

# Zikhiphani eZAC

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CARING COLLIERY / IMAYINI ENAKEKELAYO



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MNGENI READY FOR  
PRODUCTION PUSH  
UMNGENI UMI NGOMUMO  
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SIHLE GETS PROMOTED FROM ISSUING  
CLERK TO MAGAZINE MASTER  
USIHLE OBENGUMABHALANE UKHUSHULELWE EKUBENI  
NGUMLONDOLOZI WENQOLOBANE YEZIQHUMANE



CLEAN WATER FLOWS FOR  
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DETERMINED LEARNER FINDS  
BREAKTHROUGH AT ZAC  
UMFUNDI OPHOKOPHELAYO  
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FOR KNOWLEDGE  
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## GM'S MESSAGE


ZAC GM-Wiets Beukes

Crafting a better future for our people continues to be a hallmark of our work at ZAC. In recent months we witnessed some of our colleagues become elevated by obtaining more qualifications, getting promoted and receiving accolades for their great work. We celebrated three ZAC Proto members who were awarded for long service by the Mine Rescue Services South Africa.

One of our engineers, Kwanele Buthelezi, passed his Mines and Works Government Competency Certificate (GCC) examination. And Sihle Mduduzi Mkhize became a fully qualified Magazine Master. These individual accomplishments encourage us to keep pursuing the goals we have set for ourselves as a team. They also reflect ZAC's position as a hub of professional and career development. Mining operations remained stable throughout 2023 and we experienced progress as the revived Maye B Shaft started with production.

The construction of Mngeni reached advanced stages setting the pace for us to begin production at the shaft in the new year. Mngeni's anticipated annual production rate of between 120 000 tonnes and 150 000 tonnes will ramp up overall production. The siding permit was successfully renewed to ensure a seamless continuation of operations.

The health and safety team delivered a successful critical season campaign with the slogan, Think Safe, Work Safe and Be Safe! We will not lose sight of the ultimate commitment to support industry's Zero Harm objective.

Our social initiatives yielded good outcomes, aligning with our dedication to support ZAC's host communities. We completed the Elomo Primary School toilets and handed the project over to the community. From now on, learners and teachers at Elomo will have access to dignified facilities. Water infrastructure projects including boreholes, Jojo tanks, communal taps and a livestock dam were also handed over to three Nongoma communities. Through the support of our partners, ZAC Golf Day initiative raised a record R400 000 for social projects. The Mvalo Secondary School now has access to laptops provided by ZAC and its partners. These are some of the ways in which we have been able to bring value to our communities through a combination of Social and Labour Plan and Corporate Social Investment initiatives. 



## UMYALEZO WOMPHATHI-JIKELELE

UWiets Beukes uwuMphathi-Jikelele we-ZAC

Ukwakhela abantu bakithi ikusasa eliqhakazile yinto eqhubekayo nokubamqoka emsebenzini wethu eZAC. Kulezi zinyanga ezimbalwa sibone abanye abalingani bethu bephakama ngokuthola iziqu ezintsha, bakhushulelwa ezikhundleni futhi banconywa ngomsebenzi omuhle abawenzayo.

Sibungaze abasebenzi abathathu be-ZAC Proto abaklonyeliswe yi-Mine Rescue Services South Africa ngokuba neminyaka eminingi besebenza. Omunye wonjiniyela bethu, uKwanele Buthelezi uphase izivivinyo ze-Mines and Works Government Competency Certificate (iGCC). uSihle Mduduzi Mkhize usenguMlondolozisi weNqolobane Yeziqhumane ngokugcwele.


Impumelelo yabo isigqugquzela ukuthi siqhubeke nokuphokophela izifiso esizibekela zona njengethimba.

Batshengisa nokuthi siyi-ZAC siyindawo ethuthukisa abantu emsebenzini wabo. Izimayini ziqhubekile nokuzinza ngo-2023 futhi inkulu inqubekelaphambili esiyenzile njengoba sivuselele nomgodu uMaye B osuqale phansi ukukhiqiza. Kuqhubekile ukwakhiwa koMngeni wafinyelela lapho sesingalungiselela khona ukuqala umkhiqizo ngonyaka omusha. Kulindeleke ukuthi uMngeni ukhiqize umthamo ophakathi kwamathani angu-120 000 nangu-150 000 ngonyaka uma ususebenza ngokuphelele.

Ivuselelwe nemvume yokuthi sifake udonga lokuvikela ukuqikelela ukusebenza kahle.

Ithimba elibhekelela ezempilo nokuphepha libe nomkhankaso oyimpumelelo obunesiqubulo ebeseithi "Cabanga ukuphepha, Sebenza uphephile futhi Phepha!" Ngeke sikhohlwe ukuthi sizibophezele ekwesekeni injongo yemboni yokuthi kugcine kungalimalanga muntu nhlobo.

Nezinhlelo zethu zenhlalakahle zithele izithelo okuhambisana nokuzinikela kwethu ekwesekeni imiphakathi i-ZAC esebenzela kuyo. Siqedile ukwakha izindlu zokuzikhulula zesikole i-Elomo Primary futhi sazinikela emphakathini. Kusukela manje, abafundi nothisha base-Elomo sebezosebenzisa izindlu zokuzikhulula ezinesithunzi.

Imisebenzi yengqalasizinda yamanzi efaka amapitsi, amathangi oJojo, ompompi bomphakathi nedamu lemfuyo inikeliwe emaphakathini emithathu yaKwaNongoma. Ngokusebenzisana nabasesekayo, i-ZAC Golf Day ingenise uR400 000 ukweseka imisebenzi yenhlalakahle. Isikole iMvalo Secondary isinama-laptop athengwe yiZAC nesebenzisana nabo. Lezi ngezinye zezindlela esisiza ngayo imiphakathi yethu sisebenzisa uHlelo lwezeNhlalo neMisebenzi noKutshala Emphakathini. 

# MNGENI READY FOR PRODUCTION PUSH

# UMNGENI UMI NGOMUMO UKUDUDULA UMKHIQIZO




The removal of hard rock at ZAC's new Mngeni Shaft / Kugugulwa amatshe emgodini omusha we-ZAC, uMngeni Shaft

Production at ZAC's new Mngeni shaft is expected to gain momentum in 2024, with the bulk of the construction work on the shaft finalized in the previous year.

The shaft is a strategic development, meant to help ZAC maintain favourable production levels, while creating 120 jobs, majority of which will benefit existing employees at the mine.


According to ZAC General Manager Wiets Buekes the project is progressing according to plan. "Mngeni shaft will be a high seam shaft in context of the ZAC reserves, the intention behind Mngeni was to balance the production shafts to offset the high-cost of low seam operations," says Buekes.

ZAC has invested R137 million in the establishment of the shaft. This includes the preparation of earthworks, the mining of the box cut, erecting major infrastructure and new underground production equipment.

The installation of major infrastructure including the potable water supply, dirty water management drains and pollution control dams, as well as electricity supply has already been completed. By December 2023, the team was approximately 6 meters from reaching coal based on measurements from surveyors. A second shift was also introduced to assist with increasing productivity. Mngeni is expected to produce between 120 000 tonnes and 150 000 tonnes of anthracite a year. 

Umkhiqizo emgodini omusha uMngeni Shaft kulindeleke ukuthi wande ngo-2024 njengoba umsebenzi omningi wokwakha umgodi uphothulwe ngonyaka odlule.

Umgodi uzosiza kakhulu futhi uzolekelela i-ZAC yandise umkhiqizo wayo futhi kusungule imisebenzi engu-120, iningi layo ezohlomulisa abasebenzi basemayini. Ngokusho kweMenenja-Jikelele yeZAC uWiets Buekes, lo msebenzi uqhubeka ngendlela. "UMngeni Shaft uzosiza ukubhalansisa umkhiqizo we-ZAC," kusho uWiets. I-ZAC itshale uR137 million ukwakha lo mgodi. Umsebenzi owenziwa ukulungiselela ukwakha nokwakha ingqalasizinda

yasemgodini. Ukufaka ingqalasizinda yamanzi, eyokucwenga amanzi angcolile, ukulawula ukungcola emadamini nokuhlinzeka ugesi kuphothuliwe. NgoDisemba wango-2023, ithimba lase lisalelwe ngamamitha ayisithupha ukufinyelela emalahleni ngokwezikali zonjinyela. Kwethulwe i-shift yesibili ukulekelela umkhiqizo. Uma umsebenzi usuzinzile, uMngeni kulindeleke ukuthi ukhizwe amathani aphakathi kuka-120 000 no-150 000 wamalahle ngonyaka. 



Scan the QR Code to view a video of Mngeni Thwebula i-QR Code ukubuka ividiyo yoMngeni

# EXPLORING GROUND- A PASSION FOR SIBUSISIWE

# UKUCWANINGA EMAJUKUJUKWINI WUTHANDO LUKA SIBUSISIWE

*Sibusisiwe Sithole, ZAC Geologist*  
*USibusisiwe Sithole, oyi-Geologist e-ZAC*

**Z** Exploration possesses a special charm for ZAC geologist Sibusisiwe Sithole. The possibility of extending the life-of-mine through new discoveries keeps Sibusisiwe invested in her work. "A definite highlight for me is knowing that when I am out there drilling, the exploration projects I work on could add more years to the mine," says Sibusisiwe

After completing her geology degree at the University of the Free State, Sibusisiwe did her graduate programme at ZAC, which entailed underground visits, identification of rock types and geological structures, mapping, and underground sampling for coal quality

control, among other things. She then worked a further two years at the mine as a junior geologist before getting another job at the Tendele anthracite mine.

