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THE MAROON POST



EDITION 006 / JULY 2020



EMBRACING INDUSTRY 4.0

The Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) has strict collision avoidance system requirements for mine vehicles, which makes it mandatory for all vehicles on mines to be fitted with collision avoidance proximity systems. It is for this reason that Canyon Coal selected global technology company Minetec Smart Mining's Collision Avoidance System (CAS) Level 7 and 8 for use in its mining machines.

The Minetec CAS was recently installed on earth moving machinery at Canyon Coal's Khanye colliery, in Bronkhorstspuit and Phalanndwa Colliery near Delmas. The collision avoidance system requirements seek to improve safety at mines, especially when vehicles of 30 meter or more in length are in operation, to avoid the occurrence of injuries or mining accidents.

Gurban Zeynalov, Co-founder of Minetec, explains that the system

prevents accidents by providing machine operators with early audio and visual warnings, when in close proximity to another machine or structure.

He notes that research and development of Minetec CAS commenced in late 2018. Following 18 months of testing and having passed rigorous safety tests, the devices were commissioned onto Canyon's machines by the company's engineering team and safety department.

Key features of CAS include that it observes, detects and gives warnings to machine operators and sends notifications to field managers as well as control centres of existing problems. Gurban points out that the size and inherent blind spots of most mining vehicles make it impossible for operators to be aware of other machines and vehicles. "CAS provides substantial enhancement of the level of a driver's awareness through its

predictive detection system," he states.

Canyon Coal Group Engineering Manager Jaco Van Meyerren notes that Canyon had been seeking a reliable and cost-effective CAS for the past 2 years to get the most compatible system for their requirements. "This is why demo trials were held with 6 different companies who offered similar solutions before a decision was made on which one was best suited to Canyon's mines," he explains.

"The system met Canyon Coal's strict safety requirements following an extensive trialling period. Minetec CAS is being rolled out across all Canyon's mining machines as it was deemed the superior choice to avoid injuries, damage to company assets and prevent unnecessary downtime as result of avoidable damage caused to mining machines," Jaco states.

SPECIAL NEEDS CENTRE GETS FIRST PERMANENT HOME



Bonginhlanhla Stimulation Centre Manager Lindiwe Nkosi and Canyon Coal Social Labour Plan Manager Melissa Pillay standing in front of the centre's new home

Canyon Coal has purchased and facilitated the transfer and registration of a new property for special needs centre the Bonginhlanhla Stimulation Centre, in Middelburg. The centre moved into the R1.5-million worth of facilities in January 2020. However, the official handover event has been delayed owing to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

Bonginhlanhla is a non-governmental organisation established in 1997 to cater for young people with physical and mental disabilities. It provides integrated programmes and services that facilitate the wellbeing and socio-economic empowerment of learners with disabilities. The centre promotes the integration and mainstreaming to strengthen, build capacity and self-reliance of learners with special needs. The centre also offers learners integrated developmental and therapeutic services to provide care and protection.

Canyon Coal has a long history of working with Bonginhlanhla Stimulation Centre. Canyon Coal Social Labour Plan (SLP) Manager Melissa Pillay explains that Canyon started working with Bonginhlanhla in 2015. "The project then formed part of the SLP commitments for our Hakhano Colliery, in Middelburg. The local economic development (LED) project was identified in conjunction with the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality and the Department of Mineral Resources," she states.

During this time, the centre was located at the Middelburg Care Village and Canyon refurbished the facility and made substantial donations of equipment to ensure the facility could cater for the learners' special needs.



However, shortly after the handover, the centre had to move out of the Middleburg Care Village. Thereafter they approached Canyon for further assistance. Canyon assisted by purchasing a property that was previously operating as a pre-school for Bonginhlanhla.

Melissa points out that 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.

Permanent Home

"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," says Bonginhlanhla Stimulation Centre Manager Lindiwe Nkosi.

She adds that the new premise is larger than the ones, which the centre used previously. The larger premises allows for smaller classes and

enables the centre to offer additional care and therapeutics to learners, which was not possible until now.

The centre accommodates around 50 learners, who live in and around the Middelburg region, with most of them coming from disadvantaged families. The learners who attend the centre range from 3 – 18 years old, with a new section having been established for older learners aged from 18 – 35 years.

