



JABULILE MKHWANAZI  
PHALANNDWA EXTENSION ADT OPERATOR



MBALI NKAMBULE  
PHALANNDWA EXTENSION ADT OPERATOR



NAFUMBI SKOSANA  
KHANYE COLLIERY SIDING ASSISTANT



NOLUTHANDO NTAKA  
KHANYE COLLIERY ADT OPERATOR



NOMASANTO RUMO  
PHALANNDWA EXTENSION ADT OPERATOR



NOMPUMELELO MASILELA  
KHANYE COLLIERY TEAM LEADER & JUNIOR BLASTER



NONTANDO JAMANI  
PHALANNDWA EXTENSION ADT OPERATOR



PINKY MAOKO  
KHANYE COLLIERY WATER BOWSER OPERATOR



STELLA MAHLANGU  
KHANYE COLLIERY SIDING ASSISTANT



TINYIKO LUBISI  
PHALANNDWA EXTENSION ADT OPERATOR



GUGU DUBE  
KHANYE COLLIERY WEIGHBRIDGE OPERATOR



PHUMZILE MTSHWENI  
PHALANNDWA EXTENSION ADT OPERATOR

## CANYON'S SUPERWOMEN SHINE AT THE MINES

Increased recruitment of women in mining is good for enhancing the sector's diversity. But not for the sake of it. Diversity means strength for the sector. It's good for operational sustainability and improved overall performance as diverse teams make better decisions. At Canyon Coal, women are an integral part of the organisational culture where they participate in seeking solutions to complex challenges.

At Canyon Coal (as of the end of May 2021), we had 79 female employees accounting for 26.5% of our workforce, with 28 in core mining positions and 23 in mining support services positions. Core mining includes articulated dump trucks (ADTs), excavators, dozers and graders. Canyon Coal prioritizes key and core career opportunities in mining for females, such as operators of ADTs, excavators, dozers and graders, among others.

### From the Coal Face

In honour of Women's Month in August 2021, we spoke to some of the women – many of whom are also mothers – from our Khanye and PhalannDwa mines. They shared their experiences of working in the mining sector. They also offered advice to

colleagues in the sector as well as aspirant women miners.

Khanye Colliery Weighbridge Operator Gugu Dube (33) states: "The work we do is vital to ensuring that customers receive the correct tonnages that they ordered. Every ton matters. Men and women are equally important and valued at Canyon. Being a woman in the mining sector is great. I would like to grow with Canyon Coal and I am determined to move through the ranks of the company and one day be in top management."

PhalannDwa Extension ADT Operator Jabulile Mkhwanazi (32) says: "The men on the team accept and support us female operators. I'm proud to be an ambassador for women in mining because it gives me great pride in showing that we can operate heavy machines just as well as our male colleagues. I can say that as women we can do anything in life, nothing can stop us!"

PhalannDwa Extension ADT Operator Mbali Nkambule's (25) advice to women in the mining sector is that they should work as a team, and if they feel unsafe then they must report it and always work hard because she believes that women can do anything men can do.

Khanye Colliery Siding Assistant Nafumbi Skosana (41) believes it's important to have a good attitude. "Mining is good for women because any woman can participate. Women don't just have to be administration staff in an office, they can work anywhere in an operation."

### Having a Blast

Nompumelelo Masilela (23) is a team leader and junior blaster at Khanye Colliery. She started studying Civil Engineering but encountered a couple of challenges when it came to drawing because she developed tremors in her hand during the course.

"My father and I then looked around at alternative career options and we thought mining was a good one. Initially, it was heart-breaking to not pursue Civil Engineering, but I got over it quickly. The experience has been quite amazing here. I'm really enjoying mining and I would like to study further now," she enthuses.

Nompumelelo remarks that some women who look at the mining sector from the outside and say it's not for them as all they see is dirt and dust, but there is so much more to mining. 🚀



### SINGANI ACHIEVES NEW MILESTONE

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“ Despite the challenges the country has faced dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, Canyon Coal has kept up its commitment to supporting local community development. ”

XOLILE MANKAYI - MENAR GROUP SOCIAL LICENSING MANAGER

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### ADULT EDUCATION RECEIVES A BOOST

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# NEW LEADERSHIP TO DRIVE NEXT STAGE OF CANYON GROWTH

With the challenges faced operationally and in the coal markets owing to COVID-19 fast receding, Canyon Coal is pushing ahead with ambitious plans to begin the development of two mines – De Wittekrans near Hendrina, in Mpumalanga, and Bekezela Colliery (also known as Palmietkuilen) near Springs, Gauteng.