Sibusisiwe made her return to ZAC recently and has various responsibilities, including exploration and geological data management. While still in high school, Sibusisiwe attended a Mining Career Week event in George, in the Western Cape province, which influenced her decision to study geology. At the event, there was only one woman who got up to speak about mining and the need for more women to take up careers in the industry. "I immediately knew that I wanted to be in

mining," Sibusisiwe states.

For now, her focus is completing her Masters thesis which is based on the ZAC mine. Sibusisiwe's ultimate goal is to document the Nongoma coalfields. She notes it is important for geological data to be captured so that future geologists can have better insight of the region. But currently, there is little to no literature published on the Nongoma coalfields. "I intend to document the amazing geology found in this region as I have done a lot of work on the area," she says. Sibusisiwe also looks forward to climbing the corporate ladder and hopes to become a technical manager at some point in her career. **Z**



Iyazifela ngokuphenya nokucwaninga i-geologist yase-ZAC, uSibusisiwe Sithole. Ukwazi ukuthi kungenzeka alule isikhathi sokusetshenziswa kwemayini kwenza uSibusisiwe ahlale ezimisela emsebenzini wakhe. “Into engiyithandayo ukwazi ukuthi uma ngigqoma ngisebenza, umsebenzi wami kungenzeka wengeze iminyaka yemayini,” kusho uSibusisiwe.

Uqale eyithwasa e-ZAC emva kokuphothula iziqu zakhe zeminyaka emithathu e-University of the Free State, eshona phansi emgodini, ebheka izinhlobo ezihlukene zamadwala, ebheka ukuma kwemayini futhi ehlola ukuthi amalahle anohlonze kangakanani. Usebenze eminye iminyaka emibili eyi-geologist encane


ngaphambi kokuqashwa emayini iTendele Anthracite.

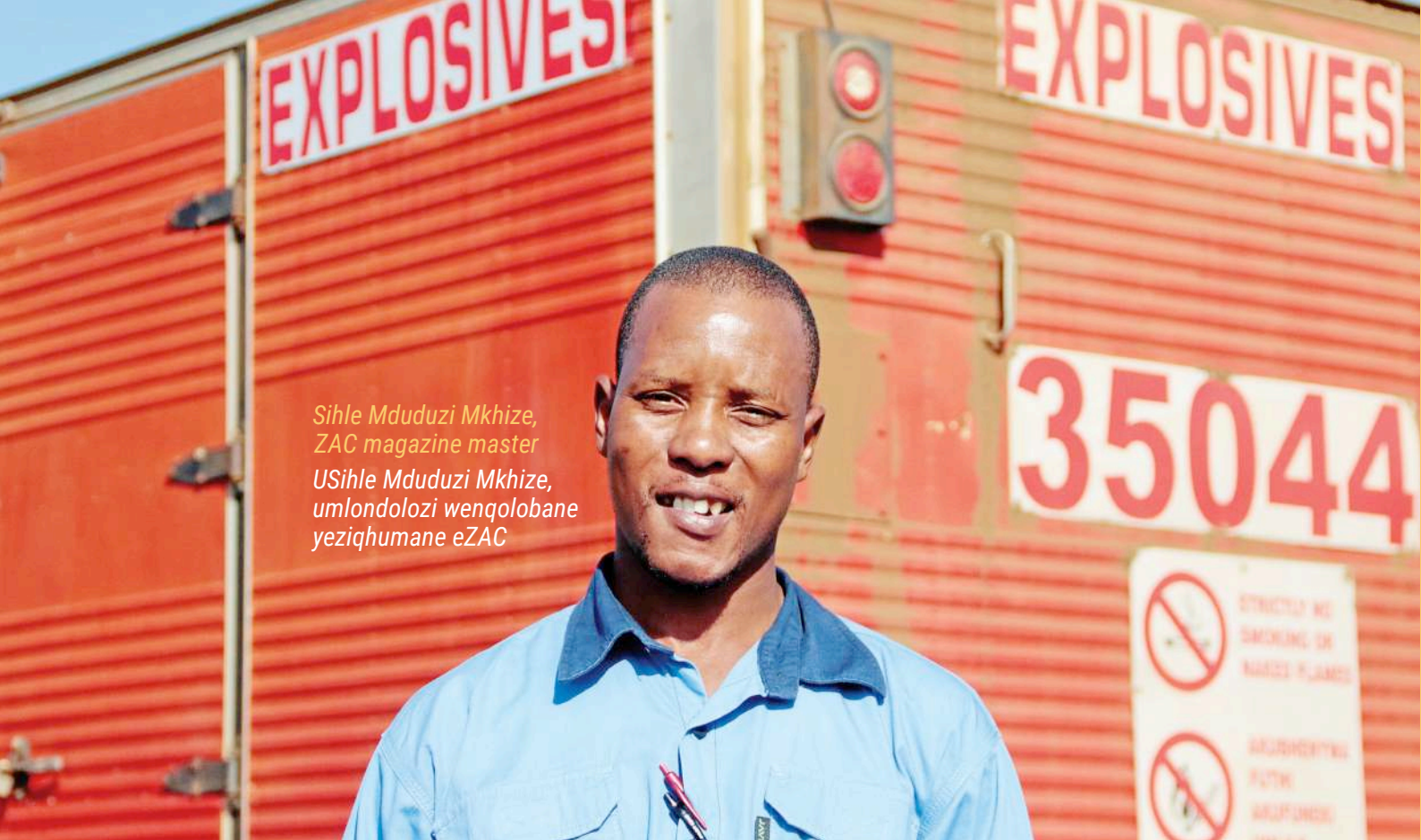
Usanda kubuya e-ZAC lapho enemisebenzi emininig khona okukhona kuyo ukuphenya nokwengamela ulwazi abaluoqayo ophikweni lwakhe. Esafunda esikoleni samabanga aphezulu, uSibusisiwe wahambela umbukiso waya embukisweni okwakufundiswa kuwo ngemisebenzini embonini yezimayini i-Mining Career Week eGeorge, eNtshonalanga Kapa, okwamenza wanquma ukwenza izifundo ze-geology.

Kulowo mbukiso, uyedwa vo owesifazane owasukuma wakhuluma ngezimayini nanokuthi kudingeka abanye abantu besifazane bakhethe imisebenzi ekhona embonini. “Ngazi ngaso lesa

sikhathi ukuthi ngifuna ukusebenza ezimayini,” kusho uSibusisiwe.

Okwamanje ugxile ekuphothuleni ucwaningo lwesikole oluhambisana neziqo i-Master’s alwenzayo nge-ZAC. Inhloso yakhe wukuqopha umlando ngamalahle akwaNongoma, uthi kubalulekile ukuqoqa ulwazi ukuze ama-geologist angomuso ezoba nolwazi olungcono ngendawo. Nokho okwamanje, akukho okutheni okubhaliwe ngamalahle alesi siyngi.

“Ngizimisele ngokuqopha umlando omuhle ngamatshe. Nesihlabathi esitholakala kulesi siyngi ngoba muningi umsebenzi esengiwenzile kule ndawo,” kusho uSibusisiwe. Uthe ukubheke ngabomvu nokukhula emsebenzini abe ngomunye wabaphathi ngelinye ilanga. 




*Sihle Mduduzi Mkhize,  
ZAC magazine master  
USihle Mduduzi Mkhize,  
umlondolozzi wenqolobane  
yeziqhumane eZAC*

## SIHLE GETS PROMOTED FROM ISSUING CLERK TO MAGAZINE MASTER

**S**ihle Mduduzi Mkhize has accomplished his dream of becoming a magazine master. Sihle, a former Issuing clerk at ZAC completed his magazine master course which is facilitated by the South African Police Services (SAPS). ZAC referred Sihle for training in 2022 after he showed interest in the field, adding to the mentorship he was already receiving.


The work of a magazine master involves storage, receiving, and issuing of explosives that are used during mine blasting operations. This requires a strict observance of laws and regulations that inform how the devices should be handled. "The handling of explosives is something very critical. You must be responsible and make sure to follow all the protocols. If something happens you must report it to the authorities immediately," he says.

Sihle studied via correspondence and finally got to sit for the examination with the SAPS in Durban, in KwaZulu Natal during September 2022. Passing the examination means that he is officially certified to work in the field. "My knowledge has improved. This is a great opportunity because it can open more doors for me," he says. Born in Nqulwane, in Ulundi, Sihle joined ZAC in 2018 and was appointed as receiving clerk the following year. In 2021 he became an issuing clerk before being appointed as magazine master. 

## USIHLE OBENGUMABHALANE UKHUSHULELWE EKUBENI NGUMLONDOLOZI WENQOLOBANE YEZIQHUMANE

**L**ifezekile iphupho likaSihle Mduduzi Mkhize lokuba ngumlondolozzi wenqolobane yeziqhumane. USihle, owayengumabhalane okhipha izimpahla eZAC, uphothule izifundo zalo msebenzi owenziwa yi-South African Police Services (SAPS). I-ZAC yathumela uSihle ukuthi ayoqeqeshwa ngo-2022 ngemva kokukhombisa uthando kulo mkhakha, engeza ekuqeqeshweni ayesekutholile.

Umsebenzi womlondolozzi wenqolobane yeziqhumane wukugcina, ukwemukela nokukhipha iziqhumane ezisetshenziswa uma kuqhunyiswa amadwala ezimayini. Lokhu kudinga ukubhekisisa imithetho nemigomo elawula ukuthi lezi zinto kufanele zisetshenziswe kanjani. "Ukubheka iziqhumane yinto emqoka kabi. Kufanele ubenesandla futhi uqinisekise ukulandela yonke imicikilisho. Uma kukhona okwenzekayo, kufanele ubike kwiziphathimandla ngokushesha," kusho yena.