" WE ARE DEEPLY APPRECIATIVE TO CANYON COAL FOR ALL ITS ASSISTANCE OVER THE YEARS AND FOR PURCHASING THIS BEAUTIFUL NEW PREMISES FOR OUR LEARNERS "

LINDIWE NKOSI
BONGINHLANHLA STIMULATION CENTRE MANAGER

Essential Service for Special Needs Youth

Lindiwe points out that Bonginhlanhla provides a crucial service to the community as there are very few specialised facilities that cater specifically for learners with disabilities, who require specialised care. "For many of the learners, Bonginhlanhla offers them not only educational development and care, but also daily meals and shelter from difficult home conditions. Many of them come from impoverished homes, where their parents are not working, or they are cared for by elderly relatives, who cannot provide them the care they require," she states.

Bonginhlanhla plans to reopen once the Department of Social Development gives them the all clear to do so. As Lindiwe explains, many of the learners have pre-existing health conditions which make them vulnerable to COVID-19.

"We are deeply appreciative to Canyon Coal for all its assistance over the years and for purchasing this beautiful new premises for our learners. Canyon has clearly demonstrated that it cares for the most vulnerable members of society and that it believes that no learner, regardless of their background or disabilities should be left behind. Some of our learners will never be able to say in words how much the new premises mean to them, but their big smiles and glimmering eyes when we moved in said it all," Lindiwe says.

Canyon Coal Executive Chairperson Vuslat Bayoglu says: "Supporting local communities and offering young people opportunities to improve themselves is something that Canyon Coal places a substantial emphasis on. We look forward to seeing the learners, once it is deemed safe to do so, return to the new premises in order for them to make full use of the facility. Bonginhlanhla offers the community an invaluable service and is a sanctuary for special needs learners, who are so often overlooked. It is our hope that this new facility will be used by learners for many years to come."

CHAIRPERSON'S VIEW

Canyon Coal is very fortunate to have an extremely dedicated, dynamic young workforce that adapted quickly to changes in operating environments in the past few months.

Colleagues' commitment to keep the wheels turning, while taking the necessary precautions to best deal with the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Africa continues to be exceptional.

Canyon Coal is in full support of President Cyril Ramaphosa's declaration of the state of national disaster and the regulations implemented to reduce infection rates and give our healthcare system time to prepare for the potential surge.

Even before the lockdown was declared in South Africa on 26 March 2020, Canyon Coal had put in place measures to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. These included ordering masks and sanitisers for staff, improving hygiene awareness by emphasising the need to wash hands regularly and practicing social distancing, among others. You can read more about the measures that have been put in place in this edition of The Maroon Post.

Notwithstanding the measures we instituted, we didn't lose our momentum. During the first 21 days we were able to seamlessly transition to using digital communication and collaboration platforms, to continue to communicate with colleagues without any major disruptions to our business. This is evidenced by the fact that Khanye Colliery achieved a new monthly production record by processing 204 480 tons of run of mine coal in June. Canyon Coal is committed to increasing safe production tonnages.

COVID-19 has however, delayed our schedule for the development of our new mining projects, as some of the government departments that need to grant approval for projects to progress, have been operating at limited capacity owing to lockdown restrictions.

Nonetheless, I am confident that we have everything under control and look forward to our next exciting project, which will be De Wittekrans. Around R1.6-billion will be invested in De Wittekrans, which will be an opencast and underground mine with an estimated life of mine of approximately 24 years based on a run-of-mine production of approximately 300 000 ton a month and create about 430 jobs. We will start development work on it as soon as possible.

The other project that we also aim to start developing this year is Palmietkuilen. It will cost around R1.5 billion to develop and create about 800 jobs. Palmietkuilen will be an opencast mine producing 600 000 tons of coal a month at steady state production with a life of mine of about 22 years.

We are very optimistic about the future of our business as we continue being a low-cost operator, taking care of our colleagues' health and safety – which is our top priority. We are still pushing hard to achieve our target of producing 20 million tons of run of mine coal per annum, once we receive all pending required approvals.

Collectively we have had to tighten our belts and enact cost cutting measures, wherever possible, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the business. Nonetheless, I think we are heading in the right direction. Although our time tables have been delayed, they have been by no means derailed.

The coal price remains under pressure due to a variety of factors including international trade and political tensions. Further strain has been placed on the market due to global lockdowns, which have curtailed industrial business activity particularly in the Indian Peninsula, which is a major destination for South African export coal.

Locally, Eskom saw a decrease of around 7 000 MW of power generation, equating to about 20% of total demand. Our projects are being developed with the intent to provide Eskom with the right quality coal at a competitive price depending on its needs to support the revitalisation of South Africa's economy.