Overseeing the licensing, development and commissioning of these projects are the responsibility of the newly appointed Canyon Coal Chief Operating Officer, Clifford Hallatt and Menar Head of Projects, Gerhard Cronje.

Clifford has been with the Menar Group since 2013 having previously served as Canyon Coal Senior Environmental Officer, Exploration and Mine Development Manager and most recently as Menar Group Project Manager. In his new role, Clifford is responsible for ensuring financial, operational and technical oversight over all the operations in the Canyon Coal Group. Gerhard has been with the Menar Group since 2017 having previously served as a Canyon Coal Project Manager. In his new role, Gerhard oversees the development of all projects from the prospecting phase through to mine development within the Group.

Canyon Coal will invest about R600-million in the Phase 1 development of De Wittekrans, with the creation of 430 jobs, while Bekezela Colliery will cost about R1.5-billion to develop and will create 320 direct jobs. Clifford explains that these mines are being developed with the intent, in part, to provide Eskom with options to procure the right-quality coal at a competitive price.

## Building Bekezela

Gerhard points out that the Bekezela Colliery is situated adjacent to the Phase 1 section of Canyon Coal's Ukufisa Colliery. This will increase the life-of-mine of Ukufisa, which had an original life of mine of about five years. Clay mining started at Ukufisa in December 2018. "The Bekezela Colliery will be an opencast mine, with a target production of 600 000 ton a month of run of mine (RoM), once in steady-state production, with a scheduled life of mine 22 years," he states.

## Driving De Wittekrans Development

Additionally, De Wittekrans has an estimated life of mine of about 25 years, based on a run of mine production of 300 000 tons a month. Gerhard states that Phase 1, which will entail opencast mining – has a reserve of 14.3-million tons, while Phase 2 will add an underground component. "Phase 1 consists of three pits, one of which has been designed with the specific purpose of gaining access to the underground reserve," Gerhard highlights.

Furthermore, Clifford explains that "Canyon views the opencast component of the De Wittekrans project as the key to unlocking the project's full potential and therefore it will fund the capital for the larger underground section. The Mining Right, Water Use Licence (for both opencast and underground) and Environmental Authorisation have been granted. Canyon Coal also owns the farm portion on which all the surface infrastructure will be developed," he adds.

## Aims and Objectives

Clifford says that as the new Chief Operating Officer his vision is to develop and grow Canyon Coal to its full potential for the benefit of all employees, shareholders and other stakeholders.

Gerhard, meanwhile, intends to ensure that both current and future projects are planned and executed in a timeous and cost-effective manner, to benefit from the current favourable coal price, which will, in turn, lead to job creation as well as economic sustainability in the coal sector.



CLIFFORD HALLATT  
CANYON COAL CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

**"THE BEKEZELA COLLIERY WILL BE AN OPENCAST MINE, WITH A TARGET PRODUCTION OF 600 000 TON A MONTH OF RUN OF MINE (ROM), ONCE IN STEADY-STATE PRODUCTION, WITH A SCHEDULED LIFE OF MINE 22 YEARS."**

GERHARD CRONJE - MENAR HEAD OF PROJECTS



GERHARD CRONJE  
MENAR HEAD OF PROJECTS

# CHAIRPERSON'S VIEW

The first half of 2021 saw strong mining and plant processing tonnages at our operations. Khanye Colliery, our operation under Canyon Coal stable, has reached steady-state production with on average over 200 000 tons of coal per month being mined and processed. The coal is also being produced in line with customer specifications.

The only challenges Khanye has faced are logistics related. Transnet Freight Rail has experienced difficulties in providing trains to rail our product to the Richards Bay Coal Terminal, in KwaZulu-Natal. Capacity constraints on the rail network pose a major challenge to all our operations. To mitigate this challenge, we have had to move our product to other sidings.

