

Boikarabelo News

Edition 2
February 2014



Welcome to Boikarabelo News, the regular newsletter which will keep you up-to-date with progress in and around the Boikarabelo Coal Mine – one of South Africa's largest coal deposits.

Development at Boikarabelo has been progressing well. In this newsletter, we highlight the hard work by members of our team both at the minesite and in the local communities.

A Bird's Eye View – flying over the minesite



On 17th January 2014 senior members of the Boikarabelo Coal Mine management team jumped into a helicopter in Lephalale. The reason for this flight was to have the opportunity to fly over the whole minesite and observe all the work that has been completed so far.

The area of land the Boikarabelo project encompasses is massive at 22,000ha and is equal to approximately 30,000 soccer pitches.

Andy McLeod, General Manager of the Boikarabelo Coal Mine, said: "With 10 main contractors and about 5 sub contractors, totaling over 120 people and work taking place at 4 major different locations across the project site, sometimes it is good to get up above the site so you can see how much work has been completed and how the whole site is coming together. The 90 minute flight over the project made us realise how far we have come already – in a very short space of time. It also brought into focus, however, how much work there is still to do before we can proudly claim Boikarabelo as South Africa's new operating coal mine."

So far over 300 hectares of bush have been cleared, 8 kilometres of temporary road and 11 kilometres of rail line cleared and compacted, the foundations of 2 bridges are being prepared, and 5 farm properties and 1 village hall have been built or refurbished.

"One of the most impressive sites," said Louise Nicolai, Senior Environmental Officer, "was flying over the rail loop. All around all you can see are trees and bush but then you notice the neat outline that has been cleared which the rail loop will take. It is an outstanding site which will be a key part of our mine."



Bush cleared for the rapid loading rail loop at the mine.



Borrow pits on Witkopje for the terrace construction material.



Community News:

Health campaign

World Aids Day on 2 December

The aim was to give Lesedi community an opportunity to participate in the World Aids Day event.



Wonderful local turnout for the first Boikarabelo World Aids Day event.

On Monday, 2 December 2013 the first Boikarabelo World Aids Day initiative was held in the Lesedi Village community hall. At the time the hall was in the process of being renovated, which has now been completed (more on this later in the newsletter). The inaugural event was well received by the local community with over 120 people making use of the free HIV/ Aids testing facilities which were available. In addition another 60 people were tested for tuberculosis.



World Aids Day Event audience.

Wonderful entertainment in the form of drama, dancing and storytelling was kindly provided by members of the local Lerekhureng Combined School. The local health ambassador provided a lot of information regarding HIV and AIDS.



Lesedi community members enjoyed the World Aids Day activities.

Our thanks to the local clinic staff and Sister Rabothata for all their assistance on the day and the Department of Health team who came in from Lephalale to conduct this valuable community service.



GM HR Bongsi Ndimande handing out sweets to local children at the Aids Day in December.

Lesedi community hall renovations complete

The renovations of the Lesedi community hall were successfully completed at the end of November 2013. Apart from the general repairs, painting and replacement of infrastructure, the electrical wiring in the hall was fixed and upgraded ensuring that the lights could now stay on late into the evening. The hall has also been issued with a Certificate of Compliance meaning that it is fully compliant with all statutory requirements.

All work on the hall was carried out by local companies. Eight local businesses were invited to tender for the general repairs and the electrical repair work. The successful tenderer on the general repairs side then subcontracted the work to the local community in Lesedi. The end result was a successful project completed by the local community themselves.

Lesedi community meeting

The second Lesedi Community meeting was held on Wednesday, 22 January 2014. Boikarabelo Coal Mine has committed to hold bi-monthly meetings with the Lesedi community at which senior managers from the mine talk about the progress at the mine and answer any questions.

Site General Manager, Andy McLeod provided an overview of mine progress and showed a selection of photographs from the recent helicopter fly-over. These images show the areas of bush clearing, borrow pits and terrace work that has been completed so far. Bongsi Ndimande, General Manager HR, gave an update on the current training initiatives and upcoming Adult Basic Education Training (ABET). Johnny Prinsloo, General Manager of Engineering, gave feedback on the completion of the Lesedi community hall renovations and then time was allocated at the end for questions and answers.

The next meeting will be held in mid-March.



Site GM Andy McLeod addressing the bi-monthly Lesedi Village meeting.



Newly renovated Lesedi Hall.

The first Mine versus Farm soccer game

The inaugural "Mine versus Farm" soccer match was held on Friday, 6 December 2013. Supporters of both sides got to watch an exciting and competitive game of soccer with hardly any cheating!

Fortunately for the creaking bodies of the Mine staff their numbers (and skill level) were bolstered by the inclusion of the younger and fitter mining students.

The Mine team had a commanding first half, displaying deft touches and remembering soccer skills that had long been forgotten. By the end of the first half the Mine side had roared to a 4-0 lead. The second half, however, was a different outcome.

With their half time motivational talk still fresh in their minds, the Farm side made an instant comeback with 2 thunderbolt goals from Ishmael.

With stamina flagging on both sides, "*finely tuned bodies*" going down all over the pitch and the injury list building, the most important person on the pitch, the referee, ended the match. The final score was a 4-2 win for the Mine side.

In all a good, fun day was held and the match was followed by the annual Christmas braai.