However, as lockdown restrictions are eased globally, we foresee a steady recovery as countries will start rebuilding their economies and will require raw materials for energy and industrial purposes, such as steel production. This will present new opportunities for the company and the South African coal sector.

As you will read in this edition, we continue to support job creation, to create procurement opportunities for local communities, to undertake community development projects and business development initiatives, which form part of our social and labour plan (SLP) and local economic development (LED) requirements.

These are difficult times for our country and the world at large. However, by putting in proactive measures and adapting to the new realities, we are confident that we will emerge better and stronger.

Vuslat Bayoglu
Executive Chairperson





RESPONSIBLE WATER MANAGEMENT UNDERLIES CANYON'S SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS

Water is a precious resource that needs to be sustainably managed by all users, particularly in a water stressed country such as South Africa. As a growth focused and environmentally conscious mining company, Canyon Coal has put in place a host of measures to reduce water requirements across all its mining operations, and manage this precious resource responsibly at all times.

Canyon employs a team of environmental specialists which form an integral part of the projects team, responsible for developing mines and compliance on its current operations. All of the company's operations are fully licensed, each with an approved Environmental Management Programme and Water Use License, which are audited annually.

"Monitoring on all our sites is conducted by independent specialists and samples are analysed in SANS accredited laboratories. Our policies are developed in line with legislative requirements to minimise and mitigate our environmental impact," states Canyon Coal Group Project Manager Clifford Hallatt.

Abiding by Regulations

All of the company's operational mines have approved Water Use Licences (WUL), issued by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) in terms of the National Water Act. These WULs have very stringent conditions as imposed by the sub-directorates within DWS and are also directed by recommendations made by subject matter specialists during the compilation of the WUL applications.

Canyon Coal employees and contractors are contractually and legally bound to adhere to the conditions of the WULs, and the WUL stipulations. In depth water stewardship materials are distributed throughout the mines to instil deep water conservation and management consciousness among all members of staff. Further, the company undertakes internal and external audits to ensure compliance.

"Flow meters are installed at all locations where water is extracted or moved between facilities at operations. The volumes are recorded to, firstly, measure compliance with the WUL conditions and, secondly, monitor the company in terms of its water use," Clifford highlights.

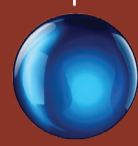
Canyon's processing plants are equipped with filter presses which mechanically dewater the ultra-fine coal material using special filter mediums to exert pressure on the coal material to separate solids (filter cake) and liquids (clean water). "These presses result in the recycling of 30% to 40% of water, resulting in a great reduction in the total water use in the individual processing plants," Clifford notes.

Moreover, Canyon mines utilise closed water reticulation systems, which ensure that no contaminated water is released from the site, instead, it is channelled and collected in pollution control dams (PCD). Clifford explains that this water is in turn used for dust suppression within the mine's boundary and also pumped from the PCD back to the processing plants for reuse.

Inflow from ground-and-rainwater into the opencast pits are also used to supplement the water requirements at the operations, be it for dust suppression or processing requirements. "This reduces the need to source water from outside the mine boundary and thus aids in preserving

ALL WATER

- OCEANS
- SEAS
- LAKES
- RIVERS
- GLACIERS
- ICECAPS
- GROUNDWATER
- SWAMPS
- WATER IN LIVING BEINGS
- WATER IN ATMOSPHERE



1,386,000,000 km³

ALL FRESH WATER

- LAKES
- RIVERS
- GLACIERS
- ICECAPS
- GROUNDWATER
- SWAMPS
- WATER IN LIVING BEINGS
- WATER IN ATMOSPHERE



10,633,450 km³

ALL ACCESSIBLE FRESH WATER

- LAKES
- RIVERS
- GROUNDWATER
- SWAMPS



93,113 km³

surrounding water resources".

Additionally, chemical toilets and a waterless system, are used at all Canyon sites which further reduces the overall water requirements at the company's operations.

Clifford notes that a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) was recently commissioned at the company's Khanye Colliery near Bronkhorstspuit. The STP treats sewage water from the mine and discharges treated water into an adjacent wetland system. "We test the quality of the water on an

ongoing basis and the results continuously exceed the acceptable discharge standards. This contributes to the overall health of the wetland system by improving the water quality and maintaining a constant flow of water," he asserts.

Clifford emphasises that the: "Conservation, protection and sensible use of water resources is everyone's collective responsibility. At Canyon we are very cognisant that water is an important resource that must be used sensibly and responsibly at all times."