In 2019, Canyon Coal completed the development and construction of the Bronkhorstspruit Siding, which is located approximately 8 km from Khanye Colliery. The siding was built to reduce the cost of railing coal to the ports. The R35.93 investment in the siding brought with it R12.23 million worth of benefits to the local community through the utilisation of local businesses products, services and labour from surrounding communities. The siding also uses local business products, services, and labour from surrounding communities.

However, owing to a shortage of trains at the Bronkhorstspruit Siding, we have had to make use of the Oosbank Siding, approximately 54 km away in Emalaheni. This adds to both the costs and delivery times to the port. And while this has helped us get coal to the port, we still are experiencing challenges in receiving trains at the Oosbank Siding.

Phalanndwa Colliery and Phalanndwa Extension, also under Canyon Coal, experienced difficult times toward the end of last year and earlier this year because of some washout areas, which refers to geographical areas where there is no coal. Nonetheless, Phalanndwa overcame these challenges and is currently mining over 120 000 tons a month of run of mine coal and processing similar volumes as well.

But Phalanndwa is also facing logistics challenges as the nearest siding of Kendal is not operational. Therefore, we have had to make use of the Oosbank Siding, around 75 km away. These add to the cost of doing business, hinders productivity and profitability. The situation has to be rectified urgently by Transnet and the relevant authorities as it is negatively impacting all mining companies.

Meanwhile, a recent drilling campaign discovered a new reserve of over 5 million tons at Khanye Colliery, which will extend the life of mine by another two and a half years. This is great news for the mine and for employment opportunities. De Wittekrans, a reserve in Hendrina, is now fully licensed and we are currently negotiating with the surface right holders to be ready to start the operation later this year.

Then at Ukufisa Colliery, we are undertaking a feasibility study about washing the coal on-site, instead of transporting it to Phalanndwa for processing. The feasibility study is scheduled to be completed soon and then after that, we will know if it is feasible to process the product on the property.

We continue exploration and development work on our pipeline of new projects to stimulate job creation, 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



# SINGANI REHABILITATION ACHIEVES NEW MILESTONE

AN AERIAL VIEW OF REHABILITATED LAND AT SINGANI COLLIERY

The rehabilitation of the former opencast Singani Colliery located 30 km from Middelburg has reached an important stage with the completion of earthworks in June 2021. This included the moving of a large quantum of hard (820 561 m<sup>3</sup>), subsoil (185 924 m<sup>3</sup>) and topsoil (392 824 m<sup>3</sup>) materials as part of the remediation process.

Mining commenced at Singani Colliery in September 2014, with its resource having been depleted in February 2019. At peak production, the mine produced 130 000 tons a month of run of mine (RoM) coal. However, throughout the life of mine concurrent rehabilitation of the mining areas was undertaken which has aided in the speed of the rehabilitation of the site.

Canyon Coal implemented a risk-based approach to ensure concurrently implemented rehabilitation actions would achieve the desired post-mining landscape and land capability aligned with end land use goals of restoring the site to agricultural land. Singani Colliery is Canyon Coal's first mine to reach the rehabilitation stage with the ultimate goal of receiving a mine closure certificate from the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE).

Singani Mine Manager Mike Seme says that being part of the rehabilitation team has meant a great deal to him. "I was at Singani when it was an active mine now it is good to see it gradually returning to its original state before mining was undertaken here." He notes that the earthworks rehabilitation included backfilling

of pit areas and voids and removal of: the RoM pad, roads, workshops, offices, all infrastructure and levelling the ground, along with the eradication of invasive plants. All the pit areas have been carefully backfilled with the overburden that was removed in order to access the coal and has been covered with topsoil.

Canyon Coal Compliance Officer Arjen Nell points out that Singani Colliery has followed the prescribed, environmentally sound way of mining and rehabilitating the site. The team has stockpiled the overburden (material) in the sequence it was removed, preparing to backfill these mining areas again with the hard-, soft- and topsoil after taking out all the coal in the pit.

He notes that it was crucial to level the rehabilitated area so that it blended in with the surrounding landscape. Factors that needed to be taken into consideration included the natural contours of the surrounding landscape and the direction of water flow on-site.

