event was also attended by Glencore representatives and the newly elected Executive Mayor of eMalahleni, Cllr. Conny Nkalitshana, who was accompanied by ward councillors from various wards.

General Manager for Community and Regulatory Affairs at Glencore Coal, Mr Noel Pillay addressed community members on the day and expressed what an important day this was for the community.

"Today is really about demonstrating our commitment to delivering on our Social and Labour Plan obligations but more importantly, it's about our commitment to progressing together with our stakeholders. The Klarinet Service Centre was identified as a priority need to the Municipality's IDP after several engagements with the



municipality so it is such a momentous occasion to finally see it come to fruition. I am especially pleased to announce that a local service provider was awarded the business opportunity, thereby ensuring that local employment was created for the duration of the project.

As Glencore, we are committed to bettering our communities And we will continue to contribute to activities and programmes designed to improve the quality of life of the people," he said.

In addition, Glencore is proud to be a supporter of the Executive Mayor's 90 days in office cleaning campaign called 'Hlanzeka' by donating various cleaning equipment towards the drive.



# **GLENCORE**

Executive Mayor of eMalahleni Cllr. Conny Nkalitshana gave her words of appreciation to Glencore. "We are so grateful to Glencore for the service centre that they have handed over today. This centre will assist in bringing the necessary local government services closer to the community but what I am most pleased about is that it will also create job opportunities within this area.

I am all about service delivery, employment and creating a better city, this centre will help us to achieve all those things and it is thanks to Glencore. I hope that all our officials and community members will embrace this opportunity because it will benefit the community in so many ways," she concluded.



The Klarinet Municipal Service Centre speaks to Glencore's commitment of progressing together through developing and growing its communities by rolling out initiatives that respond to their direct needs. The centre will also contribute to the local economy through additional job opportunities that will be available to ensure that it runs effectively.



# SA Miners Foot The Bill as Municipalities Edge Country Towards "Failed State" Status

outh Africa's mining sector runs the risk of further community disruption owing to a deterioration in the performance of local government, said Neal Froneman, CEO of Sibanye-Stillwater. "The state of the nation verges on a failed state," Froneman said in an interview on March 3 following the group's year-end results presentation.

"Unemployment, inequality and poverty are the basic drivers of unhappiness." The company said it had experienced a lack of service delivery by municipalities at all of its mines in Gauteng, Free State and North West provinces where it operates gold and platinum group metal (PGM) mines. "It's real, it's happening and it's going to get worse," Froneman said.

His comments back up a statement by Impala Platinum (Implats) CEO, Nico Muller in February who said on March 1 that activism in communities had increased both legitimately, from people wanting to create viable businesses, and illegitimately in the form of increased theft of copper cable from operating shallow shafts at Impala Rustenburg as well as illegal mining activities.

Muller added that the Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the failures of local government. It "... continues to be felt in constrained labour and skills availability" as well as "elevated absenteeism and

heightened community dissatisfaction and lawlessness". Sibanye-Stillwater announced last week that it would pay a new stakeholder dividend equal in size to 1.5% of annual dividends to shareholders. This was in addition to committed social and labour plans. "If we have to contribute to services to ensure we have smooth operating environment [then] we've made that decision," Froneman said. "We have to take over what municipalities do because it is just not sustainable. I can second what Implats says," he added.

Errol Smart, CEO of Orion Minerals last year shone the light on the extent to which elements in society would go to extract economic benefits from mining companies, many of which operate in relativley undeveloped regions of the country. Smart described protests by local community members near the firm's Prieska Copper-Zinc Project in the Northern Cape province as "mafia-type behaviour" as they were seeking to pressure the company into awarding them contracts.

"The danger is that this kind of behaviour has become normal in South Africa," Smart told BusinessLive. "What is scary for me is that when something like this happens CEOs phone each other for consolation and to share their experiences. This is how commonplace it has become," he said.

# Tshiamiso Trust Surpasses 320 Million in Mineworker Compensation Payments

shiamiso Trust announced on the 7th April 2022 that it has successfully paid out over R320 million to 3598 eligible claimants and their families. This milestone has been achieved in just over a year since the launch of the Trust's claims management system.

Daniel Kotton CEO of Tshiamiso Trust says: "It has been a monumental undertaking to get to this point, but the traction that we've gained is proof that the system, partnerships and processes that we put in place are working. That said, we are continually upgrading our systems, increasing efficiencies, and expanding our operational capabilities to build on this momentum and speed up the claims process further.

