

# COMETH THE HOUR, COMETH THE KGOTSO

\*Kgotso Mongalo has been appointed as General Manager for Phalann dwa, Phalann dwa Extension and Ukufisa collieries effective from 1 February 2021.

**“WORKING AS A TEAM IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ENSURE A MINE IS WELL RUN.”**

\*KGOTSO MONGALO

**KGOTSO MONGALO**  
GENERAL MANAGER: MINING OPERATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR PHALANN DWA COLLIERY, PHALANN DWA EXTENSION AND UKUFISA COLLIERY

Kgotso Mongalo (49), assumed the position of Acting General Manager for Canyon Coal’s Khanye and Phalann dwa collieries along with Ukufisa Colliery in mid-August owing to the general managers having been booked off due to illness. He ran the three collieries with stellar fortitude for several months until they returned to work.

Phalann dwa Colliery is located 10 km east of Delmas, in Mpumalanga, while Khanye Colliery is based in Bronkhorstspuit, a town 50 km east of Tshwane, in Gauteng. Phalann dwa Colliery is about 45 km away from Khanye Colliery and a further 50 km apart from Ukufisa Colliery, which is situated near the East Rand town of Springs, in Gauteng.

Kgotso says it was a challenging period for him and a steep learning curve. “I believe it’s much better to start with great challenges, then at the end of the day you know that things will run smoother over time. The experience that I’ve gained has made me a better manager for sure. I didn’t get an opportunity to sit with both General Managers to discuss what had to be done, but just had to work that out for myself.”

When the General Managers fell ill suddenly Kgotso had to step up quickly and take on their responsibilities. By working together with all the teams at the mines he managed to pick up quickly from where they had left off, “working as a team is very important to ensure a mine is well run,” he states.

The day Kgotso took over he called all the heads of the teams in the morning to say to them that, “Guys it’s not only me, it’s about all of us. If the mines are to continue to reach their targets, it will be because all of us worked together. It’s the only way we’re going to win.”

He credits Canyon Coal Chief Operating Officer Kobus Rothmann for playing a big role in supporting him and offering advice and guidance on all matters. Kobus had said to him: “Anything that you need, or any help that you require, please just give me a shout.” He understood that this would be a steep learning curve for Kgotso.

“It was crucial receiving the full support of the top management of Canyon Coal during this time as it showed they have great confidence in me and my abilities.”

### Stepping Up

Kgotso is no stranger to how Canyon Coal’s mines operate, having been with the company for over 13 years serving in various positions and most recently as the Mine Manager at Khanye Colliery. He says that a General Manager position is a major step up, as one needs to now look at a broader picture of the mine beyond the pure mining side of the operation, as you are now responsible for the whole ecosystem of the mine.

### Racking Up Records

While running multiple mines Kgotso oversaw record production being achieved. “I’m very happy about this achievement as this was my second month at Phalann dwa. Previously, in May both Phalann dwa and Khanye achieved new production records so the pressure to keep up the momentum was huge. It was also the first major record for the Phalann dwa Extension which produced 128 852 tons of ROM in September 2020, surpassing the previous record of 121 827 tons mined in May 2020.”

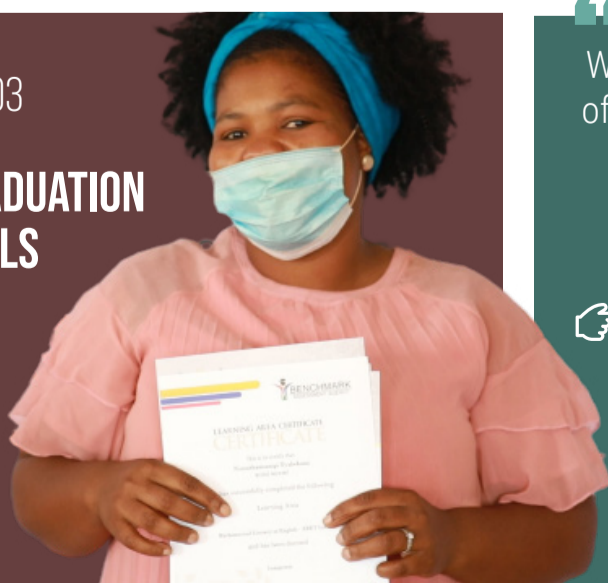
Khanye maintained production output of around 200 000 tons of ROM, in line with the mine’s targets. Moreover, the plant at Phalann dwa was consistently able to wash 120 000 tons, which was a record for the washing of coal at Phalann dwa Extension.