"I believe this will set a benchmark for future projects in terms of achieving a fully rehabilitated mine, to get as close as possible to what the environment was initially and to return it to agriculturally productive land. This means that our end goal is to restore the land to arable land and ensure that the whole area is functioning ecologically as it was before mining commenced. Achieving this would be a major milestone for the company," states Arjen. Menar's Head of Environmental Compliance Melissa Pillay notes that Canyon Coal has carried out regular environmental audits at

Singani to examine the stability of the site. Rehabilitated areas are examined for surface cracks and to ensure all areas are free draining.

"Canyon Coal and Menar are deeply committed to ensuring the full restoration of agricultural land usage at site. The completion of the earthworks will allow for seeding to take place which will commence in due course. This is in line with the Menar Group's goal to attain a mine closure certificate for Singani," Melissa states.

**VIDEO CLIP:** Rehabilitation of Singani Colliery in Middelburg, Mpumalanga has reached a new milestone with the completion of earthworks. Check out this video summarising the major strides Canyon Coal has made in rehabilitating the site to date by scanning the QR code:



ARJEN NELL  
CANYON COAL COMPLIANCE OFFICER



MIKE SEME  
SINGANI MINE MANAGER



MELISSA PILLAY  
MENAR HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE

# KHETHOWAKHO OFFERS NUTRITIOUS CULINARY EXCELLENCE AT PHALANNDWA



SELINAH MOTSHABI  
KHETHOWAKHO TRADING AND PROJECTS MANAGER

The opening of a canteen at Phalanndwa Colliery forms part of Canyon Coal's drive to empower local communities, particularly women-owned businesses.

Canyon Coal opened a new canteen operated by women-owned catering company, Khethowakho Trading and Projects, at its Phalanndwa Colliery in Delmas, Mpumalanga on 23 March 2021. Khethowakho was among 98 companies that responded to the mine's advertisement to bid for the opportunity.

Canyon Coal Procurement Manager Carmia Pretorius welcomed guests by explaining that Canyon Coal provided the fully equipped canteen facility comprising a fully containerised kitchen with appliances. The canteen employs four people from the local community.

Phalanndwa Colliery General Manager Kgotso Mongalo said that the canteen has not only given the local company opportunities to expand its business but has also added significant value to the mine as it would allow for staff to access healthy, affordable meals easily.

Representing local government, Councillor Ezekiel Sekhukhune congratulated Canyon Coal for actively supporting and empowering a local businesswoman by appointing Khethowakho to run the canteen. Selinah Motshabi, a resident of the Botleng township near Delmas, is the Manager of Khethowakho.

Menar Group Social Licensing Manager Xolile Mankayi explained that: "Despite the challenges the country has faced dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, Canyon Coal has kept up its commitment to supporting local community development."

Motshabi thanked Canyon Coal for giving her business an opportunity to expand. "We are committed to providing the mine with affordable, nutritious meals for all employees and contractors," she said.

The launch of the canteen was held in strict accordance with COVID-19 Alert level 1 regulations which included the wearing of face masks, maintaining physical distances of 1.5 metres and observing social gathering number limitations. ➤

**VIDEO CLIP:** Canyon Coal's Phalanndwa Colliery recently established a new canteen as part of an enterprise development initiative to empower small, local businesses and women-led ones in particular. To view the videoclip of this event, scan the QR code:





# MULWANE GROWING IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Canyon Coal was Mulwane Investment's first client when it started working at Khanye Colliery in 2018, after being given an opportunity to supply a tractor loader backhoe (TLB) to scrub the mine's articulated dump trucks (ADTs). Back then the company only had one TLB, which Mulwane rented.

Today, the small Bronkhorstspuit business is an emerging contract mining, plant hire, logistics and commodity trading company. Canyon Coal was, in no small part, a contributor to this success, notes Mulwane Chief Executive Officer Dumisani Mazibuko and Chief Operations Officer Berry Masingi.

Dumisani recounts: "After a lot of running around and enduring numerous hassles, we managed to get hold of a TLB from CJ of Amandla Mining based in Delmas. We obtained our skid steer through Barloworld rental in Isando through the counsel of Karabo Sethusa, who is still our salesman. The skid steer was used to clean the plant by collecting excess coal that fell under the belts," and the skid steer is still running at the plant till today. Having proved that they could provide the mine with quality service, in 2019 Canyon Coal asked Mulwane to supply Khanye Colliery with a Pecker, which is a TLB with a hammer.