This includes furthering our system automation and working with the mines to digitise service records dating as far back as 1965". Over 81766 mineworkers or families of mineworkers have lodged a claim with the Trust to date. Currently, 30 - 40 claims are being paid per day, to a value of between R3 and R4 million.

Unfortunately, for every claim paid, many more are rejected due to various provisions stipulated in the Trust Deed. Reasons why a claim may be found to be ineliaible include:

- The mineworker did not carry out risk work at one of the 82 qualifying gold mines during the time periods stipulated in the Trust Deed (12 March 1965 and 10 December 2019).
- The medical records do not show evidence of

- either of the two compensable diseases TB or silicosis.
- A Lung Function Test could not be performed by the claimant.
- The claimant was part of a previous settlement agreement, and therefore cannot also claim  $through \, the \, Th siam is o \, Trust.$

In the nature of the long and complex court-approved Trust Deed to which Tshiamiso must adhere, the requirements and the process through which each claim must be assessed are equally complex. As the Trust matures its systems, increasing focus is being given to speeding up the settlement of claims, as well the improving on communication with existing and potential claimants.

### About the Tshiamiso Trust

The Tshiamiso Trust was established to give effect to the settlement agreement reached between six mining companies and claimant attorneys in the historic silicosis and TB class action. The companies are African Rainbow Minerals, Anglo American South Africa, AngloGold Ashanti, Harmony Gold, Sibanye Stillwater and Gold Fields.

The Trust is responsible for compensating all eligible current and former mineworkers across southern Africa with permanent impairment due to silicosis or work-related TB, or their dependants where the mineworker has passed away.

### **USEFUL LINKS:**

To check eligibility for a claim: www.tshiamisotrust.com/status-check

To view the claims process:

www.tshiamisotrust.com/information/how-to-claim

To view daily progress of claims and payments: www.tshiamisotrust.com/information/progress-report







# In Conversation with The Premier of Northern Cape, Dr Zamani Saul

ining CSI Managing Editor, Mr Moses Sibiya was privileged to spend some time with Northern Cape's first citizen, Dr Zamani Saul. A man who shook the South African politics in 2019 when he cancelled the purchase of cars for MEC's and used the money to purchase more than 60 ambulances that would be used to service the community of Northern Cape.

The discussion begins with him explaining the importance of service delivery and using government influence to attract investment opportunities to the province and in turn improve the economy and see that the community benefits from different industries, mining, manufacturing, textile etc. "When the new administration was elected and appointed in 2019, we articulated a clear vision that we need to modernise the Northern Cape, grow our economy and make the province successful."

He explained that when this decision was taken, more than half the population of the province did not have access to seamless internet connection, and this was key in ensuring that the public is not left behind and the 4 th industrial revolution was not something they hear but something they see so that can align with other provinces. A process was initiated in partnership with MTN and Vodacom, more than five hundred million (R500 000 000.00) was invested in broadband infrastructure and today connectivity is being enjoyed even at the remote areas of the province.

He further elaborated that even though technology is important, the mining sector contributes 23% of the GDP in the province which is the second highest after government services and hence this industry plays a very critical role in the overall strategy of government, "there has been mining beneficiation investment discussions taking place for more than two decades, which is proving very difficult to implement, however this is not something that will be left unattended anymore. The premier believes that mining houses should be incubators for skills development and creating opportunities for youth in the host communities. As much as it is understood that the mines cannot absorb all the unemployed, but through deliberate initiatives they can assist the community in education, ESD support and other methods that can be identified. The Northern Cape is not different from other provinces; they also encounter hostilities from communities to mines which from time to time require government intervention.

There is a great deal of disruption where people come to stop the mines for days and they cannot produce which leads to loss of millions. Through stakeholder engagements, a lot can been done to bridge this misunderstandings from all parties. The province hosted Mining & Investment Conference on 10-11 March 2022 also attended by DMRE Deputy Minister, Nobuhle Nkabane. The event was hosted for the sole purpose of increasing investment relations and creating a dialogue from identified stakeholders on how the mining industry and government can contribute to make the province a success. "We need mining companies to work with our government and communities to develop the province. There is still more that we can do and hoping we can achieve more so we create a better life for our communities" he concluded.



iyabangena Women in Mining and Projects (SWIMP) is a company founded by Pauline Pitso. The company has the capability to render services such as mining, construction, engineering services and other mining related services.

Siyabangena Women in Mining and Projects has added to their offering a drilling solution in joint partnership with Miro Engineering.