USihle wafunda ngeposi, wase ebhala izifundo zokuhlolwa ebhaliswa yi-SAPS eThekwini, KwaZulu-Natali, ngoMandulo wango-2022. Ukuphasa ukuhlolwa kusho ukuthi usenesitifiketi sokusebenza kulo mkhakha. "Seluthuthukile ulwazi lwami. Yithuba elihle leli lingangivulela iminyango," kusho yena. USihle, owazalelwa eNqulwane, oLundi, waqala ukusebenza e-ZAC ngo-2018, wabangumabhalane. Ngo-2021 wabangumabhalane okhipha iziqhumane ngaphambi kokuthi abe wuMgcini-Nqolobane. 




# SIPHO'S MINING PASSION FULFILLED AT ZAC

Coming from a household of miners, ZAC mine manager Siphon Valoi had an inkling that one day he might follow the same path as his father and brothers who worked in the gold mining industry. This inspired his decision to enroll for a B-Tech degree in mining and minerals engineering. After graduating in 2011 Siphon went on to work for several companies including BHP Billiton, Straffontein Colliery, Boipelo Mining Contractors and South32. He attained his Mine Managers Certificate of competency in 2019 and the Opencast Mines Blasting Certificate a year before.

The idea of working for a growing company that ploughs back into its operations sparked Siphon's interest in ZAC. The mine's secluded position, in the heart of rural KwaZulu Natal, can be paradise for a passionate miner like Siphon who was appointed as mine manager in April 2023. Siphon is pleased with how things are unfolding. "I still feel that coming here was the best decision for me. Things have been going well. I have always wanted to work for a company that invests back into the mine.

It is not about the money that you make, it is about the improvement that you bring," says Siphon.

He also has experience in both open cast and underground operations. So far overall operations at the mine have been stable, with a monthly production level of over 30 000 tons in recent months. The team has put a lot of focus on health and safety. The unfolding Mngeni shaft development is also progressing well and Siphon is looking forward to seeing the shaft fully operating. "The project team on Mngeni have been doing great work," he says. Deep E, one of ZAC's top performing shafts has also been producing above budget tons, he explains. Siphon looks forward to strengthening production efforts and ensuring that the teams perform at their best. 

*ZAC Mine manager, Siphon Valoi  
Imenenja yemayini e-ZAC, uSiphon Valoi*



# KUGCWALISEKA UTHANDO LUKASIPHO LWEZIMAYINI E-ZAC

Njengomuntu odabuka ekhaya labantu abasebenza ezimayini, Imenenja Yemayini uSiphon Valoi wayesola ukuthi ngelinye ilanga uyohamba ezinyathelweni zikayise nabafowabo ababesebenza ezimayini zegolide. Loku kwamenza wathatha isinqumo sokubhaliseka iziqu iB-Tech kwezimayini nobunjiniyela bokumbiwayo.

Ngemva kokuthweswa iziqu ngo-2011, uSiphon waya kosebenza ezinkampanini ezihlukene okukhona i-BHP Billiton, i-Straffontein Colliery, iBoipelo Mining Contractors ne-South32. Wathola isitifiketi i-Mine Managers Certificate ngo-2019 ne-Opencast Mines Blasting Certificate ngonyaka ondulela lowo.


Umqondo wokusebenzela inkampani esimamayo netshala emsebenzini wayo kokhela inhlabathi yothando lokusebenzela i-ZAC kuSiphon.

Indawo yemayini emi qekelele, enkabeni yasemakhaya KwaZulu-Natali, iyizulu elincane kumuntu osebenza ezimayini njengoSiphon, owabekwa wayimenenja yemayini ngoApril wango-2023.

USiphon uthakasile ngendlela izinto ezenzeka ngayo. "Ngikholwa wukuthi ukuza lapha yisinqumo esihle kakhulu.

Izinto zihamba kahle. Kudala ngafuna ukusebenza enkampanini etshala emayini.

Akusiyo nje imali oyenzayo kepha kungenxa Yomehluko owenzayo," kusho uSiphon.

Unamava okusebenza ngaphezu nangaphansi emayini. Okwamanje umsebenzi wonke wasemayini ubuqhubeka kahle, kukhiqizwa umthamo ongaphezu kwamathani angu-30 000 ezinyangeni ezidlule. Ithimba belibeki eqhulwini impilo nokuphepha. Umsebenzi waseMngeni nawo uqhubeka kahle kanti uSiphon uthi ukubheke ngamehlo abomvu ukubona umgodi ususebenza ngokugcwele. "Ithimba elenza umsebenzi eMngeni belenza umsebenzi omkhulu," kusho yena. I-Deep E, eminye yemigodi eqhuba kahle ye-ZAC, nawo ubukhiqiza ngaphezu kwamathani abekiwe, kusho yena. USiphon ukubheke ngamehlo abomvu ukuphucula umsebenzi wokukhiqiza nokuqinisekisa ukuthi amathimba enza ngaphezu kwamandla awo. 



A ribbon cutting ceremony was held during ZAC's handover of water projects in Nongoma

Umcimbi weZAC wokwethula umsebenzi wamanzi KwaNongoma


# CLEAN WATER FLOWS FOR NONGOMA COMMUNITIES

Residents of three Nongoma communities have found relief in the provision of clean water through a R1 million initiative driven by ZAC. The mine launched and handed over boreholes, 5000 litre Jojo tanks and communal taps to residents of Doncaneni, Ngolotshe and Masokaneni in November 2023.

The project forms part of the mine's social and labour plan to assist the communities with water access. The community of Doncaneni in ward 11 received a borehole, water tank

and drinking troughs for livestock. Doncaneni's Induna Mandla Ndlela says the project will make a difference in the lives of residents. "Our people used to walk long distances in search of water. But now they will have access. We hope to see more projects like this being developed around the area," says Ndlela. Residents of Masokaneni also received a livestock dam and a communal tap that is connected to the Mngeni water scheme.

Nongoma Mayor Clifford Ndabandaba said it was important for

local government to form partnerships with companies on initiatives that uplift communities. "As the municipality, we are glad to see the work that was done by ZAC. It is such a blessing for us to see our people being supplied with water," says Ndabandaba. The municipality would assist with maintaining the infrastructure through the Expanded Public Works Programme. ZAC has provided 262 558 000 litres of clean, potable water to surrounding communities to date. 

# KUGELEZA AMANZI AHLANZEKILE KWANONGOMA

**A** bahlali bemiphakathi emithathu KwaNongoma sebezozitholela kalula amanzi ahlanzekile ngenxa yezinhlelo ezintathu zikaR1 million ebezenziwa yi-ZAC. Imayini yethule futhi yanikela amapitsi, amathangi oJojo angu-5 000 nompompi bomphakathi kubahlali baseDoncaneni, eNgolotshe naseMasokaneni ngoNovemba ngonyaka odlule.

Lo msebenzi uyingxenywe yohlelo lwezenhlahalakahle nokusebenza lokusiza imiphakathi ithole amanzi. Umphakathi waseDoncaneni kuWadi 11 uthole ipitsi,

ithangi lamanzi nezitsha okudlela imfuyo kuzo. Induna yaseDoncaneni Mandla Ndlela uthethe lo msebenzi uzokwenza umehluko ezimpilweni zabantu.

“Abantu bethu bahamba ibanga elide ukuyobheka amanzi. Kodwa manje sebezoba nawo kalula. Sithemba ukuthi sizibona eminye imisebenzi efana nalena ukuthuthukisa indawo yethu,” kusho uNdlela. Abahlali baseMasokaneni bona bathole nedamu lemfuyo nompompi womphakathi oxhunye kwiMngeni water scheme.

Imeya yaKwaNongoma Clifford

Ndabandaba uthethe kubalulekile ukuthi uhulumeni wezindawo usebenzisane nezinkampani ukufukula imiphakathi. “Kuyasijabulisa siwumasipala ukubona umsebenzi owenziwe yiZAC. Kuyisibusiso kithina ukubona abantu bethu behlinzekwa ngamanzi,” kusho uNdabandaba. UMasipala uzolelela ngokuyinakekela ingqalazizinda ngohlelo lokuvula amathuba emisebenzi i-Expanded Public Works Programme. I-ZAC isihlinzeke ngamalitha amanzi ahlanzekile angu-262 558 000 emiphakathini eyakhelene nayo. **12**






ZAC acting surface engineer, Kwanele Buthelezi  
Obambe ukuba wunjiniyela wangaphezulu e-ZAC uKwanele Buthelezi

## GCC SUCCESS ELEVATES KWANELE TO FULLY QUALIFIED ENGINEER

Hard work has paid off for ZAC Engineer Kwanele Buthelezi after he passed the Mines and Works Government Competency Certificate (GCC) examination. Kwanele had to juggle preparing for the exam while studying towards his Masters degree in engineering and tackling his duties at the mine. Elated after getting his GCC results, Kwanele now looks forward to gaining more experience in the field. The GCC Mines & Works license allows individuals to operate as certified engineers and supervise machinery in line with the Minerals Act Regulation.

"It took me three years of practical training before I could be accepted to write the examination by the DMRE, so it was a long journey for me" Kwanele says. He obtained a B-Tech degree in electrical engineering from Unisa and is currently awaiting his results after submitting his Masters dissertation at the Durban University of Technology. Kwanele says his line manager Howard Atkison and other members of team at ZAC have been supportive of his academic pursuits. "The support I got from my line supervisor and the engineering department is invaluable. I am grateful for that," he says.