Kgotso worked closely with Ingwenya Mineral Processing Plant Manager Daniel Struwig and his team at Phalann dwa to achieve this goal, along with Canyon Mining Services (CMS) and Bakamoso Mining Services, which undertake the mining at Phalann dwa and Phalann dwa Extension.

“I believe the most important thing is to understand each other and communicate clearly. If everyone is on the same page then I believe goals can be reached everywhere in the operations,” he concludes.

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### ABET GRADUATION FOR LOCALS



“We are very optimistic about the future of our business, as we continue being a low-cost operator.”

VUSLAT BAYOGLU - EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON

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### FROM CLEANER TO BLASTER



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**CARMIA PRETORIUS**  
CANYON COAL PROCUREMENT MANAGER

**ANGY KGADITSE**  
KHANYE CANTEEN OPERATOR

# KHANYE CANTEEN A RARE 2020 SUCCESS STORY

While many businesses closed down in 2020 due to tough operating conditions that were only compounded by COVID-19 restrictions, Kgaditse Prestige Events (KPE), which operates the canteen at Khanye Colliery, in Bronkhorstspuit successfully navigated its inaugural year.

KPE, a local black, women-owned catering company, opened the canteen in January 2020. The establishment of the canteen formed part of an enterprise development initiative, which saw the appointment of Bronkhorstspuit local business women Angy Kgaditse (25) and Joyce Kgaditse (46), who are the co-directors of KPE. In its first year, the canteen has hired 4 local community members and served the over 300 employees and personnel at Khanye Colliery with more than 1 000 meals a month.

"COVID-19 brought life and most businesses, including ours, to an unprecedented standstill. As a small business, we were highly affected as we had to temporarily shut down due to the restrictions of the pandemic. Unlike other sectors, we faced a significant challenge because we had no capacity to work from home, this meant weeks of no income," Angy recounts.

However, she points out that through the financial literacy and

guidance that KPE continuously receives from Canyon Coal, they were able to tap into their savings and operate again when the restrictions were relaxed. "We understood that we had to use this time to leverage and deepen relationships with our customers by making the canteen feel like a safe spot," Angy explains.

## Collaboration and adaptation steers canteen through trying time

With support from Canyon Coal the canteen was able to overcome this challenging period. The mine provided KPE with personal protective equipment (PPE) which included masks, gloves and hand sanitizers. "Our team attended daily toolbox talks where we were provided with COVID-19 infection control training that covered the fundamentals of infections, prevention and control of COVID-19."

KPE was provided with signs and posters that were posted around the canteen to remind workers about the risks of COVID-19 and the measures that are necessary to stop its spread. "Even though food safety and hygiene practices are not new to our catering business, we however had to implement all these new measures which included wearing of masks,

sanitizing equipment and surfaces, and practicing social distancing," Angy notes.

The canteen had to adapt and promote safe work practices, consistent with advice from the health and safety authorities at the mine, to ensure the canteen was ready for the social distancing and exemplary hygiene measures that were an important part of the transition.

Angy highlights that the pandemic has caused a lot of economic uncertainty which affected how customers spend their money.

"We are grateful that we have managed to have a successful year despite the challenges. We look forward to more growth and making more revenue in the next year. Most importantly, we look forward to continuing to meet the dietary needs and requests of staff at Khanye," Angy states.