All the action of the Mine versus Farm soccer game



Operational News:

Work at the mine site progresses

Work is now progressing at four work areas on the mine site covering an impressive distance of 40 kilometres. Protech Khuthele (Pty) Ltd have started clearing brush and building the rail line at chainage 5 and 9 on Kringatspruit. Lenco continue with the bush clearing along the rail line at Zandbult and Loopeegte.



Temporary Construction Village area. Note how some of the trees have been saved for rehabilitation in 2 years time.

Surveyors are now busy along the whole 43.43km length of intended rail line, setting out and marking the rail line and commencing with the layout of the provincial road upgrade and diversion. Once these areas have been marked out the bush cutters will move in to start preparing the area for road construction.



Rail line cleared on Bitterfontein southern boundary.

Construction of the 200-man accommodation terrace is now complete and work has commenced on expanding the terrace to its full size, which will ultimately house 1,320 construction workers. Delivery of the pre-built accommodation units from ACC has already commenced.

The RSV team, who are the primary EPCM partners in the rail, earthworks, civils and mining machinery purchases, are now established with accommodation and offices at both Vlugtkraal and Vangpan and plans are being made to get extra portable offices to expand both areas for the increased number of engineers.



Lenco bush clearer at work along the rail line.



Temporary construction office area for Protech Khuthele.



Recycle, recycle, recycle

Waste materials, that could otherwise be recycled, make up a large portion of landfill volume. It has been calculated that approx. 60% of the waste we produce at the mine site can be recycled which will reduce the amount of waste in our landfill sites.

In many countries, recycling has proven to significantly reduce landfill sizes and the costs associated with handling the waste. It is a key objective of the Boikarabelo Coal Mine to be a recycling leader in the local community.

Small scale recycling has been implemented at the Boikarabelo Office and the resident camps. Training has been given to all staff on site to encourage everyone to recycle. Boikarabelo is aiming to ensure that good waste management behaviour is instilled in all members of staff in the early stages of the mine.



Commencement of recycling at Boikarabelo.

Training up a local workforce

Work has begun on training 40 previously unskilled workers from the Lesedi Village as temporary labourers. All contractors at the mine will need ad hoc labour and may well be reluctant as the training and induction often takes longer than the length of time the work will actually take. By the mine providing a pool of ready to work people, complete with training, medical examinations and personal protective equipment (PPE); contractors will be more likely to hire a local employee for a 2 or 3 day job. This gives the contractor an opportunity to train people and decide if they are suitable for longer-term employment and transfers valuable portable skills to the local community. Already several people in the local community have received First Aid Training from the mine and are therefore equipped to help out at home and in the community.

Training commenced on 20 January 2014 for the first intake and took place at the newly renovated Lesedi Hall. All prospective trainees need to have a matric certificate and will be taught valuable mine required skills such as First Aid, firefighting and the mine policies to prevent fatigue and dehydration; as well as how to identify hazards and wear PPE correctly. Each person is provided with a set of work clothes, shirts and pants as well as safety boots, which they can keep after their employment period. This is in a low income area where many people do not have shoes and do not have the means to provide their own PPE in the hope of getting work on a casual basis.

The Boikarabelo Coal Mine will not hire people at the mine gate.

Environmental update

The Waterberg region in which the Boikarabelo Coal mine is situated, is full of a large range of animals. It is our duty to ensure that we manage our interaction with this wonderfully diverse environment and help it to flourish for future generations. As a result we have set up areas around the mine where animals can freely roam in their natural environment.



Panthera Pardus (Leopard) are indigenous to the area and this one was spotted relaxing next to the runway in mid December and is thought to be a juvenile male. Brown hyena and cheetah are also found in the area.

Recycling tip

Have 3 different colour bins, as it is easier to separate out materials that can be recycled at the source, rather than having to go through your rubbish later picking out the items you want to recycle.



Recycling training for the farm workers as recycling is rolled out.



Staff member profile

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| Name: | Louise van den Berg-Nicolai |
| What is your role? | Senior Environmental Officer |
| What do you do? | I oversee the environmental compliance, monitoring and biodiversity management over all the mine properties |
| What qualifications do you have? | I have a Masters degree from Imperial College, University of London in Environmental Management |
| How long have you been involved with the Boikarabelo Coal mine project? | I have been on the project one of the longest. I started at the mine site back in 2008 with Digby Wells Environmental completing all the legislative requirements for the Boikarabelo project. At the beginning of 2013 I was offered a permanent role at the mine to ensure that the mine was compliant with all environmental laws. Together with my husband Pieter-Carel I was the first employee to move to site permanently in mid-2013. I live on the farm with all my pets. |
| What does working at the Boikarabelo Coal mine mean? | I have been involved in the project since the beginning and I have a vested interest in developing a leading coal mine, which co-exists with the surrounding natural environment |



Recycling training by Senior Environmental Officer Louise Nicolai.



Senior Environmental Officer Louise Nicolai with a new born Stigmochelys pardalis (leopard shell tortoise). The local legend is that they are usually sighted before we have rain and come to the roadside to drink the water that collects there. When picked up they often urinate within 30 seconds, so when lifting them off roads to safety beware!



Key priorities at Boikarabelo

- **Zero harm** – making sure Boikarabelo is a safe coal mine
- **Equality** – ensuring that men and women have an equal opportunity to work at the mine
- **Low environmental impact** – minimising the impact the mine has on the surrounding Waterberg region
- **Supporting the local economy** – ensuring that as many services as possible are sourced from the local region
- **Be responsible** – aiming to be responsible in all aspects of our work and community activity