Using technology, they manufacture drill rigs one of them being the Tlou Electro-Hydraulic drill rig which will change the way people look at drilling forever. This locally manufactured product is safe to use, efficient in production, remote controlled and produces zero emissions. It is currently able to assist with safe mining methods.

### SOME OF THE MINING SERVICES THEY RENDER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Haulage Rehabilitation Tip Excavation
- Drilling & Blasting Refuge & Battery Bay
- Winch Erecting Cover Drilling
- Underground Construction Secondary Support
- Supply of Mining Consumables Ventilation Construction & fire door installation
- Sweeping & Vamping



#### **ENGINEERING SERVICES:**

## TLOU DRILL RIG/BOLTER APPLICATION & DESIGN FEATURES:

- Horizontal & Vertical Drilling
- Remote Control Operation (Work from a Safe & Supported Area)
- Stabilizers lower automatically when not tramming
- Carbon Neutral zero Emissions
- Electro Hydraulic Powered
- LED Lighting
- Energy Stop Button

### **ADVANTAGES:**

- Locally Manufactured
- Simple Design, Easy to Operate and Maintain
- Trackless and Conventional Mines
- Safe Mining Method
- 24 Hour After sales Support

### **OTHER ENGINEERING SERVICES INCLUDE:**

- Conveyer belt manufacturing and operations
- Cleaning & Maintenance Head Transfers
- Bulkhead Chutes-Supply & Installation of HDPE piling, bends and fusing. ◆



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# Minerals Council SA Optimism on Return of Mining Indaba 2022

or the first time since early 2020, the African and international mining industry can meet in person again in Cape Town to share, learn, and engage around critical themes to make mining an environmentally and socially sustainable source of minerals. With the Investing in African Mining Indaba 2022 in full swing again after the disruptions of the Covid-19 pandemic on international and domestic travel, it is with a great sense of anticipation the Minerals Council South Africa is sending a powerful delegation to the event to meet and interact with colleagues, governments, financiers, investors, and other stakeholders from Africa and further afield.

This year's theme is "Evolution of African Mining: Investing in the Energy Transition, ESG and the Economies." These are topics that cover the pressing issues of the day in a rapidly evolving and changeable world that needs the minerals we mine more than ever. The opportunity to meet our peers and discuss our shared yet unique challenges in these topics is invaluable. There is no single solution or blueprint for a successful and just energy transition as the mining industry moves to net zero carbon emissions by 2050, making sure our employees, communities and host economies are not worse off as we migrate to renewable sources of energy.

The Minerals Council South Africa is justifiably proud of its role in securing the lives and livelihoods of more than 450,000 mining employees when the country entered lockdown in March 2020 at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. On behalf of our 78 member companies and associations, we worked in close cooperation and



collaboration with the government and organised labour to ensure an early phased and safe return of employees to their jobs. During 2021, again, working as partners with the government and labour, the mining industry vaccinated more than three quarters of the workforce, a leading performance of a major economic sector in South Africa. Vaccinations were extended to employees' relatives and to communities neighbouring mines.

Minimising disruptions due to employees and their families contracting Covid and falling seriously ill is a critical step to ensure safe and sustainable mining operations. These experiences of working in partnership with the government, organised labour and civil society that has shown mining is a force for good and the positive outcomes that can be achieved if we work together towards the same goal.

The benefits have extended to the country as a whole, with the mining industry able to benefit from higher commodity prices in the past two years. Mining supported the national fiscus with sector-leading contributions in taxes and royalties, allowing the government to extend its social grants programme at a time of economic weakness because of the two-year disruption from Covid. For South Africa, the mining has proved itself invaluable industry andpartner. The Minerals Council looks forward to the engagements at the Mining Indaba, to share its experiences and lessons while learning from others as we navigate our way into a new dawn. lack



ay Day 1! An internationally recognised call for help in a time of disaster signalling the urgent need for a rescue action or else the callers perish! May Day on the first day of May is also the international day for the recognition of Workers' Rights (Workers' Day). This day serves as a platform to call for, inter alia, employers and government to improve the working conditions and benefits for workers.

South Africa has a group of potential workers that grows by the day with no solution in sight as to how they can be absorbed into the workforce and start to enjoy the benefits that come with being gainfully employed. The most recent statistics show an unemployment rate of 32.5%. The youth unemployment rate stands at 63.2% ii. The Global Risk report of 2020 cites unemployment as one of the causes of Youth disillusionment together with mental health among other factors. An unemployed person, whether educated or not, whether youth or older who has no prospects of getting employed is in a vulnerable position.