Canyon Coal Procurement Manager Carmia Pretorius adds, "We are delighted that this enterprise development initiative has been so successful to date. Angy and her team have had to overcome a difficult year, but it has been fantastic to see how they have adapted so quickly and continued to provide an important service to our staff members."



**4**

Hired local community members



**300+**

Served employees & personnel at Khanye Colliery



**1 000+**

Meals served per month





# ABET GRADUATION FOR 15 LOCALS AT PHALANNDWA

Canyon Coal held a graduation ceremony for the 2018/19 Adult Basic Education Training (ABET) at its Phalannndwa Colliery near Delmas in Mpumalanga on 23 October 2020.

ABET forms part of the skills development commitment within the Social and Labour Plan (SLP) for Phalannndwa Colliery. The aim of ABET is to develop the educational levels of the community through learning. The programme offers all eligible employees and community members opportunities to become functionally literate and numerate.

The ABET programme was conducted by service provider Triple E Training at the Phalannndwa ABET Training Centre, which was specifically constructed at a cost of R45 200. Menar Group Social Licensing Manager Xolile Mankayi, noted that between 2018 and 2019, 9 groups of 15 people were trained from Level 1 to Level 4 (NQF 1) in numeracy and literacy at the Phalannndwa ABET

Training Centre. Moreover, since its establishment in 2015 over 60 people have been upskilled through ABET programmes run at the mine.

Xolile congratulated all those that had completed their respective educational levels in the programme and praised them for seeking to empower themselves educationally.

"Within the community, there are individuals that, for whatever reasons, could not complete school. The ABET programme provides an opportunity for such individuals to become functionally literate and numerate. This programme is underrated by many who don't understand the National Qualification Framework (NQF) principle of progressive learning which increases the opportunities of further enrolling for other skills development programmes and employment opportunities provided by the company," he stated.

Special mention was made of Lindiwe Martha Mokone, who achieved Foundational Learning Competence or NQF4 certification which is equivalent to a matric.

Lindiwe, a 25-year-old resident of Argent and a mother of two, explained that she dropped out of school in grade 10 due to personal circumstances. "Canyon Coal's ABET programme has given me the opportunity to complete my high school education."

Menar Social Labour Plan Manager Nthabiseng Ocia Mueti in conclusion stated: "The success of the ABET programme at Phalannndwa Colliery can be attributed to participants commitment to learn and the resources provided by Canyon Coal to support the programme. We hope that the knowledge attained by graduates will aid them to improve their quality of life and encourage them to continue their educational advancement, while also enhancing their employment prospects."

# ZEROING IN ON ZERO HARM

Canyon Coal's commitment to achieving the South African mining industry's goal of zero harm, which aims to ensure that mineworkers return home from work unharmed every day, continues apace with both Khanye Colliery and Phalannndwa Colliery recently passing significant fatality-free milestones.

Phalannndwa Colliery as at 25 September 2020, recorded over 2 500 fatality-free operating days, while as at 30 September 2020, Khanye Colliery recorded over 1 000 fatality-free operating days.

"Safety underscores all our practices at Canyon Coal," says Canyon Coal Health, Safety and Environment Manager David Masilela, noting that Canyon Coal's lost-time-injury frequency rate (LTIFR) upholds the company's year-on-year zero harm goal. He attributes this to the application of a clear and concise safety strategy that is supported by visible felt leadership, which has made employees very aware of the health and safety policy and procedures across the company.

The seeds of this long-term strategy are bearing substantial fruit as in addition to impressive fatality-free records, the groups'



LTIFR for year to November stood at 0.00.

Moreover, David points out that that Canyon's programme to mitigate noise-induced hearing loss is run by a qualified Occupational Hygienist, who has seen no recorded cases of employees negatively affected by noise levels. "Good hearing is crucial for safety at our operations, as employees need to hear instructions clearly and be able to hear as early as possible if

machines and/or vehicles are near to them in order to avoid injuring themselves," he notes.