The challenging environment that requires one to be a proactive problem solver attracted Kwanele to engineering. "You are constantly learning and constantly finding new ways to solve challenges. You will never be bored because there is always something to do," he remarks. Kwanele is also a proponent of introducing Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields to young people who are still at school. Recently he gave a talk at the Masibumbane High School in Ulundi to share information about the profession with Grade 12 learners. Currently he is acting in the position of surface engineer and plans to use the opportunity to reinforce his capabilities. "Our head of Engineering, Ernest Mandere is highly experienced so I am looking to get as much guidance from him as possible," he says. 

## I-GCC IPHAKAMISE UKWANELE OSENJINIYELA NGOKUGCWELE

Ukuzikhandla kumsebenzele unjiniyela waseZAC uKwanele Buthelezi ophase izivivinyo ze-Mines and Works Government Competency Certificate (iGCC). Ukwanele ubelungiselela lezi zivivinyo ngesikhathi eqhubeka neziqo ze-Master's yobunjiniyela futhi eqhuba nomsebenzi wakhe wasemayini.

UKwanele Ujabulile ngokuphumelela usebheke manje ukwandisa isipiliyoni sakhe embonini. Ilayisensi Ye-GCC Mines & Works igunyaza umuntu ukuthi asebenze njengonjiniyela ngokugcwele futhi engamele imishini njengokusho komthetho wokumbiwa phansi, i-*Minerals Act Regulation*.

"Ngisebenzile ngiqeqeshwa iminyaka emithathu ngaphambi kokuvunyelwa ukubhala izivivinyo zoMnyango wokuMbiwa Phansi naMandla, ngakho kube wuhambo olude," kusho uKwanele. U*ne-BTech in Electrical Engineering* yase-Unisa kanti manje ulinde umphumela we-Master's e-Durban University of Technology. Ukwanele uthe imenenja yakhe uHoward Atkinson namanye amalungu eZAC amesekile efunda. "Ukuxhaswa umphathi wami nethimba lonke lonjiniyela lungisize kakhulu. Ngiyabonga kakhulu," kusho yena.

Yindawo eyinselelo futhi edinga umuntu ukuthi azisukumele ukuxazulula inkinga yiyona eyahehela uLwazi ebunjiniyeleni. "Uhlale ufunda futhi uthola izindlela ezintsha zokuxazulula izinselelo. Awusoze waba nesithukuthezi ngoba kuhlale kukhona okwenziwayo," kuphawula yena. UButhelezi ugqugquzela ukuthi kwethulwe imisebenzi yeSayensi, ubuChwepheshe, ubuNjiniyela neZibalo entsheni esesekoleni. Usanda kwethula inkulamo eMasibumbane High School oLundi eyocobelela ulwazi ngomsebenzi awenzayo kubafundi beBanga 12. Okwamanje ubambe njengonjiniyela wangaphezulu kanti uzimisele ukusebenzisa leli thuba ukutshengisa ukuthi uyawazi umsebenzi. "Inhloko yonjiniyela yethu uErnest Mandere unamava kakhulu, ngakho ngizimisele ukuchushiswa ngokuningi nguyena," kusho yena. 




*Mthobisi Khanyile, diesel mechanic learner*  
*UMthobisi Khanyile, oqeqeshelwa ukuba wumakhenikha kadizili*

## DETERMINED LEARNER FINDS BREAKTHROUGH AT ZAC

ZAC's learnership programme proved to be the perfect breakthrough for Mthobisi Khanyile. Mthobisi was offered a diesel mechanic learnership in 2023 after six years of job hunting with no luck. Before that, he completed a fitting course at the Lephalale TVET college.

"I have always loved working with machines but opportunities are scarce even if you have the passion.


I felt stagnant before I got a response from ZAC," he says. After going through multiple interviews and applying to different companies, ZAC gave Mthobisi the greenlight. "I could not believe it because I had been applying a lot. The mine is where I wanted to work and I like the fact that it is closer to home," he says. Mthobisi looks forward to studying further while he continues gaining skills at ZAC. 

## UMFUNDI OPHOKOPHELAYO USEPHAKATHI E-ZAC

Uhlelo lokuqeqesha olwenziwa yiZAC libe yilokhu obekudingwa uMthobisi Khanyile ukuvula iminyango. UMthobisi waqashwa ukuthi azoqeqeshelwa ukuba wumakhenikha wezinjini zikadizili ngo-2023 emva kweminyaka eyisithupha efuna umsebenzi engawutholi. Ngaphambi kwalokho uphuthule izifundo ze-fitting eLephalale TVET College.

"Selokhu kwathi nhlo ngiyakuthanda ukusebenzia ngemishini kodwa amathuba ayivelakancane ngisho unalo uthando. Bengizizwa

ngigida ndawonye ngaphambi kokuphendulwa i-ZAC," kusho yena.

Emumva kokuzama izikhawu eziningi ezinkampanini ezihlukene, ugcine ephumelele eZAC. "Angikholwanga ngoba kade ngangifaka izicelo. Emayini yilapho engangifisa ukusebenza khona futhi ngiyakuthanda ukuthi kuseduzane nasekhaya," usho kanje. UMthobisi ukubheke ngabomvu nokuqhubeka nezifundo zakhe ngesikhathi eqhubeka nokuthola amakhono e-ZAC. 




*Nkanyiso Erasmus Mtshali,  
electrical engineering learner  
UNkanyiso Erasmus Mtshali,  
ofundela ukuba ngunjiniyela kagesi*

## ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING LEARNER READY TO TAKE NEXT STEP

**N**kanyiso Erasmus Mtshali is excited about the prospects that lie ahead after he completes his electrical engineering in-service training at ZAC. By the end of July 2024, Nkanyiso will be eligible to attend training at The Colliery Training College (CTC) where he will also write a trade exam. After passing Grade 12 Nkanyiso acquired N4 and N6 level qualifications in electrical engineering at Mnambithi TVET college.


He proceeded to do

his electrical in-service training at the Alfred Duma Municipality before getting an opportunity at ZAC. Nkanyiso says he has gained important skills since joining ZAC. "I have learned to connect different types of motors and to connect the panel that connects the belt," he says. Nkanyiso has also gotten used to working underground. "At first, I didn't like to go underground but as time passed, I started enjoying it," he remarks. 

## UMFUNDI WOBUNJINIYELA BUKAGESI UMI NGOMUMO UKUNYAKAZA

**U**Nkanyiso Erasmus Mtshali uthakasile ngamathuba amlindile ngemva kokuphothula ukuthwasela umsebenzi wobunjiniyela bukagesi e-ZAC. Ngasekupheleni kukaJuly wango-2024, uNkanyiso uzokwazi ukuyoqeqeshwa e-Colliery Training College (e-CTC), lapho ezobhala khona izifundo zokuhlololwa umsebenzi wamakhono. Ngemva kokuphasa iBanga 12, uNkanyiso wathola u-N4 no-N6 wobunjiniyela bukagesi eMnambithi TVET College.

Ngemva kwalokho waqhubeka wayoqeqeshelwa

ukwenza ugesi e-Alfred Duma Municipality ngaphambi kokuthola ithuba e-ZAC. UNkanyiso uthi usethole amakhono abalulekile kusukela efikile e-ZAC. "Sengifunde ukuhlanganisa izinhlobo ezihlukene zezinjini nokuxhuma indawo okuxhuma ibhande kuyona," kusho yena. UNkanyiso usekwazi nokusebenza ngaphansi komhlaba. "Ekuqaleni ngangingakuthandi ukusebenza ngaphansi komhlaba kodwa ngokuqhubeka kwesikhathi sekumnandi," kuphawula yena. 




*Nolwazi Mthethwa Buthelezi,  
electrical engineering learner  
UNolwazi Mthethwa Buthelezi,  
ofundela ubunjiniyela bukagesi*

## NOLWAZI IS ON A QUEST FOR KNOWLEDGE

**N**olwazi Mthethwa Buthelezi is always up for the challenge of fixing problems, especially where machinery is involved. The 28-year-old learner joined ZAC two years ago. After completing her in-service training at the mine, Nolwazi spotted an opportunity to apply for the learnership programme. She matriculated in 2014 and took a gap year before enrolling to study electrical engineering at the


Mthashane TVET College, Nongoma campus.

Commenting on her experiences at ZAC, Nolwazi says interacting with seasoned artisans has been valuable in her quest to learn more. "The electricians at the shafts are teaching us a lot. We have an opportunity to ask questions to help us gain a better understanding of how things work," she says. Nolwazi plans to further her studies and is keen to grow in the mining industry. 

## UNOLWAZI UPHOKOPHELE UKUTHOLA ULWAZI

**U**Nolwazi Mthethwa Buthelezi uhlale ecuphele inselelo yokulungisa izinkinga, ikakhulukazi uma kunemishini phakathi. Lo mfundi oneminyaka engu-28 wafika e-ZAC eminyakeni emibili edlule. Ngemva kokuphothula ukuqeqeshelwa umsebenzi, uNolwazi wabona ithuba lokufaka isicelo sokungena ohlelweni lokuthwasela umsebenzi. Waphothula umatikuletsheni ngo-2014, wathatha ikhefu lonyaka engafundi ngaphambi kokufundela ubunjiniyela bukagesi eMthashane

TVET College, ophikweni lwaKwaNongoma.

Ephawula ngezinto ezimehlakalele e-ZAC, uNolwazi uthi ukusebenza nezingcweti ezinamava kubewusizo olukhulu ekutheni afise ukufunda okunye. "Abantu abenza ugesi emigodini basifundisa izinto eziningi. Sikwazi ukubuza imibuzo esenza siqonde kangcono ukuthi izinto zenziwa kanjani," kusho yena. UNolwazi uhlela ukuqhubeka nezifundo zakhe kanti umagange ukudlondlobala embonini yezimayini. 