KHANYE'S NOURISHMENT IN LOCAL WOMEN'S HANDS

Canyon Coal opened a new canteen which is operated by local black, women-owned catering company, Kgaditse Prestige Events, at the Khanye Colliery in Bronkhorstspuit, in Gauteng on 16 January 2020. At a cost of around R74 920, Canyon Coal established the fully equipped canteen comprising a full kitchen and a designated outside area where the employees can enjoy their meals. Canyon Coal Procurement Manager Carmia Pretorius explained that "The canteen is a major improvement for Khanye Colliery, as there was no dedicated onsite eatery for employees to source meals from."

The establishment of the canteen formed part of an enterprise development initiative, which saw the appointment of Bronkhorstspuit-born and bred business women Angy Kgaditse (24)(pictured above) and Joyce Kgaditse (45), who are the co-directors of Kgaditse Prestige Events (KPE), as the operators of the canteen. The canteen has also created new job opportunities as the kitchen is staffed by three workers hired from the local community.

Angy said: "The convenience factor we provide staff at the mine is a major positive for our business. It is inspiring for us to see that we are adding value to peoples' lives by making it easier for them to eat healthy meals at work and at home. We are grateful to Canyon Coal for the opportunity they have given us and are committed to, in our own small way, help ensure workers are healthy by supplying them with good, wholesome meals."

Representing local government, City of Tshwane Economic Development Mining Specialist, Thabang Ntshinga commended Canyon Coal for its efforts in supporting local businesses and ensuring that local community members share in the benefits from the mine.

"This initiative undertaken by Canyon Coal should serve as an example to other mining companies on how to nurture and support local businesses and economic development in a manner that is mutually beneficial to the community and the company," she stated.

Menar Group Social Licensing Manager Xolile Mankayi explained that: "This enterprise development project aims to provide employees with convenient, affordable, healthy food onsite and empower local community members by supporting them with business development opportunities whenever possible."

He added that an important part of the mine's Social and Labour Plan is to ensure that workers are healthy and that business opportunities are given to local community members, and this initiative fulfils both those requirements.

Khanye Colliery General Manager Guy Thompson said: "The opening of the canteen is warmly welcomed by the 385 employees – including contractors of the mine. As the mine has at least 14 years remaining, we look forward to seeing the growth and development of the facility as Khanye continues along its growth path."

ARTISAN TRAINING AND PAGEANTRY, ALL IN A DAY'S WORK FOR MR MPUMALANGA

Middelburg-born Doctor Mahlangu (25) is an apprentice boilermaker at Phalannwa Colliery, in Delmas, Mpumalanga, who recently made it to the final round of the Mr Mpumalanga modelling and fashion competition.

Doctor started his career at Canyon Coal's Hakhano Colliery, in Middelburg, in 2018 before being transferred to the company's Phalannwa Colliery, in Delmas, in November 2019. He is currently working towards completing his 36-month Canyon Coal Apprentice Programme, which has been carefully developed to provide theoretical knowledge and provide Doctor with the opportunity to gain invaluable hands-on experience. Furthermore, he has been given the opportunity to participate in major repairs at the mine, under the strict supervision of qualified artisans.

He was scheduled to write his final boiler maker exams in July 2020, which may be postponed owing to the national lockdown, in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"I have learnt various aspects of boiler making including being able to demonstrate an understanding of a variety of engineering fabrication methods. This includes how to interpret structural and engineering drawings and be able to develop and lay out metal work pieces for fabrication," says Doctor, outlining some of the critical lessons he has learnt during his time as an apprentice at Canyon Coal.

Additionally, Doctor notes that he has learnt about producing complex metal components; using and maintaining engineering hand and power

tools – all while adhering to occupational health, safety and environmental requirements.

He says that an emphasis has been placed on being able to communicate with peers and members at different supervisory levels. "It is very important to be able to communicate clearly with others to allow for the effective and concise flow of communication to ensure the correct work is done right, the first time" states Doctor.

"I have been participating in fashion shows and pageants since I was in Grade 9. I enjoyed modelling and it became a passion of mine. Mr Mpumalanga 2020 was the first time that I formally participated in such a competition, as previously I only had participated in fashion shows," remarks Doctor.

He explains that Mr Mpumalanga is much more than just a fashion and beauty contest. "Mr Mpumalanga is a platform and tool to inspire men to be the best they can be, and mould them into becoming role models and agents of change within society."

Doctor points out that an important aspect of the contest is giving back to the communities by running charitable and educational projects, noting that he did this all at his own expense as he was unfortunately unable to secure a sponsor. This included buying school bags, school uniforms, sports equipment, giving motivational talks to young boys and playing sports with them.