Berry explains that when coal is brought to the grizzly feeder at the plant, some of the coal is too big so it can't be fed into the grizzly. Therefore, the TLB with the hammer breaks the coal so that it can be fed into the plant. Hence, it forms an integral part of the crushing and screening process at the plant to ensure the product is produced according to the required sizing specifications. He notes that this work was highly stressful in the beginning and "we wouldn't have pulled through without Canyon Coal's consistent assistance, counsel and guidance."

### Supporting Local Business Development

Since 2018 Mulwane has acquired four machines, which has been "a huge achievement" for the company. Berry highlights that it has always been the company's goal to own its equipment. "We also employ 24 people in our company with 90% of them being locals, who come from communities in and around Bronkhorstspuit," he points out. Moreover, the company has also bought two Volvo trucks FH and FMX which are used for materials haulage.

The pair note that they have learnt a great deal from Khanye Colliery's mine engineer Tshepo Mokwele, who has taught them the technicalities of correctly managing and maintaining their equipment. "We owe a great deal of our knowledge to Cleavon Moothoosamy, Carmia Pretorius and Lizette van Dyk, who have been the procurement managers we have worked with at Canyon Coal. We also appreciate the guidance and mentorship of former Khanye Colliery GM Guy Thompson, who held our hand in the process of starting and growing as a company," remarks Dumisani.

"The mentorship Canyon Coal has provided us with has been instrumental to our growth. It has also greatly assisted us in terms of developing company policies. Management of Canyon Coal has taught us a lot about how to run a successful business and how to grow our service offering while maintaining our standards to service client needs," Dumisani and Berry conclude.



BERRY MASINGI  
MULWANE CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER

DUMISANI MAZIBUKO  
MULWANE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

# ZWIVHUYA PHATHELA PUTS THEORY INTO PRACTICE AT KHANYE COLLIERY



ZWIVHUYA PHATHELA  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING INTERN AT KHANYE COLLIERY

"I was welcomed to Khanye Colliery by the Mine's Engineering team. I was mentored primarily by Khanye Colliery Engineering Foreman Brian Gwaze, who is a qualified Mechanical Engineer with years of experience in the coal mining industry. At the workshop, I was exposed to heavy earthmoving machinery. This helped me put my theoretical knowledge to practical use. I have learnt a lot about how machines operate and the importance of adopting a maintenance philosophy. Reliability centred maintenance governs all maintenance activities to achieve an average of 93% availability on the mining machines."

Zithobeni resident, Zwivhuya Phathela (30) is a Mechanical Engineering Intern at Khanye Colliery, who has been doing her internship at Khanye Colliery since June 2020. Zwivhuya holds a B-Tech in Mechanical Engineering, which she completed in 2019. Moreover, she points out that she has learnt about the importance of adhering to the Mine Health and Safety Act (MHSA). "This

guides us on how to work safely at the mine. One can't just assume you are doing things correctly; we need to adhere to the health and safety rules."

Zwivhuya says that when she started working at Khanye Colliery, the mine was in the process of implementing a new Collision Avoidance System (CAS) on its mining machines. "I was awarded an opportunity to be part of the team leading the implementation of Section 8 of the MHSA, which deals with seeking to avoid pedestrians and machines from colliding as a way to prevent vehicle fatalities and damage to properties on the mines."

Furthermore, she has also learnt to draft procedures at the workshop and has enjoyed learning how to service mine machines, such as the Trackless Mobile Machines (TTMs) and Light-Duty Vehicles (LDVs). Zwivhuya has also learnt about the

importance of adhering to service intervals, as part of regular and preventative maintenance strategies. "It is also vital to ensure that breakdown maintenance is done quickly to get the machines back into production because they are crucial to ensuring production targets are met," she emphasises.