# NEW HEIGHTS FOR ZAC GOLF DAY CHARITY FUNDRAISER



The 2023 fundraising record for ZAC Golf Day set the challenge for the initiative to achieve greater impact in 2024. The beauty of Ubuntu was captured through collective effort by ZAC and its partners to raise R400 000 for social upliftment projects at the mine's 6th annual Golf Day held at the Richards Bay Country Club on 15 November 2023. A total of 112 golfers took part in the tournament, while additional funds were collected compared to the R310 000 in the previous year.

The eight title sponsors for the event included The PumpSmith, Kulu Mining, Conveyor & Plant Services, Conax Machine Solutions, Hlomani Mining Services, JA Engineering Works, United Mining & Gilberts Cables, and SA Minerals Laboratories Ithuba. The Golf Day's format was a scramble Drive four-ball alliance. After the first tee-off golfers completed a successful round on the 18-hole course while participating in different challenges to win prizes. The sound of drums and marimbas added to the festive mood as the Siyadlala Marimba Band from Arboretum Primary School kept guests entertained with upbeat pop tunes. The band received a contribution from

Drilling VERMA-Exploration and PreCon Survey toward their upcoming trip to Cape Town where they will take part in a musical contest. The next performance came from Siyaphakama High School Dancers who received a donation of school shoes from Mabhoka Trading. A ceremony was held to announce winners of the many prizes on the table including camping stoves, speakers, braai sets, camping chairs, knife sets and more.

The ZAC floating trophy auction proved to be an event highlight, as guests cheered and put up a good challenge to grab the prize. Conveyor & Plant Services was the ultimate winner, setting a R200 000 record, which is the highest in the history of the golf day



event. Izindunas representing four Traditional Councils around the ZAC mine – Mlaba (Ximba), Zungu, Mandlakazi, and Matheni – were also present at the event. "We have seen how ZAC has assisted our communities by building school toilets, donating uniforms and school shoes which makes us very proud to have the mine in our area," remarked Induna, Mhlanzi from Ximba. 📺



**SPONSORS FOR THE 2023 ZAC GOLF DAY INCLUDED:** ADVANCED FIRE SUPPRESSION TECHNOLOGIES (PTY) LTD | BABCOCK GROUP | BMG VRYHEID | KAL TIRE MINING TYRECONVEYOR & PLANT SERVICES | CMS (CONAX MACHINE SOLUTIONS (PTY) LTD.) | CONWAY JOHNSON VRYHEID | DIAGED LIQUORS | DALISU HOLDINGS | DLULA LOGISTICS | DRILLING VERMA-EXPLORATION | FILTAQUIP (PTY) LTD MINERAL PROCESSING SOLUTIONS | FLSMIDTH (SHANE) | GILBERTS MINING (BEST ASPEC) | HEXAGON ELECTRICAL (PTY) LTD, HLOMANI MINING SERVICES | HUIZEN AFRICA HOLDINGS | INGWENYA MINERAL PROCESSING | INSIMBI STEEL MINING SUPPLIES (PTY) LTD | INVESTEC, JA ENGINEERING | JD INVESTMENTS | DLOKWE INVESTMENTS | KULU MINING | KOMATSU MINING | KSB PUMPS | LEO MATTIODA | LURCHTECH | MAGNET | MABHOKA TRADING | N14 X4 | OCEANS ECHO LOGISTICS + OCEANS ECHO CHEESE & WINE | PEX HYDRAULICS - KZN | PITBULL EQUIPMENT | P&M SKIETWERKE | PRECON SURVEY | THE PUMPSMITHS | RHAM EQUIPMENT | RIS VEHICLE HIRE | RICHARDS BAY RIGGING SAB | SANDVIK | SCHAUBURG | SA MINERALS LABORATORIES ITHUBA | SP MINE SAFETY (STRATA) | SANY EQUIPMENT | SUPER RENT | THEKWENI REINFORCING | U-RENT | VICTOR INDUSTRIAL | TSAKANE HEALTH SERVICES



# UMCIMBI WESIKHWAMA SE-ZAC GOLF EZINGENI ELISHA



Irekhodi lomcimbi wango-2023 wesikhwama se-ZAC Golf Day wabekele owango-2024 inselelo ukuthi ubengaphezulu. Ubuhle bobuNtu bugqame ngokubambisana kwe-ZAC nabalingani bayo bakwazi ukuqoqa uR400 000 wemikhankaso yokufukula umphakathi kwi-Golf Day yesithupha yaminyaka yonke mhla ka-15 wangoApril ngo-2023. Bangu-112 abadlaligalofu ababambe iqhaza emqhudelwaneni, kwaqoqwa imali engaphezu kukaR310 000 wangonyaka owendulelayo.


Abaxhasi abakhulu abayisishiyagalombili balo mcimbi bekuyi-The PumpSmith, iKulu Mining, Conveyor &

Plant Services, i-Conax Machine Solutions, iHlomani Mining Services, i-JA Engineering Works, i-United Mining & Gilberts Cables ne-SA Minerals Laboratories Ithuba. Uhlelo lwe-Golf Day bekungumbango wamabhola amane. Ngemva kokususa ibhola, abadlaligalofu baqede imigodi emine ngenkathi bebambe iqhaza kweminye imiqhudelwano bebanga imiklomelo ebikhona. Ukukhala kwezigubhu nemarimba kwenze kwabamnandi kakhulu njengoba iSiyadlala Marimba Band yase-Arboretum Primary School yajabulisa izethameli ngomculo omnandi.

Ibhendi ithole umnikelo kwi-Drilling VERMA-Exploration ne-PreCon Survey wohambo lwayo oluya eCape Town, lapho

izobamba khona iqhaza emqhudelwaneni. Abanye abanandisa yiSiyaphakama High School Dancers, ethole umnikelo wezicathulo kwiMabhoka Trading. Kwaba nomcimbi wokumemezela abawine imiklomelo eminingi okwakubalwa kuyona izitofu zokukhempa, izipikha, izinto zokosa inyama, izihlalo zokukhempa, amasethi emimese nokunye okuningi. Indali yendondo engumantuntanendishi yathakaselwa kakhulu emcimbini, izethameli zamemeza ziqhudelana ngomklomelo wombango womklomelo.

I-Conveyor & Plant Services yagcina inqobile, kwaqopheka umlando kaR200 000, okungumklomelo omkhulu emlandweni walo mcimbi wegalofu. Izinduna ezazimele

Imikhandlu yeZizwe ezine ezakhelwe yi-ZAC – okwaMlaba (kwaXimba), okwaZungu, okwaMandlakazi nowaseMatheni – nazo zazikhona emcimbini. "Sibonile ukuthi i-ZAC iyisize kanjani imiphakathi yakithi ngokuyakhela izindlu zokuzikhulula zesikole, yanikela ngemifaniswano nezicathulo zesikole, okwenza siziqhenye ngokuba nemayini endaweni," kuphawula Induna yaKwaXimba uMhlanzi. 




**KUBAXHASI BE-ZAC GOLF DAY YANGO-2023 KWAKUKHONA:** I-ADVANCED FIRE SUPPRESSION TECHNOLOGIES (PTY) LTD · I-BABCOCK GROUP · I-BMG VRYHEID · I-KAL TIRE MINING TYRE CONVEYOR & PLANT SERVICES · I-GMS (I-CONAX MACHINE SOLUTIONS (PTY) LTD.) · I-CONWAY JOHNSON VRYHEID · I-DIAGO LIQUORS · IDALISU HOLDINGS · IDLULA LOGISTICS · I-DRILLING VERMA-EXPLORATION · I-FILTAQUIP (PTY) LTD MINERAL PROCESSING SOLUTIONS · I-FLSMIDTH (SHANE) · I-GILBERTS MINING (I-BEST ASPEC) · I-HEXAGON ELECTRICAL (PTY) LTD · I-HLOMANI MINING SERVICES · I-HUIZEN AFRICA HOLDINGS · INGWENYA MINERAL PROCESSING · INSIMBI STEEL MINING SUPPLIES (PTY) LTD · I-INVESTEC · I-JA ENGINEERING · I-JD INVESTMENTS · IDLOKWE INVESTMENTS · IKULU MINING · IKOMATSU MINING · I-KSB PUMPS · ILEO MATTIODA · I-LURCHTECH · I-MAGNET · IMABHOKA TRADING · I-N14 X4 · IOCEANS ECHO LOGISTICS + OCEANS ECHO CHEESE & WINE · I-PEX HYDRAULICS · KZN · I-PITBULL EQUIPMENT · I-P&M SKIETWERKE · PRECON SURVEY · I-THE PUMPSMITHS · I-RHAM EQUIPMENT · I-RIS VEHICLE HIRE · I-RICHARDS BAY RIGGING SAB · I-SANDVIK · I-SCHAUBURG · I-SA MINERALS LABORATORIES ITHUBA · I-SP MINE SAFETY (STRATA) · I-SANY EQUIPMENT · I-SUPER RENT · ITHEKWENI REINFORCING · I-U-RENT · I-VICTOR INDUSTRIAL · ITSAKANE HEALTH SERVICES



*Lethokuhle Ngcobo, ZAC quality and logistics superintendent  
ULethokuhle Ngcobo, unsumpa we-quality and logistics eZAC*


## LETHOKUHLE ACES FIRST TASK AS NOMINATED RSR SIDING MANAGER

ZAC's quality and logistics superintendent Lethokuhle Ngcobo's priority after being recently nominated as Siding Rail Safety Regulator Manager was to secure a renewed siding permit. The license application was made and approved ensuring smooth continuation for operations. Lethokuhle explains that the approval is a sign of good safety compliance for the team.

"It is a good achievement for our team because they are meeting the safety requirements. It says a lot about our quality of work and staff," says Lethokuhle. ZAC uses its own private locomotive to move products around the mine. The drivers and shunters are also trained internally. 