Canyon also conducts investigations and inquiries which helps to enhance and encourage a culture of health, safety and collective responsibility.

## Adapting to COVID-19

In accordance with regulations published in terms of the Disaster Management Act, Canyon's ten-point plan standard operating procedure, called the Canyon Coal SOP-COVID-19, has formed the basis of Canyon's efforts to reduce the risk of employees contracting and transmitting COVID-19. These measures include undertaking risk assessments, screening processes, emergency protocols, employee health and safety training, providing personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and face shields), physical distancing, enhancing hygiene awareness, specialised waste management disposal, clear communication and appointment of COVID-19 compliance managers.



# KHANYE CONTINUES TO BREAK RECORDS

JAPIE KLEINHANS  
INGWENYA PLANT MANAGER

Challenging operational conditions owing to the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic hasn't stopped Khanye Colliery from achieving record mining and plant throughput volumes.

In June 2020, 204 480 tons of run of mine was processed by the Khanye processing plants. This surpassed the previous highest throughput achieved by the mine in May, when the plant washed 186 342 tons of run of mine coal.

Khanye's two processing plants comprise a 110 ton per hour dense medium separator processing plant and a larger 400 ton per hour Larcodem plant, which was commissioned in early 2019.

In August 2020, Khanye produced 210 620 tons of run of mine, which is a new mining record, significantly surpassing the previous record of 202 696 tons mined in February.

"This is testimony to the increasing throughput ramp-up process that the mine has been undertaking since it commenced operations in January 2018," states Khanye Colliery General Manager Guy Thompson.

He highlights that the mining and plant teams' experience and dedication ensured that downtime and production losses were very minimal. "All this was achieved while complying with strict health and safety protocols. Standard Operating Procedures were put in place to effectively and seamlessly

implement the new health and safety policies. All members of the team bought into the strategy and were totally dedicated to ensuring full compliance with these requirements," Guy points out.

Japie Kleinhans, Ingwenya Plant Manager at Khanye Colliery, who has over 35 years of coal processing industry experience adds: "Employees were trained on COVID-19 response protocols, including screening during working hours, and they are complying. Non-compliance constitutes a work place offence. The company also provides all employees with masks and sanitisers. We monitor the situation on a daily basis while encouraging transparency and accountability at all times."

He states that the plant's 68-member team is very well supported by Canyon Mining Services, who produced good raw coal product which made it easier to be processed through the plant. "We were also superbly supported by our engineering team, who ensure that equipment is well maintained, breakdowns are quickly dealt with and our machinery runs optimally. Pre-emptive maintenance and correct usage of plant equipment have all contributed to ensuring minimal breakdowns occurred," Japie highlights.

Mining commenced at the opencast Khanye Colliery in January 2018 through the use of truck and shovel mining methods. The remaining life of mine is 14 years at annual run of mine production target of 2.4 million tons per annum. —

# ATANG LOGISTICS SET TO SHINE AT KHANYE COLLIERY

Canyon Coal appointed Atang Logistics, which is run by Cultura Park local residents Ofentse Tabane and his brothers Mpho and Lebogang, to transport coal from Khanye Colliery to the nearby Bronkhorstspuit siding.

Ofentse has been in the industrial and mining sector since 2013, and is responsible for business development at the company. Mpho is an accredited international trader who heads up the procurement and marketing departments, while Lebogang leads the technical logistics operations of the company.

Atang means growth in abundance in Setswana. This Family-run company has been in existence for over 20 years largely transporting coal to Eskom power stations in Mpumalanga. The company with a fleet of 25, 34-ton Mercedes-Benz side-tipper trucks – all owned by Atang Logistics – has serviced both large and small coal mining companies.

Ofentse has always wanted to work at home but was previously forced to live in different places owing to work needs. "It was extremely difficult for me to find work in Bronkhorstspuit so I couldn't stay here," he laments.