This vulnerability leads to frustration and a frustrated young person whose "gap in life" becomes a "gap of life" becomes a desperate and often reckless one. This desperation is seen in the numbers of young women who are being preyed on by much older men and thus the vicious cycle of age-disparate relationships and girls and young women in South Africa being among the most vulnerable to new HIV/AIDS infections in the world iii . The recklessness is seen in the numbers of young people, who during a global pandemic thatrequired

stringent measures to be introduced, are frequenting clubs and trending on social media without masks. To them, there is no future and so they would rather engage in unsafe behaviours in the name of having fun because they have nothing to lose. Having fun also translates to having unprotected sex as there is no school, training or job that would keep them gainfully occupied. We have a youth unemployment crisis and need to be rescued. May Day!

In recent years, government has called on the private sector to be part of the solution (as indeed it should be), to addressing youth employment. Initiatives such as the Presidential Stimulus Package, the Presidential Youth Employment Services and the SARS Employment Tax Incentive scheme have had the private sector put up their hands for participation but the impact on the numbers of unemployed youth has not been significant. We need to do more and we need to do it urgently. We need to get young people involved in the industries that will drive the growth of economy such as agriculture, the green economy and Information Communications and Technology.

These "sunrise" industries have growth and employment industries and we need to capacitate young people to be involved in them. We need to be part of strengthening institutions of training so that they can produce youth entrepreneurs and potential employees that can drive growth in these industries. It is no secret that government has no money neither is it a secret that the private sector does and its contribution to the current crisis of youth not in employment, training or education has to be in creating sustainable economic participation for young people.

There is a tension in the air. It is the frustration of a hopeless youth who are neither in employment nor in training or education and who cannot see a way past the structural barriers that preclude them from meaningful activities that can make them economically active. We ignore this tension at our own peril. May Day! We need to rescue this situation and we need to do it fast. This article first appeared in Leadership Magazine in May 2021. ◆

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With improvements that have been thrown at it, the next-gen Ranger Raptor makes the outgoing model look like a caricature of what the Raptor nameplate

he outgoing Ranger Raptor was well-received due to its hard-core off-roading DNA, which enthusiasts were looking for. However, it did not feel unique enough. It shared some components with special edition models such as the Thunder, with the engine being a significant highlight of this socialism. However, Ford went back to the drawing board for the Next-Gen Ranger Raptor, and the results are what we needed the outgoing model to be. We are convinced that the new Ranger Raptor is the ultimate bakkie your money can buy, featuring a new engine and extensive mechanical improvements to the transmission and chassis.

### It was visually arresting looks that mean business.

When the new Ranger launched, I waxed lyrical about how purposeful the new design looked. The Raptor only goes on to add more to this stunning template. The front end is as bold as ever with the new C-clamp Matrix LED headlights that feature dynamic bending lights, glarefree high beam, and auto dynamic levelling to deliver safer lighting for Ranger Raptor drivers and oncoming traffic. These lights flank a mean grille proudly bearing bold FORD lettering.

The side profile features flared wheel arches which house a choice of two chunky 17-inch wheel designs wrapped in all-terrain KO2 tyres. You will also find functional aero features and vents and new cast iron aluminium side steps that add to the vehicle's theatre. The rear end completes the car with LED lights featuring the same lighting signature as the front and a rear bumper with an integrated step pad for easy access to the load bay. Ford says they communicate what the Raptor can do just by how it looks, and we strongly agree with that sentiment.

### **Cabin impressions**

The purposeful theme carries into the cabin. You will spot the highly supportive and more comfortable jetinspired seats, a leather-wrapped sports steering wheel with a centre marker, and cast magnesium paddle shifters. The cabin is livened up by Code Orange accents on the instrument panel, trim, and seats that work with the cabin's ambient lighting to bathe the cabin in a beautiful amber glow.

Although the car is focused on performance offroading, it features commendable comfort features. The dash houses a portrait-oriented 12-inch touchscreen with Ford's new-generation SYNC 4 system, complete with Apple and Android wireless connectivity. There is even a premium Bang Olufsen sound system to belt tunes in should the mood require. Meanwhile, the driver will be facing a configurable 12.4-inch digital instrument cluster which elevates the user experience into the future.