## ULETHOKUHLE WENZE EZIBUKWAYO EQALA UKUQOKWA ABEYIMENENJA YEZOKUPHEPHA

Umsebenzi oseqhulwini kaNsumpa we-quality and logistics uLethokuhle Ngcobo ngemva kokuqokwa abeyiMenenja ye-Siding Rail Safety Regulator wokuvuselela imvume ye-siding. Kwafakwa isicelo semvume, saphumelela okuqinisekisa ukuqhubeka komsebenzi ngaphandle kobuhixhixi.


ULethokuhle uthi imvume iwuphawu oluhle lokuhambisana kwethimba nomthetho wokuphepha. "Yinto enkulu ethimbeni lethu ngoba lihambisana nemigomo yokuphepha. Kusho lukhulu ngezinga lomsebenzi wethu nelabasebenzi bethu," kusho uLethokuhle. I-ZAC isebenzisa amaguzu ayo ukuthutha izimpahla ngaphakathi emayini. Abashayeli nomashendela baqeqeshwa ngaphakathi. 



*Nicholia Khumalo, electrical engineering learner  
UNicholia Khumalo, umfundi wobunjiniyela bukages*


## NICHOLIA PREPARES TO ENTER THE ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING FIELD

**N**icholia Khumalo, 27, from Nongoma says the in-service training at ZAC has been a valuable experience. She started in October 2022 as an electrical engineering apprentice. After matriculating at Prince Ndabuko High School in 2023, she enrolled to study civil engineering at Tshwane North college but could not complete the qualification due to financial reasons.

She worked in the retail sector until registering for a diploma in electrical engineering at Barberton College. "After finishing my diploma, I applied for this post at ZAC, and they accepted me which was great. The experience I gained here is more than what I could have ever asked for," she says. 

## UNICHOLIA ULUNGISELELA UKUNGENA EMKHAKHENI WOBUNJINIYELA BUKAGESI

**U**Nicholia Khumalo, oneminyaka engu-27, waKwaNongoma, uthe ukuqeqeshelwa umsebenzi eZAC kubewusizo kakhulu. Waqala ngo-October wango-2022 eyithwasa lobunjiniyela bukagesi. Ngemva kokuphothula umatikuletsheni ePrince Ndabuko High School ngo-2023, wabhalisela ukufundela ubunjiniyela bokuklama izindawo zokwakhiwa eTshwane North College kodwa akangaziqeda izifundo ngenxa yokuswela imali.

Wasebenza emkhakheni wokudayisa ngaphambi kokubhalisela ubunjiniyela bukagesi eBarberton College. "Ngemva kokuqeda i-*diploma*, ngafaka isicelo salesi Sikhala eZAC, bangithatha, okwabayinto emnandi. Amava engiwathole lapha makhulu ngaphezu kwebengikulindele," kusho yena. 



*Menar MD Vuslat Bayoglu alongside ZAC Proto team captain Sizwe Mbata, Zamambo Mbatha and Mines Rescue Services CEO Mannas Fourie during the awards ceremony. Umqondisi wase-Menar uVuslat Bayoglu, ukaputeni wethimba lase-ZAC iProto uSizwe Mbata, uZamambo Mbatha nesikhulu esiphezulu se-Mine Rescue Services uMannas Fourie emcimbini wemiklomelo*

# ZAC PROTO MEMBERS RECOGNISED FOR LONG SERVICE

Despite the risks associated with mine rescue and recovery missions, Proto members across the South Africa remain devoted to saving lives and providing exceptional service to the industry. The Proto teams respond to emergencies such as fire outbreaks and search and rescue missions. ZAC Proto team captain Sizwe Mbatha along with his colleagues Rudi Soll and Zimisele Mazibuko were amongst those awarded for long service at the 2023 Proto Gala dinner hosted by the Mine

Rescue Services South Africa (MRS). The MRS, a member of the International Mines Rescue Body (IMRB), has Proto teams across various underground mines in South Africa.

Mbatha, a general engineering superintendent stationed at the mine's Ngwabe Shaft, received recognition for 15 years of service. He has responded to a total of 16 call outs throughout his career. "I was inspired to join Proto because I wanted to help save lives. It means a lot for me to have stayed 15 years in the service"



said Mbatha. A typical team on a mine consists of at least 5 people and members also attend refresher courses to upskill.

Soll, who is vice-captain of the ZAC team, said he was honoured to have served for 10 years. "Being a part of Mine Rescue Services is a great honour and a dream come true for me," he remarked. The role played by Proto members is captured by the words 'voluntate servio,' or 'voluntarily we serve'

inscribed on the organisation's badge. Mazibuko, a mechanical foreman at the Maye B shaft says the skills gained during the training are invaluable, adding that Proto was also based on the comradery shared with teammates. "As you go through the rescue and recovery missions, you start to appreciate life even more," said Mazibuko. **21**



# AMALUNGU E-ZAC PROTO AKLONYELISWE NGOKUDONSA EMSEBENZINI

**N**akuba kunezingozi ezihambisana nomsebenzi wokuhlenga abantu ezimayini, amalungu e-Proto eNingizimu Afrika yonke ahlale ezinikele ekuhlangeni izimpilo zabantu nokwenza umsebenzi omuhle kulo mkhakha. Amalungu e-Proto asukumela izimo eziphuthumayo njengokubheduka komlilo nokuhlwaya nokuhlenga abantu. Ukaputeni wethimba i-ZAC Proto uSizwe Mbatha nabalingani bakhe o-Rudi Soll noZimisele Mazibuko

bangabanye babantu abaklonyeliswe ngokuba nesikhathi eside emsebenzini emcimbini wesidlo sakusihlwa i-2023 Proto Gala, ebihlelwe yi-Mine Rescue Services South Africa (i-MRS). I-MRS, eyilungu le-International Mines Rescue Body (i-IMRB), enamathimba e-Proto ezindaweni ezihlukene ezimayini eNingizimu Afrika.

UMBatha, ongunsumpa wobunjinyela jikelele emgodini iNgwabe, uklonyeliswe ngeminyaka engu-15 esebenza. Usenze imisebenzi yokuhlenga engu-16 iyonke empilweni

yakhe. “Ngaba nothando lokungena kwi-Proto ngoba ngithanda ukuhlenga izimpilo zabantu. Kusho lukhulu kimina ukuba neminyaka engu-15 ngisebenza,” kusho uSizwe. Ithimba elijwayelekile emayini linabantu abahlanu, kanti amalungu avame ukuqeqeshwa ukuphucula amakhono awo.

U-Soll, oyiphini likakaputeni lethimba le-ZAC, uthakasilile ngokusebenza iminyaka emihlanu. “Ukuba yingxenye ye-Mine Rescue Services yinto enkulu nokufezeka kwesifiso sami,” kuphawula yena. Iqhaza

elibanjwa ngamalungu e-Proto liqukethwe ngamagama aqoshwe ebhejeni layo athi ‘*voluntate servio*’, okusho ukuthi ‘ngokuvoluntiya siyasebenza’. **UMazibuko**, imfolomane yomakhenikha esemgodini iMaye B uthi amakhono abawathola ngenkathi beqeqeshwa abaluleke kakhulu, wengeza ngokuthi i-Proto isekelwe ebunganini bamalungu ethimba. “Ngenkathi wenza imisebenzi yokuhlwaya nokuhlenga abantu, uqala ukwazisa impilo kakhulu,” kusho uMazibuko. **Z**



*Nombuso Mkhabela, electrical engineering learner  
UNombuso Mkhabela, umfundi wobunjiniyela bukagesi*

## NOMBUSO GLEANS KNOWLEDGE FROM LEARNERSHIP

**N**ombuso Mkhabela was fascinated by the movement of electricity from sub-stations and power stations to the consumer. This inspired the 25-year-old to pursue electrical engineering. After finishing and matric in 2016 Nombuso studied electrical infrastructure and construction at Mthashane TVET college, followed by a course in electrical engineering levels N2-N6.

Nombuso is currently doing her learnership at ZAC, after a short stint working in the Expanded Public Works Programme within the KwaZulu Natal department of transport. She started her training at the mine in 2023. "I am getting a lot of experience. I started at the surface workshop and now I am working underground," says Nombuso. She is keen to explore opportunities in the mining sector and wants to study further. **22**

## UNOMBUSO UTHEKELA ULWAZI OHLELWENI LOKUQEESHWA

**U**Nombuso Mkhabela wathathwa wukuhamba kukagesi usuka eziteshini zawo, uye kubantu. Lokhu kwagquguzela le ntokazi eneminyaka engu-25 ukuthi yenze izifundo zobunjiniyela bukagesi. Ngemva kokuphuthula umatikuletsheni ngo-2016, uNombuso wenza *i-electrical infrastructure and construction* eMthashane TVET college, walandelisa ngezifundo zobunjiniyela kugesi u-N2 kuya ku-N6.


Manje uNombuso uqeqeshelwa umsebenzi e-ZAC, ngemva kokusebenza kancane ohlelweni *i-Expanded Public Works Programme* eMnyangweni weZokuthutha KwaZulu-Natali. Waqala ukuqeqeshwa emayini ngo-2023. "Ngithola amava amaningi. Ngaqala e-workshop kanti manje sengisebenza emgodini," kusho uNombuso. Ufisa ukubheka amanye amathuba emkhakheni wezimayini kanti ufisa ukuqhubeka nokufunda. **22**



*Mayenzeke Mtshali, electrical engineering learner  
UMayenzeke Mtshali, umfundi wobunjiniyela bukagesi*


## ELECTRICAL APPRENTICE FOLLOWS IN BROTHER'S FOOTSTEPS

**M**ayenzeke Mtshali from Okhukho in Ulundi was inspired by his older brother to pursue electrical engineering. After matriculating in 2019 he studied electrical engineering at Majuba FET College. "I grew up seeing Eskom workers fixing transformers which made me curious, and my brother was also an electrician. I was motivated by his work," says Mayenzeke.