However, he notes that the relationship with Canyon has been a crucial lifeline for the company, as owing to the down turn in the market and the additional pressures placed on the sector because of the COVID-19 lockdown the company had lost other business contracts.

"I am very appreciative for the opportunity that Canyon has granted our company and for helping to save the livelihoods of my family and employees. It is our hope to build on this relationship with Canyon and be part of the company's ongoing growth trajectory," Ofentse states.

Canyon Coal Group Procurement Manager Carmia Pretorius comments: "Canyon Coal is committed to supporting local, historically disadvantaged South African companies, such as Atang Logistics and integrating them into our supply chain in line with our obligation in terms of the Mining Charter."

OFENTSE TABANE  
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER







MAX MKHESWA  
ADT OPERATOR FOR CANYON MINING SERVICES

# ADT TRAINING OPENS DOORS FOR MAX

Traversing the haulage roads to transport coal from the pit and deliver his loads to the plant has been an exhilarating experience for Max Mkheswa (30), who is a graduate of the mobile machinery for surface mining training programme which took place at Khanye Colliery in 2019.

Less than a year after completing the training programme he started working as an articulated dump truck (ADT) operator for Canyon Mining Services in July 2020. He describes it as life a changing experience. "I never thought of working in the mining industry prior to this." Max was born in the small township of Rethabiseng, in Bronkhorstspuit. He attended Rethabiseng Primary School and Mpumelelo Secondary School, before

acquiring a tertiary qualification in Business Administration.

Max worked as an intern for the City of Tshwane carrying out admin work and then did a few odd jobs in the construction sector before becoming a taxi driver. He saw an opportunity to take part in an ADT training programme at Khanye Colliery and he applied. "I applied because I wanted to improve my skills and give myself the opportunity to be challenged by getting exposure to a new industry that I knew very little about previously."

"Prior to doing the training I thought that mining just entailed digging big holes, but now I understand that it involves a lot more than that. Following the training I feel that I may in future

pursue a career in health and safety in mining," he remarks. This is because he received Hazchem firefighting and first aid training during the training programme, which has sparked his interest in the area.

Max hopes to be a role model for his family in order to show them that if you work hard and challenge yourself, you can succeed in life. "I want to show people that no matter what circumstances you are facing, you can achieve great things."

"Canyon Coal has provided me with this amazing opportunity and every day I hope give my all to repay them for the support and confidence they have shown in me," states Max. 🍷

## CHAIRPERSON'S VIEW

Coal markets came under immense pressure in 2020, largely owing to local and international lockdowns as result of COVID-19. Since the easing of lockdowns and the resumption of industrial business activities, along with good news on the development and roll out of vaccines, commodity markets are stabilising. We are very optimistic about the future of our business, as we continue being a low-cost operator, while taking care of our colleagues' health and safety – which is our paramount priority.

In 2021, we aim to begin development of two mines De Wittekrans and Bekezela Colliery. De Wittekrans will see us invest about R600 million in Phase 1 development and create 430 jobs, while Bekezela Colliery will cost around R1.5 billion to develop and create 800 jobs. In addition to this we have a pipeline of projects that we intend to develop in 2022 and 2023.

These mines are being developed with the intent, in part, to provide Eskom with options to procure the right quality coal at a lower price. A major element of supporting Eskom's turnaround is to reduce costs. Coal suppliers should therefore make sure Eskom has reasonable options to purchase coal at the right price to support economic growth in South Africa and empower the majority of South Africans. Without cheap electricity, economic recovery – and by extension job creation – will be impossible.

Many of the larger mining houses are finding challenges in securing financing from traditional finance institutions for new

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We are very optimistic about the future of our business, as we continue being a low-cost operator.

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coal projects and are, therefore, unbundling their coal assets. We are in the fortunate position that we do not seek out external funding for our projects and can therefore continue to evaluate opportunities that may arise from such asset disposals. This means we can develop projects at competitive costs to the benefit of downstream industries where our products are consumed as an input in manufacturing – an often-overlooked critical role of coal – and for power generation.