Zwivhuya states that she is deeply appreciative of all the knowledge she has developed by learning from Khanye Colliery Engineering Manager, Tshepo Mokwele and Engineering Foreman Brian Gwaze. "They pushed us to be the best and even sacrificed their precious time to accommodate us to ensure we were able to master everything we learnt. I have learnt a great deal from them about not only mining and engineering but also about life and how to be a good leader, who everyone respects."



NHLANHLA JACOB SIBIYA  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING INTERN AT KHANYE COLLIERY

## INTERNSHIP AIDS NHLANHLA IN GETTING GRADUATION CERTIFICATE

"When I started working here at Khanye Colliery, in June 2020, I still had outstanding fees for my degree. Because of this, the university withheld my B-Tech certificate which I should have received on finishing the course in 2019. However, using the stipend I received from this internship I was able to pay off my student debt and receive my graduation certificate in October 2020," says Nhlanhla Jacob Sibiyi (27), who is from the village of Sokhulumu, in Bronkhorstpruit.

He is currently doing his Electrical Engineering internship in order to ultimately attain his Government Certificate of Competency (GCC) to become a qualified engineer. Nhlanhla studied Electrical Engineering at the Tshwane University of Technology with a focus on high voltage and heavy current.

Nhlanhla notes that the Engineering Internship programme is overseen by Khanye Colliery Engineer Tshepo Mokwele. He is the one who guides the interns and mentors them. "I spent almost about four months at the plant, where I put my theoretical studies into practise by working on mechanical and electrical equipment. I learnt about the maintenance of transformers and how the mine gets its power from Eskom through the substation to the plant and then how the mine utilizes electricity and what kind of voltage we are getting from Eskom. I also learnt the importance of having backup power to continue running production during load shedding."

Moreover, he highlights that the interns learnt about the mechanical side of the operation as well, such as how pumps and impellers operate. Part of this training includes learning how

to dismantle pumps and putting them back together again, and how to connect components such as motors, and safety devices at the plant on the conveyor belt. "I was able to also acquire information about the type of coal that the mine produces which included learning about calorific values (CV), the sulphur content, etc..."

Nhlanhla says that he has learnt a lot about the mining industry. "We also attended the Safety Health and Environment (SHE) committee meetings, training session, along with the SHE representatives, which gave us an in-depth understanding of how seriously Canyon Coal takes SHE protocols and procedures."

Nhlanhla says he has familiarised himself with the Mining Health and Safety Act because engineers must be able to interpret that Act. "You need to be able to interpret it and ensure that it is applicable and understandable to the people that you will be reporting to, as we are training to become engineers."

"Our training is aimed at providing us with an understanding of mining to understand every aspect of the mining process from production, engineering, logistics and procurement to management. This is because when you are an engineer, you have to fill that gap to ensure that everything works together as one coherent system. Understanding that how everything syncs together in a mine is crucial to improve the mine's profitably by running effective and efficient systems," Nhlanhla concludes.

# ADULT EDUCATION RECEIVES A BOOST IN BRONKHORSTSPRUIT



NTHABISENG OCIA MUETI  
MENAR SOCIAL LABOUR PLAN MANAGER

Canyon Coal opened a newly built Adult Basic Education Training (ABET) centre at its Khanye Colliery in Bronkhorstspuit, Gauteng, on 12 May 2021. It will offer educational courses to local community members.

Gabisile Ntuli from Ekangala Ward 105, a participant in the programme, speaking at the opening, thanked Canyon Coal for making a meaningful difference in the lives of local community members and urged all her fellow ABET course participants to be diligent with their studies. "We must all make full use of this learning and development opportunity for the sake of our own betterment and the advancement of the lives of our families," she asserted.

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

"Previously ABET participants attended courses at an external venue located near the mine in Bronkhorstspuit and later moved to Khanye Colliery's training centre. This was not an ideal situation - which prompted the move to build a dedicated ABET centre," explained Menar SLP Manager Nthabiseng Ocia Mueti while speaking at the opening of the facility.

The ABET centre cost around R300 000 to build and includes a fully equipped lecture room that will accommodate a maximum number of 20 people, separate male and female bathrooms, as well as a lunchroom. The centre was built by a small local construction firm Zonke General Trading. The first courses offered at the ABET centre will be Communication in English (literacy) and mathematics (numeracy), respectively.