While at ZAC Mayenzeke has gained a lot of skills such as how to connect the pump to the motor, and to install a pylon. "I learned how to isolate, lock and test which ensures safety when working with electricity," he explains. Mayenzeke looks forward to securing a job after completing the learnership with hopes to grow and learn further. 

## ITHWASA LIKAGESI LIHAMBALIHAMBA EZINYATHELWENI ZOMNEWABO

**U**Mayenzeke Mtshali wasoKhukho oLundi wakhuthazwa wumnewabo ukwenza izifundo zobunjiniyela bukagesi. Ngemva kokuphuthula umatikuletsheni ngo-2019, wafundela ubunjiniyela bukagesi eMajuba FET College. "Ngakhula ngibona abantu bakwa-Eskom belungisa ama-transformer, okwangenza ngalangazelela ukwazi kanti vele nomnewethu wayenza ugesi," kusho uMayenzeke.


Njengoba esese-ZAC uMayenzeke usenekhono lokuxhuma iphampu enjinini nokufaka i-pilon. "Ngifunde ukuhlukanisa, ukukhiya nokuhlola ukuqinisekisa ukuphepha uma kusetshenzwa ngogesi," kuchaza yena. UMayenzeke ukubheke ngamehlo abomvu ukuthola umsebenzi uma esepothule ukuqeqeshwa ngethemba lokukhula nokuqhubeka afunde. 

# SANITATION RIGHTS BECOME REALITY FOR ELOMO PRIMARY SCHOOL LEARNERS

The dignity of over 122 learners and their teachers at the Elomo Primary School has been upheld through ZAC's intervention to build new toilet facilities for the school. The school serves the Elomo area in Mahlabathini, which falls under ZAC's host communities. Before ZAC's intervention, teachers and learners had to use mobile toilets which they received in 2020 from government. Prior to that, the school had no ablution facilities. In search of a solution, the school's principal Samkelisiwe Dlamini approached ZAC for assistance.

"Our school is in a deep rural area which means we are always in need of support so we can continue serving the community. I do not know how to describe the joy we felt after ZAC accepted our application for a donation," says Dlamini.

Through its Social and Labour Plan projects, ZAC supports the development of its host communities, focusing on education, infrastructure, and skills training. Induna Zwane, described the project as a source of relief. "We welcome this development because our teachers and learners will benefit from a healthier environment," Zwane says.


ZAC mine manager Siphso Valoi pointed out that Elomo is a strategic school because it is easily accessible for local children, ensuring that they do not have to travel long distances to attend lessons. "As a caring colliery, the plight of staff and learners at Elomo touched our hearts. We believe these toilets will improve the schooling experience for the learners and ensure that they can enjoy the right to basic sanitation," Valoi concludes. 

# SELIFEZEKILE NASE-ELOMO PRIMARY ILUNGELO LOKUBA NENDAWO YOKUZIKHULULA

S ebezohlonipheka abafundi abangaphezu kuka-122 nothisha esikoleni samabanga phansi i-Elomo Primary emva kokungenelela kwe-ZAC ebakhele izindlu zokuzikhulula. Lesi sikole sisendaweni yase-Elomo, eMahlabathini, okungeminye yemiphakathi okwakhe kuyo iZAC. Ngaphambi kokungenelela kwe-ZAC othisha nabafundi bebesebenzisa izindlu zokuzikhulula ezingomahambanendlwana ababewathole kuhulumeni ngo-2020. Ngaphambi kwalokho, lesi sikole besingenazo izindlu zokuzikhulula. Uthishomkhulu Samkelisiwe Dlamini ucele usizo kwi-ZAC ngoba ezama ukuthola isisombululo.

"Isikole sethu sisemajukujukwini nokusho ukuthi sihlale sidinga ukusekwa ukuze sikwazi ukuqhubeka nokusiza umphakathi. Angikwazi ukuchaza indlela esajabula ngayo emva kokuthi i-ZAC

yamukele isicelo sethu somnikelo," kusho Dlamini. Ngohlelo lwayo uHlelo lweZenhlo noMsebenzi, iZAC ithuthukisa imiphakathi eyakhele kuyo kanti igxila kwezemfundo, ingqalasizinda namakhono. Induna uZwane ithe lo msebenzi uzobasiza. "Siyayamukela le ntuthuko ngoba othisha nabantwana bethu bazohlomula ngendawo enempilo," uZwane.

IMenja yase-ZAC uSiphso Valoi uthe i-Elomo yisikole esihleleke kahle ngoba izingane zendawo zifinyelela kalula kuso okuqinisekisa ukuthi azihambi amabanga amade ukuyofunda. "Siyimayini yamalahle enozwelo, usizi lwabasebenzi nabafundi base-Elomo lwasithinta. Sikholwa ukuthi lezi zindlu zokuzikhulula zizophucula indlela abafunda ngayo ukuze nabo balithokozele leli lungelo lokuba nendawo yokuzikhulula efanele," uValoi. 



*Elomo Primary School principal Samkelisiwe Dlamini Uthishomkhulu wese-Elomo Primary School uSamkelisiwe Dlamini*





*Mvalo Secondary School learners viewing laptops that were provided by ZAC  
Abafundi baseMvalo Secondary School  
bebuka ama-laptop anikelwa yi-ZAC*




# MVALO LEARNERS EQUIPPED TO GAIN DIGITAL SKILLS

Learners at Mvalo Secondary School are all set to gain computer literacy skills after receiving 18 laptops from ZAC. The mine, together with one of its partners Rich Steel, delivered the laptops to the school during a handover ceremony in June 2023. The laptops were purchased with proceeds from the 5th annual ZAC Golf Day event in 2022, meant to raise funds for social upliftment projects.

The initiative highlights the increasing importance for schools to incorporate computer literacy as part of the curriculum, to help learners become competitive in a digital world. The Covid-19 pandemic also accelerated the pace of digitisation, putting a spotlight


on the need to implement technology in the classroom.

Lungeleni Zulu, acting principal at Mvalo, said the laptops would assist the school to set up its first functional computer laboratory. "We feel very excited to receive computers for our school. This will allow learners to do assignments, conduct research and complete tasks with confidence, as we are in the fourth industrial revolution (4IR)," Zulu says. The initiative was made possible through the participation of 2022 ZAC Golf Day headline sponsors including The PumpSmith, SA Minerals Laboratories Ithuba, Sandvik Mining, Rock Solutions as well as JA Engineering. 

# ABAFUNDI BASEMVALO BAHLONYISWE UKUZE BACIJWE NGAMAKHONO OBUCHWEPHESHE

Abafundi baseMvalo Secondary School bazothola amakhono bokusebenzisa ikhompyutha ngemva kokugixatshezwa yi-ZAC ngama-laptop angu-18. Le mayini, nabalingani bayo i-Rich Steel, balethe lama-laptop esikoleni emcimbini owawungo June 2023, okwakhloswe ngawo ukuqokelela esikhwameni sokuthuthukisa umphakathi.

Lo mkhankaso ukhombisa ukubaluleka kokuthi izikole zifake ukufundisa ngekhompyutha ezifundweni zesikole ukusiza abafundi ukuthi bakwazi ukuphila emhlabeni wobuchepheshe. Ubhubhane i-Covid-19 nayo luphuthumise ukusebenzisa ubuchwepheshe, lwaqhakambisa isidingo sokusebenzisa ubuchwepheshe

ekilasini. ULungeleni Zulu, uthishanhloko obambile eMvalo, uthe ama-laptop azosiza isikole ukuthi sivule igumbi laso lokuqala lamakhompyutha. "Sijabule kakhulu ukuthola amakhompyutha esikoleni sethu. Lokhu kuzokwenza abafundi bakwazi ukwenza umsebenzi wesikole, benze ucwaningo futhi benze neminye imisebenzi ngokuzethemba njengoba sisesikhathini sokusebenza kobuchwepheshe," kusho uZulu. Lo mkhankaso ubeyimpumelelo ngenxa yeqhaza labaxhasi abaqavile be-2022 ZAC Golf Day, okubalwa kubona i-The PumpSmith, i-SA Minerals Laboratories Ithuba, i-Sandvik Mining, i-Rock Solutions ne-JA Engineering. 



# RECYCLING ON THE AGENDA FOR ZAC COMMUNITIES




*Learner gives a speech during ZAC Environmental Campaign event*

*Umfundi ethula inkulumo emcimbini womkhankaso wokonga imvelo wase-ZAC*

ZAC 2023 environmental campaigns involving local schools set the tone for enhancing the mine's community outreach efforts. The company started off the year with water conservation and recycling awareness events with six participating schools from surrounding host communities. The World Water Day and Global Recycling Day campaigns took place at the ZAC mine and were made possible through collaboration with its contractors.



ZAC Environmental Superintendent Msawenkosi Buthelezi. Learners also took part in the Global Recycling Day campaign, where ZAC launched its community recycling project to promote effective waste management practices. "The idea behind recycling is to minimise the amount of waste that ends up in the local landfills by trying to share the idea with the community that they should consider opportunities of generating income through waste. Currently we are working with the local contractors and helping them to transport the waste to a recycling centre in Ulundi, next to the local municipality offices," says Buthelezi. In the long-term ZAC would like to develop a centre that is situated at the site. 