South Africa has world class rail infrastructure that is well integrated with a stellar port network. However, for South Africa to benefit maximally from this infrastructure, logistical bottlenecks challenges that cause train scheduling disruptions need to be overcome, to ensure we can export product efficiently and rapidly to generate critical export revenue.

In line with our Mining Industry 4.0 strategy, we have established a department dedicated to technological innovation that is currently implementing and integrating leading-edge technological solutions.

In this edition, you will read how Canyon Coal continues to support job creation, create procurement opportunities for local communities, implement community development projects and business development initiatives, which form part of our social and labour plan (SLP) and local economic development (LED) requirements. 🍷

VUSLAT BAYOGLU  
EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON





# PROCUREMENT ROADSHOW HOSTED TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES

Canyon Coal hosted Procurement Roadshows near its Phalanndwa Colliery, in Delmas and Khanye Colliery, in Bronkhorstspuit, respectively in December 2020, as part of its ongoing efforts to support and empower local business by procuring goods and services from local companies.

Canyon Coal Procurement Manager Carmia Pretorius says that the aim of the roadshows was to build on the company's existing local vendor database per operation. "Running such events assists our buyers to have a better understanding into what the local businesses have to offer. We also have a pending enterprise development project for Phalanndwa Extension and the receipt of the business profiles for Delmas has now offered us new insights into what local businesses can offer, and where we may need to work with them to develop local capacity," she explains.

Carmia points out that the aim of the exercise was to add companies that operate within the areas immediately hosting Canyon Coal's mines, which is why extensive documentation was required to be submitted to verify they were in fact local companies. This documentation included: Company Registration Documents, Tax Clearance Certificate, Business & Service

**"IN TOTAL 73 BUSINESS PROFILES WERE SUBMITTED, 38 ELIGIBLE APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED FOR KHANYE COLLIERY AND 13 FOR PHALANNDWA COLLIERY."**

CARMIA PRETORIUS  
CANYON COAL PROCUREMENT MANAGER

Offerings Outlines and Contact Details.

"Naturally, we received submissions from companies which did not fall within the areas of operation, nevertheless, these were captured on a separate database for future projects. In total 73 business profiles were submitted, 38 eligible applications were received for Khanye Colliery and 13 for Phalanndwa Colliery," she notes.

Carmia says that the Procurement Department would like to host such events annually. "Sufficient planning of these events will be done and communicated, but in addition to the Procurement Roadshows we have an email address (procurement@canyoncoal.com) where company profiles can be submitted electronically throughout the year." This email address is monitored and business details are added to different databases.

"We had a successful submission day at Bronkhorstspuit. The Delmas roadshow was unfortunately interrupted and the submission process was closed early. However, we will meet with relevant stakeholders and then determine when another submission day can be held," Carmia concludes.





# FROM BURSARS TO CANYON EMPLOYEES IN THEIR OWN WORDS



**ZAITA NGABEU**  
STORES CLERK



**BRIAN GWAZE**  
JUNIOR ENGINEER



**NTHABISENG OCIA MUETI**  
SLP MANAGER

Three Canyon Coal bursary alumni reflect on their growth from their days as students to full-time employees. They talk about the opportunities they have received and the progress they have made in their careers to date.

