

# Boikarabelo News

Edition 5  
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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 is progressing well. In this newsletter, we highlight the hard work by members of our team both at the minesite and in the local communities.

## Work continues at Boikarabelo despite Protech setback

**In June, we were notified that our main earthworks contractor on site, Protech Kuthale (Pty) Limited, had been initially placed into business rescue proceedings but then in early July we were informed that it had been placed into liquidation.**



This was very disappointing news which resulted in Protech removing all of its staff from the mine site and stopping all earthwork activity for the rail link, site infrastructure and roads. In addition, a sub-contractor who was appointed by Protech to construct three bridges under and over the rail line also stopped work as a result of Protech's liquidation.

We are now in the process of conducting detailed surveys on the 40km rail route and 38km road infrastructure including all the earthworks that have been carried out by Protech, so we can establish an accurate scope of work for retendering.

Senior General Manager for the Boikarabelo Coal Mine, Andy McLeod said, "The news of Protech going into liquidation and stopping work was very sad. The Protech workforce has been a significant presence at Boikarabelo for the past seven months and has completed a lot of work for us. We are now very busy surveying all the earthworks so we can get another contractor in as soon as possible. The initial tender process attracted a lot of attention and proposals when it was first put out to tender and I do not expect any difficulty in appointing a new earthworks contractor on site again."

In the meantime, work continues at the Boikarabelo Coal Mine on several projects including:

- Completion of the construction camp with power and utility services for 1,320 personnel;
- Installation of accommodation units for 400 personnel;
- Completion of the first three (of seven) rail link bridges;
- Completion of main water supply infrastructure; and
- Completion of the construction office complex.

Paul Jury, managing director of Resource Generation, said, "While the news of Protech is disappointing other work at the Boikarabelo Coal Mine continues as usual. Resource Generation and the Boikarabelo Coal Mine are in robust financial health and, together with the local community and our South African partners we fully intend to develop Boikarabelo into one of South Africa's largest coal mines."



# Community News:

## Lesedi Village ABET Night of Bliss

Ledjadja Coal (Pty) Ltd in partnership with Triple E Training Holdings (Pty) Ltd successfully hosted the Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) Programme Night of Bliss on 29 July 2014 with a motivational talk by Bongsi Ndimande, General Manager, Human Resources at the Boikarabelo Coal Mine.

The event was well attended by the ABET students who have enrolled in the programme on a voluntary basis which is fully financed by Ledjadja Coal. The ABET Programme forms part of Ledjadja Coal's Human Development Programme (HDP), which is in turn part of the Social and Labour Plan commitments towards local skills development, training and capacity building for the communities local to the Boikarabelo Coal Mine.

First initiated in September 2013, the ABET Programme has made tremendous progress. So far a total of 32 adult learners have been enrolled on the Programme, ten of which are farm employees at the mine who have successfully completed their ABET Basic Level, Level 1 and Level 2 programmes.

## Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMME)

Ledjadja Coal continues to strengthen efforts to increase its discretionary spending and local spending on local SMMEs in Lephalale. The Boikarabelo Coal Mine SMME Database, developed to make provision for acceptance of company profiles, has increased from 204 companies almost 260 with the addition of new entities submitting their company profiles to [smmeprofile@resgen.com.au](mailto:smmeprofile@resgen.com.au).

Ledjadja Coal is proud to record that to date, the following Request for Tenders and Request for Quotations have been issued to local SMMEs to support the mine infrastructure development in compliance with the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, 2000 (Act No.: 5 of 2000) (PPPFA):

- The repairing of Potholes and installation of Additional Signage on the D1675 national road (Tender Doc No.: RFT 17062014/001). The successful bidder – Phaks And Seb Projects from Ga-Seleka has been awarded the tender. The work will commence early August 2014.

- The tender for the supply and installation of fencing for the 1320 accommodation camp (RFT-0240-0018-C001B) was issued to three local companies. The adjudication process is still proceeding and the successful bidder will be notified in due course.
- The provision of Groot Zwart Bult Farm Infrastructure as part of Boikarabelo Coal Mine Railway line (Contract No.: RFT-02400-018-R). The technical specification has been submitted to local SMMEs.

In addition, Ledjadja Coal obtained the supply of cement, bricks and other supply material from Boitlhamo Construction Development, Industrial area, Lephalale.

The procurement of local SMME is an on-going progress and will continue to be monitored carefully through a centralised electronic system and database list as well as SMME audits to ensure that the company spending including contractor work is locally focussed and that the percentage for the discretionary spending improves in compliance with the Mining Charter and the legislative requirements in terms of PPPFA. This system was also presented and discussed with the Executive Community Forum on 18 June 2014 in order to familiarise them with the SMME process.



Bongsi Ndimande cheerful with the Farm Employees who received their ABET Certificates of Competency. From left: Ms Anna Mataa, Mr Ismael Mfisa, and Ms Tercia Metseyabangwe.

# Operational News:

Despite the setback of Protech, as reported on the front page, construction work at the mine site continues.

## Overhead power lines and telephone lines

The OH Line project, where ten 22kV overhead power lines along the railway servitude needed to be rerouted or lifted, has now been completed. Eskom appointed an accredited company to do the work on their behalf and the work was carried out quickly, efficiently and safely.