### Finally, an engine after my own heart.

While the outgoing Ranger Raptor had an arguably capable 2.0-litre diesel, fans will be pleased to know that beneath the Next-Gen Raptor's giant bonnet lurks a new Ford Performance tuned twin-turbo 3.0-litre Ecoboost V6 monster that churns out 292kW and 583Nm. The unit boasts a compacted graphite iron cylinder block which is reportedly 75 per cent stronger and up to 75 per cent stiffer than the iron used in traditional castings. Ford claims the engine responds immediately to throttle inputs while utilising a racebred anti-lag system for rapid boost delivery on demand. This anti-lag system keeps the turbos spinning for three seconds after the driver lifts off the throttle, allowing for faster resumption of acceleration post corner.

The engine is mated to a 10-speed automatic transmission whose gears feature individual boost profiles to ensure the Raptor delivers effortless acceleration in any situation. The new Raptor also promises to be more emotive than the currently available model, thanks to an electronically controlled active exhaust system that amplifies the engine note in four selectable drive modes (Quiet, Normal, Sport and Baja). As Ford puts it, the vocal character ranges from mild to wild, with the Baja mode sounding like a straight-pipe system. Music to the ears.

### Serious chassis and suspension improvements

It is not just the powertrain that got some love. Work was put into the suspension and chassis (unique from the one on the Next-Gen Ranger). This comes in the form of a series of special mounts and reinforcements for elements including the C-pillar, load box and spare wheel, as well as individual frames for the jounce bumper, shock tower and rear shock bracket, which all combine to ensure Next-Gen Ranger Raptor can handle punishing off-road conditions. The suspension now features all-new aluminium upper and lower control arms, long-travel front and rear suspension and a refined Watt's link rear end, designed to deliver more

control across rough terrain at high speed. This serious off-roader also has new FOX 2.5-inch Live Valve Internal Bypass shock absorbers. These are filled with Telfon infused oil which reduces friction by about 50% compared to the outgoing model. The suspension adapts in real-time to enable exceptional on-road body control while soaking up bumps off-road to maximise power and performance. To ensure that the FOX hardware was well-calibrated for the vehicle, Ford Performance used a mixture of computer- aided engineering (CAE) and real-world testing to create the perfect balance between on-road and off-road driving.

With all that severe hardware thrown at the car, Ford gave the bakkie some serious underbody protection. The front bash plate doubles the standard Ranger's, coming in at 2.3mm of high strength steel. Add the engine under the shield, transfer case shield, and protection for critical components such as the radiator, steering system, engine sump and front differential. For the first time.

The Ranger Raptor has an advanced permanent fourwheel-drive system with an all-new electronically controlled on-demand two-speed transfer case, combined with front and rear locking differentials, a feature that hard-core off-roaders will appreciate. All this engineering has been offered in stock so that enthusiasts do not have to modify their bakkie. In tune with the multi-purpose nature of the vehicle, it comes with seven selectable drive modes, including the Baja mode, which configures your bakkie for some highspeed bundu bashing madness.

### **Final words**

The Next-Gen Ranger Raptor has excellent looks, an exciting new engine, and serious off-road hardware. Ford all but threw the kitchen sink at the Ranger Raptor, and the stew looks promising. I have recently spent some time driving the Ford Ranger Raptor SE, and as impressive as it has been, on paper, it pales in comparison to the new Ranger Raptor. Aside from heavily tuned bakkies, there is nothing of the Raptor's calibre out there, meaning proud owners will be in a league of their own.

### Com Consulting can assist

Com Consutting can assist with the development of Mega LED projects in the local municipal areas, funded by mining companies. The projects are in most instances incorporated in the existing project plans in the integrated Development Plans for the various municipalities, as well as plans from the DMRE. These areas are based on mining company Social & Labour Plans.

### **OUR AREAS OF EXPERTISE:**

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# Cakes By Mamsy, Baked With Love Since 2012

oung, beautiful and creative, Mamsy Mbelle is slowly becoming a force in the Soshanguve Community with her delicious treats being the talk of many households. Starting from humble beginnings, Mamsy has been able to turn a passion to a very lucrative business and will soon be creating employment opportunities for other sought after bakers.

"I have always loved baking and decorating from a very young age, when my daughter turned one and I was in a process of purchasing a cake for her, I wanted a cake that spoke to her personality. It was then when I realised no other cake will be good enough and I started with the business. My intention is to create custom cakes that touch their owner's hearts.

A cake is a representation of its owner and each person must leave my place happy" On inception, the business was supported by mostly family members and friends but with time, correct marketing and word of mouth, Cakes by Mamsy grew from one order a month to the current state. Her cakes have been noted as sweet, delicious and mouth-watering. A taste of muffins, cupcakes or sponge cakes is highly recommended. 🤚



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