## Zaita makes her mark

"My career with Canyon Coal started while I was still a student when I was awarded a bursary. My aspirations were always to further my studies as I am a career orientated individual. I have always had an interest in engineering and physics and the bursary I received from Canyon Coal was crucial to enabling me to study what I enjoy. The Canyon Coal Human Resources Manager at the time, Sarie Opperman played a big role providing me with emotional support, as being in university comes with its own challenges. She arranged regular progress meetings, which were held at the Canyon Coal headquarters, in Sandton to check up on my progress and general challenges that I was facing and always offered guidance and support. After completing my studies, I did my Experiential Training (P1 And P2) at Hakhano Colliery in Middelburg for a year (July 2014 To June 2015). My training was overseen by the supervisor of the Canyon Coal Engineering and Plant Engineering team. Following the completion of my training I returned to college to continue studying (B-Tech Electrical Engineering) which was also funded by Canyon Coal. In 2017, I started my internship at Phalannwa

Colliery as a Junior Engineer Intern under the supervision of the General Mine Manager and Engineer on the site (January 2017 to November 2017). Then in December 2017, I was transferred to the Procurement Department at Phalannwa Colliery where I was appointed as a Stores Clerk and this is the position I currently still hold."

## Brian engineering his own success

"Going to university not only brought hope to my family but also gave hope to my village as a whole. They witnessed for themselves that it was possible to achieve your dreams irrespective of how disadvantaged your background was. When I received my bursary from Canyon Coal, I had exhausted all our family's financial resources and owed the university tuition fees. If it were not for the bursary, I would have been forced to drop out and disappoint many people looking up to me. The bursary was the sole reason I managed to graduate as a Mechanical Engineer. The bursary covered all my varsity expenses from registration, tuition, accommodation, books and included a stipend. Then Canyon Coal Human Resources Manager Sarie Opperman invited me for guidance and counselling at the end of each semester at Canyon Coal's head office. The sessions were effective since she paid attention to my specific situation and did not just offer generalised advice. The company would also provide all the documentation needed for registration and

accommodation, thus ensuring that the whole process ran smoothly. After graduating, I was offered a job at Canyon Coal. I have worked as an Engineering Workshop Foreman and am currently a Junior Engineer at Khanye Colliery. My next goal is to become a competent GCC Certified Mine Engineer."

## Ocia continues her meteoric rise

Nthabiseng Ocia Mueti was appointed as Social and Labour Plan (SLP) Manager on 1 October 2020. She is responsible for implementing existing and developing new SLPs and Local Economic Development (LED) projects. Nthabiseng is a Canyon Coal bursary alumnus, who has been with Canyon Coal since 2017 having worked both on site and at head office in various positions. She has previously worked at Singani, Khanye, Ukufisa and Phalannwa collieries as an Environmental and SLP Officer and later was appointed as a Compliance Officer at head office. Prior to being appointed to her current position Nthabiseng served as a Junior Project Manager in the Canyon Coal Project team. She holds a Diploma in Mining Engineering and a Blasting Certificate. Nthabiseng is passionate about empowering women, which is why she co-founded the organisation When We Women Rise (WWWR) to expose and empower young women to pursue careers in the mining and industrial sectors. 🍀

# DIGITAL DIVIDENDS IN FUEL MONITORING



In line with Canyon Coal's vision of becoming a leader in the use of digital systems to enhance efficiencies, reduce down times and costs it has implemented global technology company Minetec Smart Mining's Fuel Automation System at its mines.

The Minetec Fuel Automation system is a digitisation tool that captures all refuelling and replenishment information in one database. "Fuel attendants are issued with ruggedized Android devices, allowing them to digitally create fuel requisitions and automatically capture accurate litres dispensed into each vehicle. All vehicles are tagged and configured with the Minetec software, allowing for automatic vehicle recognition," explains Minetec Sales and Marketing Manager Ben du Preez.

He notes that all bulk tanks and mobile bowsers are also equipped with level sensors for continuous tank level monitoring. Additionally, water sensors are also installed in these tanks to monitor fuel quality, which is crucial to ensure that good quality fuel is in the machine in order to allow for optimised engine run time and minimised downtime.

The trial of the system commenced in May 2020 at Canyon Coal's Khanye Colliery in Bronkhorstspuit and following the completion of a successful three-month trial, it was installed and commissioned in August 2020 at the mine. The system

is currently being rolled out throughout the group on all mine machines.