Learners who attended the events received educational material and engaged in activities like aquatic biomonitoring. ZAC also identified participating schools that needed water infrastructure and provided 4 water tankers. "We also assist with the supply of fresh water to residents in the area which is why involving the community to ensure that conservation is a collaborative effort is important to us. When there is a leakage, we should all be accountable to report it so it can be resolved and does not hinder the flow of water to all who need it for their daily lives," says



# IMVELO EQHULWINI LWEZINHLELO EMIPHAKATHINI YE-ZAC

Imikhankaso yokonga imvelo ye-ZAC yango-2023 yezikole icabe indlela yokusabalale umsebenzi wemayini wokuphosa esivivaneni emphakathini. Inkampani ivule unyaka ngemicimbi yokonga amanzi, lapho bekhona izikole eziyisithupha zendawo. Imikhankaso i-World Water Day ne-Global Recycling Day yenzeke emayini yase-ZAC kanti yenzeke ngokubambisana kwabakhi. Abafundi akade bekule micimbi bathole izinsiza zokufunda, babamba iqhaza ekubhekeni izinto zemvelo ezisemanzini.

I-ZAC ithole ithuba lokubona izikole ezidinga ingqalasizinda yamanzi, yase izihlinzeka ngamathangi amanzi amane. "Silekelela endaweni ngokuhlinzeka izakhamuzi ngamanzi ahlanzekile, okungakho ukubambisana nomphakathi ezintweni esizenzayo kubalulekile kithina. Uma kuzuza

amanzi, kufanele sonke sibenejoka lokubika ukuze kulungiseke inkinga, ingakhinyabezi ukuhamba kwamanzi aye kubo bonke abawadingayo ezimpilweni," kusho uNsumpa weZemvelo e-ZAC uMsawenkosi Buthelezi.

Abafundi babambe iqhaza emkhankasweni i-Global Recycling Day, lapho i-ZAC yethule khona umbhidlango wokonga imvelo emphakathini ukugqugquzela izindlela zokonga imvelo. "Umqondo wokonga imvelo wukunciphisa imfucuza egcina igcwele ezindaweni zokulahla udoti ngokufafaza lo mqondo emphakathini ukuthi ubheke izindlela zokwenza imali ngezibi. Okwamanje, sisebenzisana nabakhi bendawo, sibalekelele ukuthi bathuthule izibi oLundi, ngasemahhovisi," kusho uMsawenkosi. Ngokuqhubeka kwesikhathi sifisa ukusungula isikhungo esikule ndawo. 22






*Sicebiso Mvelase, diesel mechanic learner*  
*USicebiso Mvelase, ofundela ukuba ngumakhenikha kadizili*


## SICEBISO IS EAGER TO EXCEL IN MECHANICS

**Z**AC learner Sicebiso Mvelase looks forward to establishing himself as a master mechanic. Sicebiso from Okhukho honed his skills at a vehicle repair workshop in Ulundi before joining ZAC in May 2023 through a diesel mechanic learnership. Sicebiso finished his studies at Majuba FET College prior to getting the learnership.

"I liked the fact that there are lots of opportunities in that field. You can open your own business or work for an existing company," he says. Being at ZAC is another opportunity for him to thrive. "The skill is in high demand because there will always be a car that needs fixing or maintenance," he adds. At ZAC he has learned important skills including engine checks and diagnostics and eliminating high risk factors. 

## USICEBISO UMAGANGE UKUVELELA EKUKHENIKHENI

**U**mfundi wase-ZAC uSicebiso Mvelase ukubheke ngamehlo abomvu ukwaziwa njengompetha kamakhenikha. USicebiso wasoKhukho ucike ikhono lakhe lokukhanda endaweni yokukhanda esoLundi ngaphambi kokufika e-ZAC ngoNhlaba wango-2023 ngohlelo lokuthwasela ukuba wumakhenikha kadizili. USicebiso waphothula izifundo zakhe eMajuba FET College ngaphambi kokuthwasela umsebenzi.


"Ngithanda ukuthi kunamathuba amaningi kulowo mkhakha. Ungavula ibhizinisi lakho noma usebenzele inkampani evela ikhona," kusho yena. Ukuba se-ZAC elinye ithuba lokuchuma kuyena. "Leli khono liyinyama ngoba kuyohlale kukhona imoto edinga ukukhwindwa noma ukulungiswa," kwengeza yena. E-ZAC usefunde amakhono abalulekile njengokuhlola injini nokubona inkinga nokuqeda izinto eziyingozi enkulu engjinini. 



*Phumlile Mlaba, Boiler making vac-work apprentice  
UPhumlile Mlaba, ithwasa le-boiler making*

## CHILDHOOD DREAM TO GET MINE EXPERIENCE MANIFESTS


**G**rowing up in the Mlaba area, one of ZAC's host communities, meant that the mine was a constant feature in Phumlile Mlaba's environment. Phumlile, a boiler making vacation student at ZAC, says she has always wanted to work at the mine. "I grew up knowing about the mine because it is so close to home and I wanted to work here one day," she says. She was initially interested in becoming an electrical engineer but switched her focus to boiler making.

After passing matric at Masibumbane High School Phumlile enrolled for a boiler making qualification at Majuba FET College which she completed in 2022. She started her training at ZAC almost two years ago and is under the tutelage of experienced artisan Vincent Mvelase. Phumlile first started working at the mine's surface workshop where her experience in boiler making expanded. Phumlile looks forward to attending the Colliery Training College once she completes the programme at ZAC. 

## KUFEZEKA IPHUPHO LASEBUNGANENI LAMAVA ASEZIMAYINI

**E**khula KwaMlaba, esinye sezigodi esakhelwe yi-ZAC, isithombe semayini emehlweni kaPhumlile Mlaba, isitshudeni esiyithwasa le-boiler making, yinto eyayingasuki, othi seloku kwathi nhlo wayefisa ukusebenza emayini.

"Ngakhula ngazi ukuthi kunemayini ngoba iseduze kakhulu kunasekhaya futhi ngangifisa ukusebenza khona ngelinye ilanga," kusho yena. Waqale wafisa ukuba wunjinyela kagesi kodwa wabuye washintshela ekubeni yi-boiler maker. Ngemva kokuphasa umatikuletsheni eMasibumbane High School.

UPhumlile wabhalisela i-boiler making eMajuba FET College, ayiqeda ngo-2022. Waqala ukuqeqeshwa e-ZAC eminyakeni emibili edlule ngaphansi kweso elibukhali lika-Vincent Mvelase. UPhumlile waqala ukusebenza e-workshop, lapho kwanda khona ulwazi lwakhe lwe-boiler making. UPhumlile ukubheka ngamehlo abomvu ukuyofunda e-Colliery Training College uma eseqede izifundo zase-ZAC. 




ZAC procurement manager, Raj Shunker  
IMenenja Yezokuthenga e-ZAC uRaj Shunker

## LOCAL PROCUREMENT THRIVES AT ZAC

Local companies have played a crucial role in the construction of ZAC's Mngeni Shaft. This is a notable development for the company's efforts to build mutually beneficial partnerships with local businesses. Kulu Mining and Landa Ilanga won the bulk of the contracts for the construction phase of Mngeni Shaft.


Landa Ilanga worked on the terracing and levelling out of the roadway to the shaft while Kulu Mining is tasked with working on the box cut, concreting the laydown area, constructing the vent collar for the fan among other things. Both companies will get to sub-contract some of the work to other suppliers, ensuring that more companies will benefit from the opportunities. "That was part of their contract, so that they can also play a role in making sure that other companies are empowered," explains ZAC's procurement manager Raj Shunker.

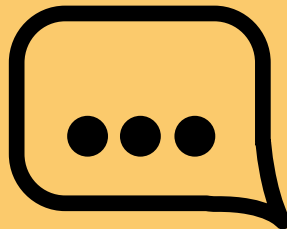
Most of the labour on the project is also sourced locally. ZAC relies on local companies to provide other services including transportation, coal hauling, catering, and construction. "Working with local suppliers strengthens our connection to our community as a mine and ensures that the local economy benefits from our operations," Raj says. 

## I-ZAC ITHUTHUKISA OSOMABHIZINISI BENDAWO

Izinkampani zendawo zibambe iqhaza elibalulekile ekwakhiweni komgodini uMngeni Shaft e-ZAC. Le ntuthuko ibalulekile emizamweni yenkampani yokwakha ubudlelwano obuhlomulisa wonke umuntu nosomabhizinisi bendawo. Izinkampani ezithole umsebenzi omningi wokwakha iMngeni Shaft yiKulu Mining neLanda Ilanga.

ILanda Ilanga lona lenze kakhulu umsebenzi wokuqondisa indawo okuzongenelwa kuyo kwase kuthi iKulu Mining yona yenze omunye umsebenzi. Zombili lezi zinkampani zingakwazi ukuqoka ezinye ezizosebenzisana nazo ukuze kwande izinkampani ezizohlomula ngala mathuba.

"Lokho bekuyingxenye yenkontileka yakhe ukuze babambe iqhaza ekuqikeleleni ukufukula ezinye izinkampani," kusho uRaj Shunker, imenenja yokuthenga izimpahla. Abasebenzi abaningi bathathwa khona endaweni. I-ZAC ithembela ezinkampanini zendawo ukuhlinzeka imisebenzi efana nezokuthutha, amalahle, ukuhlinzeka ukudla nokunye. "Ukusebenzisana nosomabhizinisi bendawo kuqinisa ubudlelwano bethu nomphakathi njengemayini futhi kuqikelela ukuthi umphakathi uyasizakala ngomsebenzi," kusho uRaj. 



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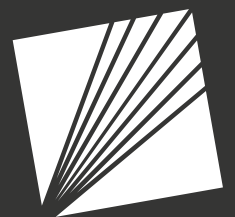
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