"It was challenging balancing studies, work, running community projects and competing in the contest but I enjoyed every minute. I am grateful to Canyon Coal and my colleagues for voting for me throughout the competition," Doctor enthuses.



THE MAROON POST

CANYON COMBATS COVID-19

Canyon Coal, in full support of President Cyril Ramaphosa's declaration of the state of national disaster to mitigate the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19), scaled back its operations during the course of the initial 21-day lockdown and subsequent Level 5 and 4 stages.

Coal mines were provided with an exemption to operate at reduced capacity levels during this period.

"We support all efforts to enforce social distancing, including confining most people to their homes to prevent social and nonessential business activities from midnight on Thursday, March 26, until Thursday, April 16," said Canyon Coal Executive Chairperson Vuslat Bayoglu ahead of the initiation of the lockdown.

Pro-active Prevention Measures

Even before the lockdown was declared in South Africa on 26 March 2020, Canyon Coal's mines had put in place measures to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. This included procuring masks and sanitisers for staff, heightening hygiene practices by emphasising the need to wash

hands regularly and practicing social distancing.

Khanye Colliery General Manager Guy Thompson and Phalannwa Colliery General Manager Alan Mabbett have worked tirelessly to ensure that COVID-19 prevention and mitigation protocols and measures were put in place at the mines.

Sanitisers were placed at key areas across the mines, including offices, ablution facilities and general work areas. All staff, including contractors, have been given bottles which they can refill daily with sanitiser. Maintaining 2-meter physical distances between all employees, wherever possible, has been emphasised.

The number of people who attend face to face meetings have been limited and red tape markings have been placed on the floor and desks to ensure that staff do not sit or stand too close to one another. Social distancing markers have been placed throughout the mines to reinforce the need to maintain physical distancing among staff.

Staff have been instructed not to congregate in or around the change rooms and to limit the number of people who are in the change rooms at any one time. Cleaning of all change rooms, ablution facilities and offices has also become more frequent.

The mines have updated their standard operating procedures (SOPs) in accordance with the requirements laid out by the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) and the Department of Labour (DOL).

Providing staff with reliable and informative information about COVID-19 has been key to mitigating risks at the mines. Posters have been put up throughout the mines about ways to reduce the risks of contracting COVID-19 and symptoms that staff should be aware of, and seek immediate medical attention should they suspect they have the virus.

Canyon Coal has provided the taxi operators that transport workers to and from the mine every day with sanitising kits to make sure that their vehicles are clean and hygienic, the taxis are also sprayed down with disinfectants at the gate as well. Taxi operators have also been given strict instructions not to allow staff members onto the taxis without wearing masks.

Temperature measurements are taken again as staff arrive at the entrance gate every day to ensure that no one enters the premises with a high temperature. A sanitising booth has also been set up at the entrance to the mines for staff to walk through, which sprays non-harmful chemicals to adequately disinfect staff as they enter and exit the mines.

Quarantine Facilities

Anyone who is suspected of being COVID-19 positive and goes for a test is not allowed back onto the mine premises until such time as they have recovered.

Quarantine facilities have been established at the mines, to isolate employees who may show symptoms. In such an instance, they will be immediately isolated in the facility, away from other members of staff. The procedure is to be in contact with Dr Steve Goosen, who is the occupational health practitioner responsible for all Canyon Coal's mines. He will speak to the person affected telephonically and, based on his assessment, contact local health authorities to either collect the person to conduct a test, or to have them taken to a health facility for further treatment, quarantine or request that they self-isolate at home.



Compliance with Regulations

Khanye Colliery and Phalannwa Colliery have had COVID-19 compliance inspections from the DMRE and the Department of Health (DoH) to evaluate the measures that the mines have implemented to mitigate the risk of staff contracting COVID-19.

"These inspections were unannounced visits and evaluated all the measures that we put in place throughout the mine to protect our employees. We received positive feedback from the departments and will continue to prioritise our colleagues' health and safety," says Guy.

Alan adds: "We expect many more visits from the DMRE and DoH over the coming weeks and months. It is imperative that we maintain our standards and keep all staff members healthy. We also cannot afford to have any closures of the mines owing to cases being detected as this would be very detrimental to the company."

"The measures we have implemented at our mines are necessary to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge all our employees, partners and stakeholders, along with all South Africans to comply with all the rules and regulations issued by the South African National Coronavirus Command Council. This is in order to halt the spread of the pandemic and ensure that South Africans' health is preserved and avoid the loss of life," Vuslat concludes.