Menar Group Chief Innovation Officer Cleavon Moothosamy explains the reasoning for selecting Minetec fuel management solution: "Minetec Smart Mining Fuel Automation System offers a comprehensive mining digitisation solution, which integrates into one database that provides key data on fuel use and qualities. Furthermore, the system aligns with our drive towards utilising IR 4.0 solutions by using Big Data to optimise mining operations and thereby proactively managing our various key performance indicators or KPI targets," he states.

Canyon Coal Group System Administrator Koketso Sikoe adds that: "The Minetec Fuel Automation system comes with powerful software, where trends can easily be recognised, and allows us to take swift action should any irregularities occur, which is crucial to avoiding loss of fuel owing to theft or wastage and the like."

In conclusion Minetec Sales and Marketing Manager Ben du Preez highlights that, "It was encouraging to see Canyon Coal refuel attendants embracing these technologies and have the sense of empowerment by being part of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. We are working closely with Canyon Coal to effectively and seamlessly roll out the system throughout the group." 🍀



# SINGANI SNIPPET

Rehabilitation of Singani Colliery is reaching an important milestone with earthworks nearing completion.

Mining voids have been backfilled, top soil has been levelled and is ready for reseeded.

Canyon Coal is committed to rehabilitating the site to agricultural land. ➤

## THE MAROON POST

# FROM CLEANER TO BLASTER: JABULANI'S JOURNEY

JABULANI BRIDGE JIYANE  
BLASTER

"I'll take whatever job you have and I promise you that you won't regret having given me the opportunity," said Jabulani Bridge Jiyane (24) to then Phalanndwa Colliery General Manager Guy Thompson at their first meeting in March 2015.

A few days later he started his career at Canyon Coal, as a general worker at Phalanndwa Colliery in Delmas cleaning offices, sign boards and cars at the mine. He was committed to showing from day one that he was going to take the opportunity that he had been given with both hands and work as hard as he could to turn his pledge into reality.

Jabulani achieved a great career milestone recently when he was promoted to the position of Blaster at Khanye Colliery in Bronkhorstspuit, in July 2020 when a vacancy arose.

Guy recalls that he recognised very early on that Jabulani's was a diligent and hard worker who wanted to do more than menial cleaning tasks. "Within the space of a few weeks he was moved to the mine's blasting crew and worked as blasting assistant," he states.

Jabulani worked as a blasting assistant for around a year and it was during this time that he was sponsored by Canyon Coal to get his Blasting Certificate and certifications as a competent person for blasting. He was promoted to the position of team leader in 2018 and was sponsored by the company to go to Colliery Training College (CTC) to complete his rock breaking studies.

"It became my passion to show Guy that his belief in me was not unfounded and I worked extremely hard to achieve a Certificate of Merit from CTC by becoming a top student," which included receiving a medal and trophy for his excellent academic results, he notes.

After completing his training at CTC, he worked with mine supervisors and foremen and assisted them with all their tasks. Jabulani says that as an assistant he was often called late at night, or early in the morning to deal with emergencies that had arisen. He recalls one incident where a diesel bowser needed refilling and it was raining heavily and he was called in to assist because the crew was having difficulties refilling it in the rain.

"I still recall Guy asking me why I wanted this job so badly and would do whatever I could to get it. I told him that my aim was to add genuine value to any company that I worked for, and be a part of their growth ambitions. I want a company to be able to recognise me for everything that I do. I believe to date that I have achieved this by working with a few team leaders, which helped me in becoming a blaster today."

He was until recently a Blasting Team Leader at Phalanndwa. However, an opening arose at Khanye in July for a Blaster and Guy, knowing that Jabulani was at Phalanndwa, put in a request to have him transferred to Khanye, which was accepted.

"I am very appreciative of everything that Canyon Coal has done for me, and to Guy for always believing in me. I hope to continue to grow and learn new things, improve my skills every day and be part of Canyon's story of growth and development for many years to come," states Jabulani. ➤