With these overhead power lines moved there is reduced risk to construction activities and rail operations in future.

We continue to relocate a number of telephone lines so they are not impacted by groundwork activities. This project is on-going and will be completed by the end of August.



*Extended height 22kV powerline poles at Kringgatspruit, chainage 9km, where there is significant fill on the rail line.*

*These poles are the highest along the route at 22m above ground level due to the height of the elevated track along this section of rail.*



*Powerline poles at installed at 13 locations along the Boikarabelo rail route allowing safe construction and passage.*

## Update on the kitchen and dining room

Work on the new mine site kitchen and dining room is nearing completion. Both buildings are huge at over 80 metres long and 30 metres wide and cover an area of over 4,800 sq. metres. The dining room will be able to seat upto 1,320 people in a single sitting.

Equipped with the most modern machinery, the kitchen will employ 40 local people providing up to 5,000 cooked meals a day for all workers on site. A common menu will be provided, with a choice of both local and western style meals. Everyday we will cater for all health options as well as provide fast food options.

The dining room will provide space for all employees, supervisors and managers to eat together in one facility, and our local hospitality supplier will have a fully accredited Hospitality College on site, ensuring that all local employees are fully trained and receive accredited certificates.

Several wide screen televisions are being set-up in the recreational areas, each tuned to a different channel so a wide variety of channels can cater for all needs (and ensuring no-one can be possessive of the remote controls!). The dining room, as with the rest of the camp, is dry with no alcohol permitted.

We are now turning our attention to other recreational facilities for the camp with sports facilities being planned. These will include a soccer field, volley ball courts, running area and gymnasium.

A fully equipped laundry service has also been established for all workers on site and again this will lead to local employment and training opportunities.



*Dining Room South section*



*Dining Room construction*



*Dining Room North section*



## Water supply

The 27,000 litre “Staalboer steel panel dam” (pictured below) has been installed at Bitterfontein. These dams can be built up to 40,000 litres and so far two have been built on site and another two are being constructed to supply and store water for use during construction of the rail and road earthworks.

Built using a local supplier and utilising local labour from the “Lesedi skills pool”, which was created by the General Manager Human Resources Bongi Ndimande, these dams have proven to be quick and simple to install and will have a useful life well after the construction of the mine has been completed.

All water installations are supplied with flow meters to record water usage and a sample point at which monthly water samples for analysis can be drawn. Our new environmental intern, Amelia, is currently doing this month's samples and learning her way around the mine site with the help of the local farm workers.

Long term, the water for the mine operations will be provided by 13 boreholes mainly on Zeekoevley and Vischpan, connected with steel and HDPE pipe to a series of covered (to reduce evaporation) concrete dams which will be regulated and monitored by a live monitoring system linked to the main mine control room and the environmental department 24/7.



The 27,000 litre “Staalboer steel panel dam” installed at Bitterfontein.

## Staff member profile

Sibongile “Bongi” Ndimande is General Manager, Human Resources at the Boikarabelo Coal Mine. She has been married to Vusumuzi Ndimande for 34 years and is blessed with four sons and a daughter.

Bongi joined Ledjadja Coal in May 2012, having previously been Human Resource Manager in charge of the Isibonelo underground and opencast mines for SASOL Mining.

At Boikarabelo, Bongi oversees the management and well-being of all personnel on site, as well as being a key member of our community engagement team. In 2013, she introduced Ledjadja Coal to the three traditional leaders, Chief Seleka, Chief Langa and Chief Shongoane.

Bongi has been involved in the mining industry her whole career and in 2010 was elected as chairperson at the ITC Women in Mining Conference, and has received multiple awards.



Sibongile “Bongi” Ndimande instructing local school children on road safety and awareness

Bongi is a committed Christian and has strong family values. She is President of Girl Power Ministry, an inter-denominational and prayer-driven group which focuses on reaching out to every girl across all ages, levels & race and connecting them with their designer and maker and unleashing them to their community and church.



Bongi Ndimandi passionately engaging with the local community at one of the regular community meetings

## Environmental news

### The first meal at the Birdie Café

Birdie, the African White Back vulture who was featured in our last newsletter, unfortunately died soon after the newsletter was published. Birdie was a young orphaned vulture who had been found injured on site and was malnourished. Despite the best efforts of Louise van den Berg-Nicolai, our Environmental Officer, and the expert team at the Vulpro Vulture Rehabilitation Centre ([www.vulpro.com](http://www.vulpro.com)) his injuries and the effects of his malnutrition were too much.

As a result of our encounter with Birdie and the assistance and advice provided by Vulpro we have developed a keen interest in the many species of vultures who we share our environment with. We have now developed a feeding and conservation programme at Boikarabelo which will help these threatened birds.

The first meal was served at the “Birdie Café” in July. At one point over 40 vultures were feasting on an impala carcass including three different species of vultures – namely the African White Back, Cape and Lappet-Face vulture.

We look forward to working with Vulpro in identifying our breeding colonies and establishing an environment conducive to preservation.



Over 40 vultures attended the first meal at the Birdie Café.



## 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