Mueti said that: "Between 2015 and 2017, 60 learners were trained in communication through Khanye Colliery's ABET programme. While between 2018 and 2019, 9 groups of 15 people received training varying from Level 1 to Level 4 in numeracy and literacy."

She highlighted that: "Menar and Canyon Coal believe that education empowers people with the knowledge and skills needed to build a better future for themselves. ABET courses play an active role in supporting the socio-economic development of communities by investing in the future through empowering local people with improved educational standards."

The opening of the ABET centre was held in strict accordance with COVID-19 Alert level 1 regulations which included the wearing of face masks, maintaining physical distances of 1.5 metres and observing social gathering number limitations.



BRONKHORSTSPRUIT COMMUNITY REJOICE AT OPENING OF ABET CENTRE



LEARNERS AT BONGINHLANHLA CELEBRATE CENTRE HANDOVER WITH GUMBOOT DANCE



# CANYON COAL DELIVERS BONGINHLANHLA STIMULATION CENTRE A NEW PERMANENT HOME

Canyon Coal officially handed over the R1.5-million worth of facilities to the special needs centre Bonginhlanhla Stimulation Centre, in Middelburg on 22 April 2021.

The purchase and transfer of the property were as part of an extension of Canyon's original social and labour plan (SLP) initiative for Canyon Coal's Hakhano Colliery, in Middelburg, Mpumalanga. The facility has been operational since January 2020, but the official handover event has been delayed owing to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

"For the first time, our centre will have a facility that we own, as previously we rented premises. To own a property is very important for the centre as it allows us to be able to plan for the future, without having to worry about whether we will have to move every few years. It is also unsettling for our vulnerable learners, who struggle to adapt to new environments and places, to keep moving premises," said Bonginhlanhla Stimulation Centre Chairperson Ellie Magagula.

Menar Chairman Mpumelelo Mkhabela stated that education was the equaliser in society, which was why Canyon Coal selected a

project of this nature to support. He said there was a need for stability in mining communities to enable mining companies to continue to operate, create jobs and contribute substantially to social upliftment. "We are among those companies who don't need to be told to do the right thing because we are a responsible corporate citizen. The life of mine of Hakhano Colliery has come to an end, but the legacy of investment we have made in Bonginhlanhla will have a positive impact for many years to come," Mkhabela said.

Menar Social Labour Plan (SLP) Manager Nthabiseng Ocia Mueti explained that the local economic development (LED) project was identified in conjunction with the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and the Department of Mineral Resources. "It goes to show what we can achieve when we collaborate with stakeholders," Mueti said.

Department of Mineral Resources Deputy Director for SLPs, Sibongile Radebe, praised Canyon Coal for not just complying with its long fulfilled SLP requirements but for going above and beyond the minimum requirement for an SLP commitment. "Canyon Coal has provided support for the most vulnerable in

our society and is leaving a lasting positive legacy, which should serve as an example to other mining companies about what can be achieved," Radebe highlighted.

The new facility has classrooms, a kitchen, offices, toilets, indoor and outdoor play areas, which have been upgraded by the centre to make them suitable for the special needs of the learners. The new premise is larger than the ones which the centre used previously, enabling the centre to have more classrooms with fewer learners per class. This affords learners more one-on-one attention, additional care and therapeutics to learners, which was not possible in the past.

The handover of the new premises was held in strict accordance with COVID-19 Alert level 1 regulations which included the wearing of face masks, maintaining physical distances of 1.5 metres and observing social gathering number limitations.



**VIDEO CLIP:** Canyon Coal recently handed over R1.5-million worth of facilities to the special needs centre Bonginhlanhla Stimulation Centre, in Middelburg, Mpumalanga. To watch the video of the event, scan the QR code:



NTHABISENG OCIA MUETI  
MENAR SOCIAL LABOUR PLAN MANAGER

SIBONGILE RADEBE  
DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
AND ENERGY DEPUTY DIRECTOR SOCIAL  
LABOUR PLAN

LINDIWE NKOSI  
BONGINHLANHLA STIMULATION  
CENTRE MANAGER

MPUMELELO MKHABELA  
MENAR CHAIRMAN

MICHAEL NKOSI  
STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LOCAL ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT