

**BEE COLONY SUCCESSFULLY
RELOCATED FROM
SINGANI COLLIERY**

👉 Page 07

Singani Colliery

Muisvlakte Farm,
Tonteldoos, Mpumalanga

THE MAROON POST



EDITION 010 / JULY 2022



MINING RECORD 146 050 TONS

Phalannwa Extension which is located near Delmas, in Mpumalanga, has once again set a new mining record under the leadership of Kgotso Mongalo, who is the General Manager: Mining Operations responsible for Phalannwa Extension and Ukufisa collieries.

The mine achieved a new monthly mining record by mining 146 050 tons of run of mine (ROM) coal in May 2022, which is a significant increase from the previous record of 140 690 tons of ROM which was achieved in July 2021.

"Phalannwa Colliery Extension commenced mining in July 2019 and has consistently achieved excellent results. This has been attained by a combination of an experienced team, stellar teamwork and by receiving support from our engineering team, who ensure that equipment is well maintained, breakdowns are rapidly dealt with to allow for our machinery to run optimally," Kgotso highlights.

This production record has been achieved while maintaining Canyon Coal's strict health and safety regulations, which are inherently linked to the value of Safe Production Tonnages and the overall goal of achieving Zero Harm. ➡



FROM LAUNDRY TO WEIGHBRIDGE

"As women and youth, we must grab every opportunity that comes our way. I worked hard to create my own path in the mining industry and it is one that I believe more young people and women, in particular, should follow," states Lindiwe Khumalo (26), who was born and raised in Delmas and is Weighbridge Supervisor at Phalannwa Extension.

She started working at the mine as a laundry attendant with a company called Two Mosquitos in 2017. She then had a child and went on maternity leave. In early 2018, she returned to the mine.

"On my return, I had a conversation with the General Manager at the time and asked him if I could work at the mine. I told the GM that I wanted to work in the Weighbridge Department. He asked why there specifically? I explained that it was because I found the weighbridge area the most interesting. He spoke with the Weighbridge Manager and arranged training for me to see if I could handle working at the Weighbridge," Lindiwe recounts.

During her 6 months of training, she learned everything about how the weighbridge operates and what was required. Lindiwe learnt that a weighbridge operator is responsible for monitoring all trucks entering and exiting mine property, with and without coal. They need to ensure that the working area and equipment are kept clean and safe at all times and in a good working condition. It is also crucial that the operator provides accurate daily, monthly and yearly reports for management.

In February 2019, she was officially appointed as a Weighbridge Operator. Then in 2021, Lindiwe was appointed as an Acting Weighbridge Supervisor for around three months and was finally appointed as a Weighbridge Supervisor in November 2021.

In her new role, she oversees the Weighbridge Operators thereby ensuring the weighbridges are operating optimally, that the reports are accurate and that everything reconciles when they are sent to the head office.

"Because of the job I hold I have a car now. My house looks much better, I can fit my family into it. I can further my studies, I have savings," Lindiwe states. ➡

KINDNESS AND DEDICATION LEAD THE WAY FOR SYLVIA

👉 Page 04





Khethowakho Trading and Projects MD Selinah Motshabi with her staff outside the canteen

SELINAH SERVES UP DELECTABLE DELIGHTS AT PHALANNDWA

Whether it's at the start of the morning shift, lunchtime or prior to the evening shift, you will find employees and contractors enthusiastically lined up outside Phalannwa Colliery's Khethowakho canteen awaiting the many delightful meals and snacks the eatery has on offer.

Selinah Motshabi (46), a resident of the Botleng township near Delmas, who is the Managing Director of Khethowakho Trading and Projects (KTP) says, "Since the inception of the canteen in March 2021, we have strived for excellence by providing staff at the mine with good quality meals that are affordable and in reasonably sized portions. We are making happy customers by providing them with quality meals, which is not simple as we produce over 690 meals a month on average," she states.

Selinah is extremely proud that in the space of just over a

year she has been able to create four permanent jobs for local community members. "Creating sustainable employment for our employees and therefore ploughing back into the community is very important for our company," she emphasises.

Canyon Coal inaugurated the canteen which is operated by the women-owned catering company, KTP, at its Phalannwa Colliery in Delmas, Mpumalanga in March 2021. KTP was among 98 companies that responded to the mine's advertisement to bid for the opportunity. Canyon Coal provided the fully equipped canteen facility comprising a fully containerised kitchen with appliances.

The canteen serves scrumptious meals throughout the week. KTP strives to ensure that it always has adequate healthy meal alternatives for its customers. Selinah explains that one of the reasons for achieving success to date has been the company's versatility and ability to offer fresh and affordable meals to the mine's employees. "We utilise the feedback from our customers

to tailor our meals according to what they need while ensuring we consistently provide good quality, value for money meals," Selinah highlights.

Phalannwa 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 allows for staff members to access healthy, affordable meals easily.

Selinah says that even with the commencement of COVID-19 and the higher running costs owing to the restrictions that were in place, the canteen has shown tremendous improvements in profitability. "Keeping this in mind, 2022 looks very promising and we aim for it to be another profitable year. We are very grateful to our loyal customers and for all the support we have received and continue to receive from Canyon Coal," she states.

Canyon Coal is very pleased that this enterprise development initiative has achieved this level of success over a short period of time. Selinah and her team started this business during a challenging period owing to COVID-19 related restrictions, nonetheless, they have done a stellar job and Canyon Coal is committed to ensuring the company's continued success at Phalannwa.

COO MESSAGE

The first half of 2022 has been challenging, both locally and on a global level. In April, several days of torrential rain across KwaZulu-Natal resulted in deadly floods. Over 400 people died across the province and with many still unaccounted for and a multitude of homes damaged or completely destroyed by the floods. Critical infrastructure such as roads, railway lines, communication and electrical systems were also badly damaged by the flooding. It is estimated that this event caused more than R17 billion in infrastructure damage.

The ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe had a devastating impact on civilian communities and the global economic ripple effects are being felt far and wide, including record high petrol and diesel prices. All of which are directly impacting the cost of living worldwide.

European countries are now seeking reliable and affordable alternatives to Russian coal and gas as a result of sanctions. This has resulted in a noticeable increase in demand for South African coal. The search for reliable energy sources, such as coal



could provide long-term opportunities for the South African coal mining sector if local logistical and regulatory challenges can be overcome.

South Africa has a world-class infrastructure. However, Transnet Freight Rail is experiencing severe challenges in consistently transporting coal to, amongst others, Richards Bay Coal Terminal (RBCT) in KwaZulu-Natal. We remain positive, nonetheless. Proposals by government to allow third-party, private partners to operate sections of the rail network may be a first step in the right direction. Access for third parties to the railway network is precisely what industry partners have been seeking for years.

We are experiencing delays with the awarding of the water-use license (WUL) for Bekezela Colliery which will see us invest around R1.5-billion to develop the project and create more than 320 direct and many more indirect employment opportunities. This investment and jobs are desperately needed to reinvigorate the South African economy. Once the WUL has been awarded the mine will be developed and brought into production rapidly.

Improving operational efficiencies is key to the successes we have achieved over the years as Canyon Coal. As you will read in this edition of The Maroon Post, we are currently upgrading the wash plant at Khanye Colliery as part of our efforts to maintain our target production of 2.4 million tons a year. One of the upgrades is to the filter press which is currently discharging on a single conveyor belt. With the alterations, each filter press will discharge onto its own dedicated conveyor belt, allowing for independent operations and improved efficiency.

Meanwhile, at Phalannwa Extension we achieved a new monthly mining record by mining 146 050 tons of run of mine in May 2022. It is heartening to see our mining teams achieving these production figures while maintaining impeccable health and safety statistics. The goals of achieving optimal production and the goal of zero harm are equally important to us.



MAKING IT IN MALE DOMINATED INDUSTRY

The hauling of coal from the mine to the nearby coal sidings in order for the product to be delivered to the Richards Bay Coal Terminal (RBCT), the Multipurpose Terminal (MPT) or the RBT Grindrod Terminal, in Richards Bay, KwaZulu-Natal, is a key element of the mining logistics process.

On average, Canyon Coal spends over R7 million a month with several local, black-women owned coal haulage suppliers which include; QQS Engineers and Associates Consulting, Royal Pros Services, Siyagqina Trading Services, Netshipise Business Solutions and Mrholozi Group. This is in line with the company's commitment, to go beyond the transformation guidelines set out for the mining sector, with a strong focus on the development and empowerment of black women-owned businesses as well as youth-owned businesses.

The Maroon Post spoke with two of the women running these coal haulage companies.

Women in the transport business

QQS and Associates Consulting Engineers was established in 2008 by Lerato Mahlangu, who is the company's Managing Director. Lerato explains that the idea to establish QQS Engineers was borne out of the realisation that she lived near mines, and

after much research, she discovered that there weren't a lot of black, women-owned companies in the industry. "I had already owned a couple of trucks which were being used to transport goods around Gauteng so it was a natural progression to diversify into coal transportation," she explains.

QQS has been transporting coal at Canyon Coal's Khanye Colliery since February 2021. Lerato points out how companies such as Canyon Coal are playing an important role in closing gaps between local companies and bigger transportation companies by integrating them into Canyon Coal's supplier network.

Joyce Maite Nkosi resides in Cultura Park, Bronkhorstspruit, and is a Director at Royal Pros Services. The company has been transporting coal from Khanye Colliery to the nearby Bronkhorstspruit siding since March 2020.

Joyce, who holds a BSc in Water and Sanitation Services from the University of Limpopo, joined the commodity transportation sector in September 2019. "Royal Pros Services was established in 2018 by my husband Mxolisi Nkosi and myself. Our company currently has one, 34-ton side tipper truck, which is in use at Khanye Colliery," she notes. Joyce says she plans to grow the company and add more trucks. "With the opportunity given to our company by Canyon Coal our goal will definitely be accomplished," she asserts.

Making it in a male-dominated industry

"Generally speaking, it's very hard to get into the mining industry, regardless of one's gender, due to the requirements they have in place. The growth of women is important to teach the youth not to restrict themselves and to remove the stigma around women working certain jobs or following certain careers," Lerato says. However, her goal is to one day own a fleet of at least 20 trucks that will operate not only in the coal transportation sector but in other sectors as well.

Joyce concurs with Lerato that it is very difficult to get into the industry, as a startup company, for several reasons. "It is impossible to get finance from the bank and when you finally manage to get a truck, it can be even more difficult to get a contract with the mines. The coal haulage sector is mainly dominated by men, and women are often overlooked. However, I believe that women can provide the same standard of service as men and bring balance to the sector," states Joyce.

In conclusion, both women state that they aspire to be the best transporters in the commodity transportation sector and hope to grow their companies and thereby create more opportunities for other women. ➤

BECOMING A BOILERMAKER: TSHEPO ATTAINS DREAM

"I've always had an interest in steel works. Questions like how does somebody get to shape steel? How does one triangulate a plate or how hot does the flame need to be to cut through metal? Have always fascinated me. I enjoy working with metal by welding and cutting it," explains Phalannwa Extension Boilermaker Assistant Tshepo Stanley Maredi (36).

He started working at Canyon Coal in 2017 as an artisan assistant and in 2019, he completed his basic and advanced boiler making courses. Owing to COVID-19 restrictions at the time, his 9 months of in-service training at Colliery Training College (CTC) was delayed for two years. He was finally able to complete his practical training in April 2022, along with his trade test through boiler making. He is now a qualified boilermaker.

He spends most of his time in the mine's workshop maintaining and repairing the yellow machines. The mine uses both tungsten inert gas (TIG) and metal inert gas (MIG) welding techniques. However, it was stick welding that piqued Tshepo's interest in welding, as this domestic method of welding is the most economical method of welding and offers the ability to form effective joints.

"My passion for welding is what motivated me to want to become a boilermaker one day. I was later exposed to MIG, and oxy-acetylene welding techniques. I'm proud to say that I'm well equipped for this career path because of all the knowledge I have gained. Canyon Coal has played a huge part in this, as it provided me with an internship to cover my tuition and sent me to CTC where I was able to gain in-depth training and accreditation," Tshepo stated.

Advice for Youth

Tshepo believes that becoming a boilermaker is an interesting career choice. He says that seeing the end-product is always rewarding, as you can sit back and look at the beauty of the steel, the beauty of how the metals come to join together with the welding. "If it's done correctly, it should last a long time, which is something to be proud of. In life, if you want to do something monumental, something that is going to resemble a monument of sorts to your hard work, boilermaking is definitely a career path worth considering," states Tshepo. ➤



Phalannwa Extension Boilermaker Assistant
Tshepo Stanley Maredi

2022 PHALANNDWA ROADSHOW DRAWS INTEREST OF LOCAL BUSINESSES



KHANYE AIMS TO MAINTAIN THE 2.4 MILLION TONS TARGET IN 2022

This year is set to be another stellar year for Khanye Colliery with the mine aiming to beat the record of over 2.38 million tons mined in 2021. The team at Khanye Colliery is aiming to achieve and exceed the ultimate target of mining 2.4 million tons of run of mine by the end of 2022.

Khanye Colliery is an opencast mine located in Bronkhorstspuit, Gauteng. The mine has a remaining life of mine of 7 years. Mining commenced at the mine in January 2018 and it produces on average 200 000 tons a month of run of mine coal and boasts a 400 ton per hour Larcodem plant for beneficiation. This plant is equipped with a filter press, which mechanically dewateres the ultrafine coal material using special filter mediums to exert pressure on the coal material, which separates the filter cake from the clean water. The water attained from the fine coal is reused in the plant.

Plant Upgrades

In 2021 the plant processed around 2.15 million tons of coal, however, the plant's operators are seeking to ensure it reaches its target of 2.4 million tons this year. Upgrades are underway at the plant. One of the upgrades is to the filter press which is currently discharging on a single conveyor belt. With the alterations, each filter press will discharge onto its own dedicated conveyor belt, allowing for independent operations and improved efficiency. These presses allow for the recycling of 30% to 40% of water contained in the fine coal, resulting in a considerable reduction in the total water use in the processing plant.

Another upgrade which is underway will allow the plant to produce a single 0 – 50mm product while maintaining the optionality to produce sized products should the demand arise. Additionally, the plant's drain and rinse screen and ancillary infrastructure will be upgraded as part of the process. These upgrades will increase throughput volumes, boost efficiencies and simplify the operation of the plant. All these upgrades are scheduled to be completed by the end of July.

"This year we aim to achieve the target of 2.4 million tons mined and processed at Khanye Colliery," states Khanye Colliery Mine Manager Jaco Schroeder.

Canyon Coal hosted a Procurement Roadshow for Phalannwa Colliery at the Delmas Development Centre on 1 June 2022, as part of its ongoing efforts to support host communities by procuring goods and services from local companies.

The Phalannwa roadshow sought to build on the mine's existing local vendor database. This is the second roadshow that we have run for Phalannwa Colliery. These events assist our buyers in having a better understanding of what the local businesses have to offer.

The roadshow aimed 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 Offerings Outlines and Contact Details.

46 companies submitted their business profiles on the day. Of these 46 profiles received, some of the submissions are from companies which do not fall within the areas of Phalannwa's operation. Nevertheless, these profiles were captured on a separate database for future projects.

VIDEO CLIP: Hear from some of the local business people who submitted their profiles at the Phalannwa Roadshow. They discuss their experience of attending the roadshow and outline their expectations. To view the video clip of this event, **scan the QR code:**



KINDNESS AND DEDICATION LEAD THE WAY FOR SYLVIA



Prior to working for Canyon Coal, Sylvia Dube was employed in 2014 by a contractor to Phalannwa Colliery as a cleaner. She was then promoted to the position of Breakdown Clerk in the control room. However, in 2015, the human resources team at Canyon Coal put forward Sylvia's name for the position of Site Administrator, when a vacancy arose, as they saw that she had an impressive work ethic and would be ideal for the position.

"At the time, I had no idea what the position entailed, nor did I have the relevant qualifications. But I was mentored and learnt what to do through practical on the job training. I then decided that I needed to learn the theory so I registered myself to do a course on administration through IQ Academy," Sylvia explains.

Her role entails recording the mining production which includes monitoring machine-hours, time and attendance of employees and capturing the time sheets. Checking that the mining machines are operating correctly and the number of loads to and from the pit to the stockpile area is done correctly. Additionally, ensuring



Khanye Colliery Electrician Margareth Oarabile Mbonani

CHILDHOOD DREAM COMES TRUE WITH APPOINTMENT OF FIRST WOMAN ELECTRICIAN

For as long as Oarabile can remember, she was always interested in all things related to electricity. Growing up in the Ekangala community in Bronkhorstspuit, she always dreamed of becoming an electrician. Sitting in science classes learning about how electricity was just the flow of electrons through a conductor was where her journey formally started. Fast-forwarding to May 2022, Oarabile achieved a major career milestone when she was appointed as the first woman electrician at Khanye Colliery.

Margareth Oarabile Mbonani (25) has been working at Khanye Colliery since April 2019. She was previously serving as an Electrical Apprentice. "Considering how strongly male-dominated the sector is, it is a significant achievement to be appointed as a woman-electrician at a mine. As a local woman, I hope this will inspire many young girls in my community and beyond to follow my path, as being an electrician is a very respectable career path," she highlights.

Oarabile completed her artisan trade test in December 2021

to become a qualified artisan and electrician. Canyon Coal as part of her apprenticeship sponsored her studies including her three-trimester blocks of training at the Colliery Training College (CTC), in Emalaheni, in Mpumalanga. Oarabile did her Electrical Engineering National Diploma (N1 – N6) at Tshwane North TVET College. Prior to this in high school, she studied technical subjects, which was very advantageous when she went to college.

Oarabile can be found servicing and repairing electrical components and systems throughout the mine site, such as the plant and workshops, as well as at the workshop located near the Bronkhorstspuit Siding.

The most exciting part of the job for Oarabile is getting to work on a new project afresh. "Just knowing that this is where you started, people can have a reference from you. For instance, if I started a project and people were to come to me and say, 'we're looking for a certain component or where is the source coming from. I'd be able to tell them how I connected it from that point

to that point.' It becomes a situation where people now make you the point of reference. This certainly gives others, a new level of respect for the work I do," she states.

She is especially thankful to Engineering Foreman Brian Gwaze and Millwright Gugu Mahlangu for their mentorship and guidance during her apprenticeship and now as an employee, all of which is done under the leadership of the Mine Engineering Manager Tshepo Mokwele.

Oarabile reiterates that her ultimate goal is to attain her Government Certificate of Competency (GCC) and become an Electrical Engineer and always be able to encourage other women in the field to reach for their dreams and achieve the highest levels of excellence.

"I do not want to be known as the best woman electrician but rather as the best electrician overall. This is the next goal that I'm striving to achieve," Oarabile asserts.

workers time and attendance sheets are correct is crucial to ensuring that mine staff's salaries are correct every month.

Equal Treatment for All

In the 7 years that Sylvia has been working at Phalanndwa, as a contractor and later as a full-time employee, she has received considerable support and guidance from her male colleagues. "Here at Phalanndwa, everyone is treated equally. In this environment, it's easy to work with the men as they respect their women colleagues," she points out.

Sylvia says she never in her wildest dreams thought she would progress as far as she has. "I honestly thought when I started working here that I would work as a cleaner for the rest of my life. Little did I know that if I worked hard this would be recognised by my managers. There were also times when I was struggling with the responsibilities of this job and I seriously thought about quitting, but my managers kept encouraging me and I now really

enjoy what I do," she enthuses.

When Sylvia started at Phalanndwa she didn't know how to even start a computer. "I had to ask my colleagues about which button to press to turn it on. All I knew when I arrived here was how to clean very well because that's what I did at home. I went to school and completed matric, but I didn't know about computers. There was a young woman working at Phalanndwa at the time, she took me under her wing and mentored me, she showed me how to use a computer, how to send emails and use Microsoft Office programmes. The young woman was at the time a learner engineer and was technically my junior, but she still took the time and effort to mentor me," Sylvia recounts.

Today, Sylvia repays the kindness and support she was shown by assisting new employees, learners and interns at the mine. "We all can use some guidance and support as even the smallest action can help people gain valuable skills and knowledge, which can become the building blocks for the rest of their careers," she states.

WE ALL CAN USE SOME GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT AS EVEN THE SMALLEST ACTION CAN HELP PEOPLE GAIN VALUABLE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE, WHICH CAN BECOME THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR THE REST OF THEIR CAREERS.

SYLVIA DUBE - SITE ADMINISTRATOR AT PHALANNDWA COLLIERY



Energrade CEO Khomotso Madiba



Vula Oil Chairman Khanya Solani



DIESEL ENTREPRENEURS MARK NEW CHAPTER FOR CANYON COAL

In a historic move Canyon Coal has appointed two 100% black-youth-owned companies, Vula Oil and Energrade to supply its mines with diesel in an effort to further integrate black-owned businesses into the company's operations across the mining value chain.

Company Backgrounds

Energrade was founded in 2017 and is a 100% black youth and women-owned company. The founders were (and possibly still are) the youngest holders of a wholesale petroleum license in South Africa. Energrade COO Lethabo Nkoana (25) and Energrade CEO Khomotso Madiba (26) obtained the license when they were aged 21 and 22, respectively. Khomotso explains that she met Lethabo at university and he joined her in making her dream and passion of developing a business in the oil and gas industry.

Vula Oil Chairman Khanya Solani (41), who is a qualified chartered accountant, says that the company was established in 2013 and is a BBEE Level 1 company that was founded by young South African entrepreneurs. In addition to Khanya, the company's management includes CEO Magcinaviwe 'Mike' Tyulu, Operations Director Vuyani Chavunduka, Data Scientist Tadia Siwisa and Sales and Marketing Director Monwabisi Va. "Vula Oil has a wide range of customers from state-owned entities to the taxi industry, to the mining industry, fast-moving consumable goods (FMCG) customers and facilities management companies. Our customer base is therefore predominantly commercial and retail customers with some business done with wholesale customers," explains Khanya.

Building Partnerships

"It's very important to acknowledge that Canyon Coal, which is a subsidiary of investment company Menar, strongly believes in the upliftment of small businesses and recognises the importance that a small business plays in the economy," Khomotso points out.

Khomotso is grateful to Menar Managing Director Vuslat Bayoglu for advocating that small, black-owned companies be integrated into the company's mining value chain. "Vuslat is the epitome



of an exceptional leader and one that advocates for large organisations to give smaller businesses opportunities in order to make the vital and necessary changes to shift the economy in the right direction," she emphasises.

She says that the one word that captures her company's relationship with Canyon Coal is "Growth". Khomotso says that coming from a background of having sporadic sales, where a pandemic almost forced the company to shut its doors, their partnership with Canyon Coal has provided Energrade with a steady stream of work, which has brought stability to the organisation. "We believe that the belief Canyon Coal has shown in us will communicate to the market that, we are a trustworthy supplier that is worthy to work with large organisations and this will do nothing but unlock more opportunity for growth for us," she enthuses.

Echoing Khomotso's sentiments, Khanya highlights that Vula Oil's relationship to supply diesel to Canyon Coal presents it with a huge opportunity to demonstrate the company's capabilities to other potential business-to-business customers and suppliers.

Vula Oil would like to thank the leadership of Canyon Coal in taking a leap of faith and trusting the company with such an important component of its operations. The awarding of these contracts underscores Canyon Coal's commitment to increasing the number of black-, women-, and youth-owned businesses which supply the company's operations with goods and/or services. Canyon Coal has created a supportive and collaborative culture to nurture and ultimately grow these businesses.



EVERY SMALL DETAIL MATTERS FOR THANDI

Accuracy is everything at the weighbridge as trucks need to be weighed on entering and exiting the area while they are collecting their loads. Operators need to check many things, such as the order number, names, the ID number and that an authorised person is collecting the correct product and amount thereof.

"These are the most important things to consider, because everything is interrelated, and everything works hand in hand. All data needs to be compiled and fed into the system," says Phalannwa Extension Weighbridge Operator Thandi Zulu (30).

Thandi grew up in Delmas and started her career at Canyon Coal in 2019 as a cleaner. In December 2021, she was appointed to her current position as a Weighbridge Operator when a vacancy arose.

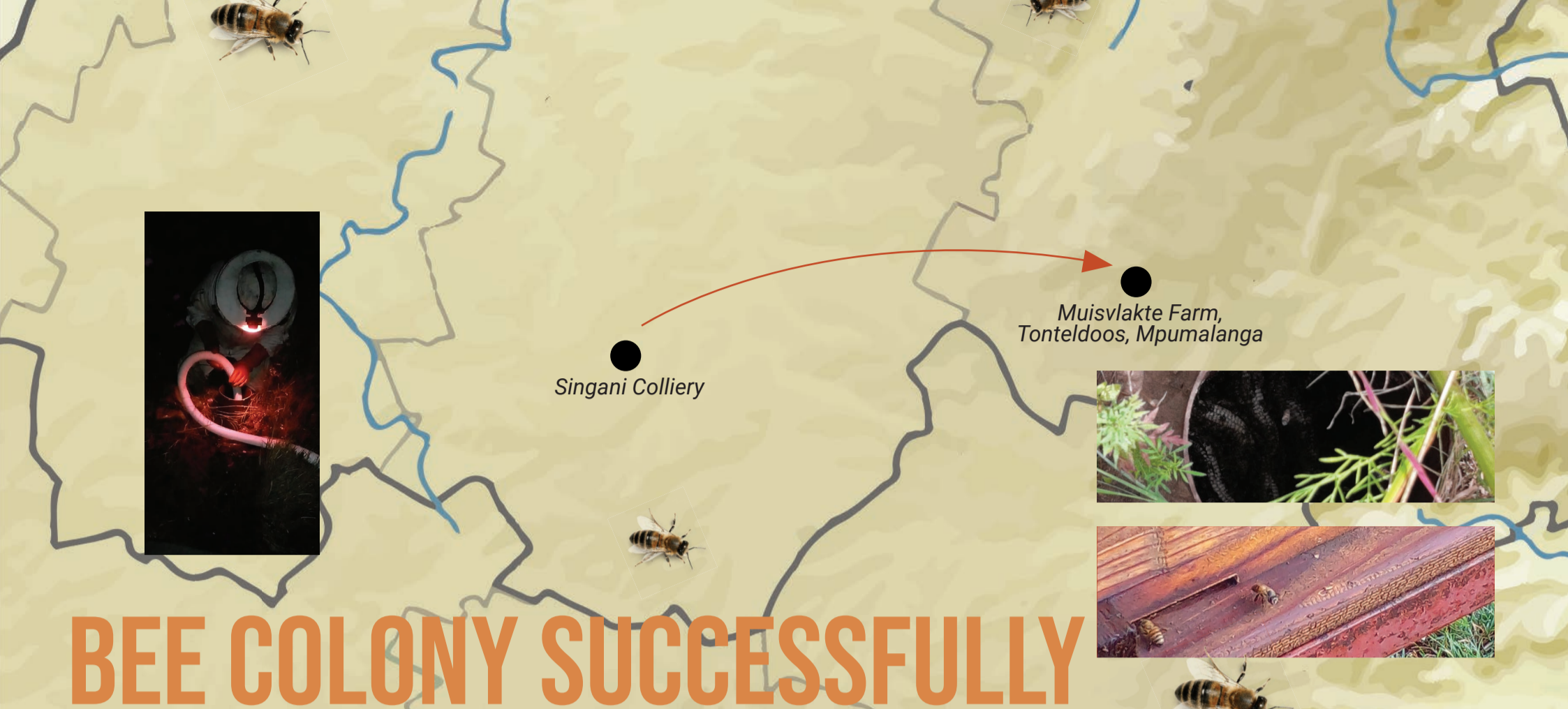
"It was difficult initially transitioning to the weighbridge as there are lots of things that need to be done rapidly, otherwise

the trucks pile up and these delays cost us and our customers money," she highlights.

Women of the Weighbridges

Thandi encourages women to take an interest in the mining sector as it is a fascinating industry that is alive with a multitude of opportunities. "The weighbridges are ideal places for women to work, as we are often driven and detail orientated which is very advantageous for the requirements. My supervisor is a woman and she inspires and encourages me every day to do my best," she points out.

Thandi notes that because of the recognition she received, it was possible for her to develop from a cleaner to where she is now. "I look forward to continuous growth and learning about the weighbridge and all other aspects of mines," Thandi says.



Singani Colliery

Muisvlakte Farm,
Tonteldoos, Mpumalanga



BEE COLONY SUCCESSFULLY RELOCATED FROM SINGANI COLLIERY

As pollinators, bees are integral to all aspects of the ecosystem. They support the growth of flowers, nuts, berries, seeds and fruit trees, which serve as food and habitat for creatures large and small. Bees contribute to complex, interconnected ecosystems that allow a diverse number of different species to co-exist.

“Bee populations continue to decline, and this will cause the production of food crops to decrease, as bee pollination is necessary for several important crops. Humanity needs to work together in saving bees, not only for their honey, but for the undeniable vital role they play in our lives and for planet earth,” states Canyon Coal Compliance Officer Arjen Nell.

At the former opencast Singani Colliery located 30 km from Middelburg, which is currently in the final stages of being rehabilitated, a large beehive was discovered in one of its boreholes. The obstruction of the borehole by the bee colony and their honeycombs prevented groundwater monitoring to continue uninterrupted and posed a significant health and safety risk which is why Canyon Coal appointed specialist bee removal company Better Buzz to safely remove the bee colony and relocate them to a more appropriate location.

Better Buzz Owner Thinus Barnard, who is a second-generation beekeeper, has been removing and relocating bees since 2012. Thinus says he has safely relocated many bee colonies to date. “The bees were relocated to our farm, Muisvlakte, which is located in Tonteldoos, in Mpumalanga. It is about 70 km from Singani,” explained Thinus. He reports that the relocated bee colony is doing well and is growing in numbers daily.



Relocation Process

Removal and relocation of the bees were done in one night, on 4 May 2022, with the removal process starting at sundown. “The removal of the bees from the borehole at Singani took about 3 hours. The bees were put in a beehive directly after removal and transported to their new home at Muisvlakte. In any bee colony, there are on average between 30 000 to 80 000 bees,” Thinus states.

He explains that bee removals are generally done in the evening, especially with settled colonies. Generally, during the day most of the bees in the colony are out foraging, hence it does not make sense to try and remove the swarm during the day. Additionally,

Thinus notes that it is potentially dangerous to do so as bees are very protective of their home and may become aggressive. “Bee removers who remove swarms during the day, other than migratory swarms, usually do so without doing what is best for the bees and will most likely destroy the hive, as the bees will not be able to resettle and their infrastructure as a working family may be irreversibly disturbed,” he points out. Removing the bees in the cool of the evening when it is possible to calm them and move them into a catch box for later relocation into a new beehive is the best practice for bee removal and relocation.

Thinus notes that one of the tools a beekeeper should have is a bee vacuum. This is a specialised piece of equipment that ensures the safe and effective removal of a bee colony without harming them. The bees are sucked up into the Bee Vacuum box and are then ready to be transferred into a brood box or swarm catch box, once the beekeeper returns to the apiary.

Arjen adds that the successful removal and relocation of the bee colony from Singani was done without unnecessarily killing any bees. “This is in line with Canyon Coal’s mission to protect and preserve the natural environments in which it operates,” he concludes.

YOUNG MAN CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE NEW CAREER MILESTONES



Jabulani Bridge Jiyane (26) has achieved consistent career growth during the course of his career at Canyon Coal. Jabulani was appointed to the position of Khanye Colliery Explosives Coordinator in September 2021.

Canyon Coal steadfastly supports young people’s involvement in the mining sector as this not only benefits mines, but also aids in reducing youth unemployment. Canyon Coal is committed to upskilling the youth so that they can contribute positively towards economic growth in South Africa.

Jabulani is responsible for monitoring the whole blasting process from the drilling to blasting, ensuring that the use of the explosives is done correctly and that the correct controls are in place. This includes making sure the correct type and number of explosives are ordered.

He started his career at Canyon Coal, in 2015 as a general worker at Phalanndwa Colliery in Delmas at that time he was cleaning offices, sign boards and cars at the mine. In a few weeks, he was promoted to work in the mine’s blasting crew and worked as blasting assistant.

Jabulani worked as a blasting assistant for a year during which time 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 then again sponsored by the company to complete his rock breaking studies at Colliery Training College (CTC). After completing his training at CTC, he worked with mine supervisors and foremen as an assistant. He was then appointed as a Blasting Team Leader at Phalanndwa. In July 2020, he was transferred to

Khanye Colliery and appointed as a Blaster, a position he held until he was appointed as an Explosives Coordinator.

Breaking New Ground

Jabulani says that the transition from Blaster to Explosives Coordinator has been seamless. “I’m enjoying as I continue to gain experience, and I’m still looking forward to growing further. There have been challenges, especially with regards to the added pressure of now having to make sure the Department of Mineral Resources and Environment (DMRE) Inspectors are satisfied with how blasts are being carried out. But I believe it’s just a matter of abiding by the rules and always complying with the Mine Health and Safety Standards. This way you can never go wrong. Working together with the team helps a lot. It has been a great experience and I am very grateful that Canyon Coal didn’t go out and look for somebody else, instead they nurtured and supported me as a young man.”

Jabulani notes that he takes a very hands-on approach with his team. “We’ve gelled well together. If there is something that one overlooks, another member of the team picks it up immediately,” he highlights.

Jabulani works closely with the blasting team members in order to train them to become blasters one day. “I want to give them the exposure and knowledge that comes with becoming a blaster. This means they need to understand their blasting duties from point A to Z, as I believe it is important to mentor people and develop our colleagues so that the company can broaden its talent pool.”

VISIBLE FELT LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME PROMOTES MINE SAFETY

Menar's Group Chief of Safety Johan Immelman points out that the mine's Visible Felt Leadership (VFL) programme and regular Health and Safety campaigns have been instrumental in ensuring the mines have an excellent safety record as part of its aim to achieve the goal of zero harm. "Encouraging the team to identify hazards and come up with ways to address these potential hazards is very empowering. This encourages employees to take charge of their well-being and identify what is important to them," states Johan.

Mine managers have requested the VFLs and then assigned managers from different departments to go to other departments, to identify hazards. He explains that another fresh pair of eyes is always helpful in identifying issues, as at times people can become complacent. "Constructive criticism is important to build better structures. It's not the compliments, but the critiques that lead to overall improvements. This encourages people to want to do better. The management teams at Canyon Coal's operations have been doing VFL consistently which has helped identify and eliminate many risks," Johan notes.

"We noticed that the Safety Health and Environment (SHE) have in fact been reinvigorated by the VFLs. They are actively seeking ways to improve health and safety standards. Leading from the front is important to ensuring safe work practices are carried out. Everything we do is centred around ensuring we achieve the goal of zero harm and that all mine employees return home safe and healthy every day," he concludes.



THE MAROON POST

INTERNSHIP AIDS YOUNG ASPIRING ENGINEERS' CAREER GOALS

Electrical Engineering Intern Nhlanhla Jacob Sibiya (28), Electrical Engineering Intern Tiyani Prudence Hlungwane (31) and Mechanical Engineering Intern Zwivhuya Phathela (31) completed their internships at Khanye Colliery in Bronkhorstspuit, Gauteng in June 2022.



NHLANHLA JACOB SIBIYA



TIYANI PRUDENCE HLUNGWANE



ZWIVHUYA PHATHELA

Nhlanhla is from the village of Sokhulumi, in Bronkhorstspuit. He studied Electrical Engineering at the Tshwane University of Technology with a focus on high voltage and heavy current. He ultimately plans to attain his Government Certificate of Competency (GCC) to become a qualified engineer. "I have 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 as well as how the mine utilizes electricity and the kind of voltage we are getting from Eskom. I also learnt the importance of having backup power to continue running production during load shedding."

Tiyani who holds a B-Tech in Electrical Engineering is from Zithobeni, near Bronkhorstspuit. She has acquired a substantial amount of knowledge during her internship, including being introduced to a mine's processing plant where the coal beneficiation process is carried out. "Hence, I've learned all the processes at the plant, including how and why the coal is washed, how the equipment operates, maintenance strategies, the importance of condition motor monitoring, how the pumps work and the different types of pumps that are used at the plant."

Zithobeni local, Zwivhuya holds a B-Tech in Mechanical Engineering, which she completed in 2019. 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," says Zwivhuya. She has also learned 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).

VIDEO CLIP:

Nhlanhla Jacob Sibiya, Tiyani Prudence Hlungwane and Zwivhuya Phathela, who all recently completed their internships at Khanye discuss their internship experience. **Scan the QR code** to hear what they had to say about their internships at Khanye Colliery.

