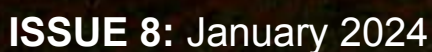




BOKONI
PLATINUM MINES



BOKONI
Official
Bulletin



ISSUE 8: January 2024

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Letter from the GM

As we move forward into the year 2024, we're excited to share updates on the progress and performance of Bokoni Platinum Mines. We understand the importance of continuous improvement and growth, and we're committed to achieving these goals with your support and collaboration.

Our recent activities include the completion of important projects such as the fencing project and the Klipgat boxcut, alongside various other initiatives aimed at further progress and development, including the main gate, hostel/single quarter, surface decline mining, village upgrade, and numerous other projects. I need to commend all our employees for their hard work and dedication during December, ensuring a smooth transition into the new year. Continuing with this kind of dedication, we aim to carry the momentum of our achievements into 2024, focusing on safety, people, and production.

Speaking of safety, we are proud to report that we've reached 60 days without a Lost Time Injury (LTI). Safety remains our top priority, and we're committed to maintaining this positive trend through reinforcing basic safety practices and fostering the right safety mindset among all individuals.



On the production front, while we celebrate our achievements, we also acknowledge the challenges we face, particularly in conventional mining, impacting the feed to the plant. Despite falling slightly short of our budgeted target for January, we remain determined to intensify our efforts and find solutions to reach our goals. The mine has finalized our business strategy in January.

This will be enforced by our four core values - Care and Respect, Trust and Accountability, Teamwork and Collaboration, and Innovation and Excellence.

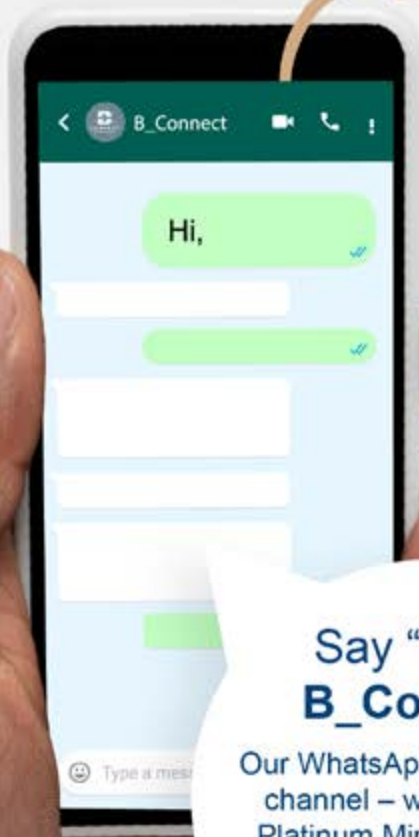
These will guide us on our journey towards sustained success. This edition of our Bokoni Official Bulletin is jam-packed with articles on our support towards you as our local community. Join me in celebrating these achievements. I trust these will make you as proud as they make me. We're confident that with your continued support and cooperation, we can overcome any obstacle and achieve excellence in all that we do. As an integral part of our community, I call on you to support us in working together to ensure the prosperity and success of Bokoni Platinum Mines.

JJ Joubert

How to B-Connect



Bokoni Platinum Mines
WHATSAPP BOT



3 Main Platform Features

Career Opportunities

Hello! B_Connect will help everyone improve job application opportunities. This will make applying easier for all!

Expression of Interest

Use B_Connect for Expression of Interest opportunities – open for everyone! Join in and seize your chance!

General Communication

B_Connect helps Bokoni share info with everyone easily. Stay in the loop effortlessly!

Say “Hi” to B_Connect

Our WhatsApp for Business channel – where Bokoni Platinum Mines engages with everyone in a modern manner, fostering two-way interaction

Save our number to your contacts +27 87 250 2184

OR
scan the QR code



**HOW IT
WORKS:**

1

2
In WhatsApp
type Hi,

Follow the
menu prompts

3

Spotlighting the Mining Manager

Sthembiso Mhlambi

A Journey of Leadership at Bokoni Platinum Mines

Sthembiso Mhlambi, the Mine Manager at Bokoni Platinum Mines, has a journey defined by dedication and commitment. Reflecting on his path, he reminisces about his roots in a rural village, eMadedeni. His educational journey began in Devon and he completed high school in Durban. Pursuing his dream of mining, he navigated through university, kickstarting his career in mining and steadily climbing the ranks through dedication and hard work.

Sthembiso worked at Aquarius Platinum and later at Sibanya Stillwater, where he progressed from a miner to a Relieving Mine Manager. During his 10-year tenure, he gained extensive knowledge of Trackless Mobile Machinery (TMM). He officially embarked on his management career at Samancor Western Chrome Mines as a Mine Manager, where he was exposed to both mechanised and open-cast mining operations. Following this, he moved to Goldfields South Deep, where he was introduced to massive, ultra-deep-level mechanised mining methods. All of these experiences equipped him for his current role at Bokoni, where the goal is to transform the mine into a mechanised mine of the future. From his early days as a miner to becoming a mine overseer and later a mine manager, Sthembiso's journey has been one of continuous growth and accomplishment. Notable milestones include being recognised as the Best Mine Manager and spearheading innovative projects like the Early Ounces project, which saw impressive results ahead of schedule.

Beyond his professional achievements, Sthembiso emphasises the importance of family and spirituality in his life.



He finds solace in reading spiritual books and cherishes moments with his loved ones, prioritising their well-being above all else.

When asked about his vision for the mine, Sthembiso's passion for community development shines through. He envisions a legacy of upliftment, aiming to transform the surrounding area into a thriving community with improved infrastructure and opportunities for education and business.

In his role as Mine Manager, Sthembiso prioritises safety and teamwork. He fosters a culture of respect and collaboration, valuing input from every team member and promoting talent development within the department. Looking ahead, Sthembiso is excited about the potential for technological advancements to revolutionise mining operations. From command centers to mechanised equipment, he sees innovation as key to improving efficiency and safety in mining practices.

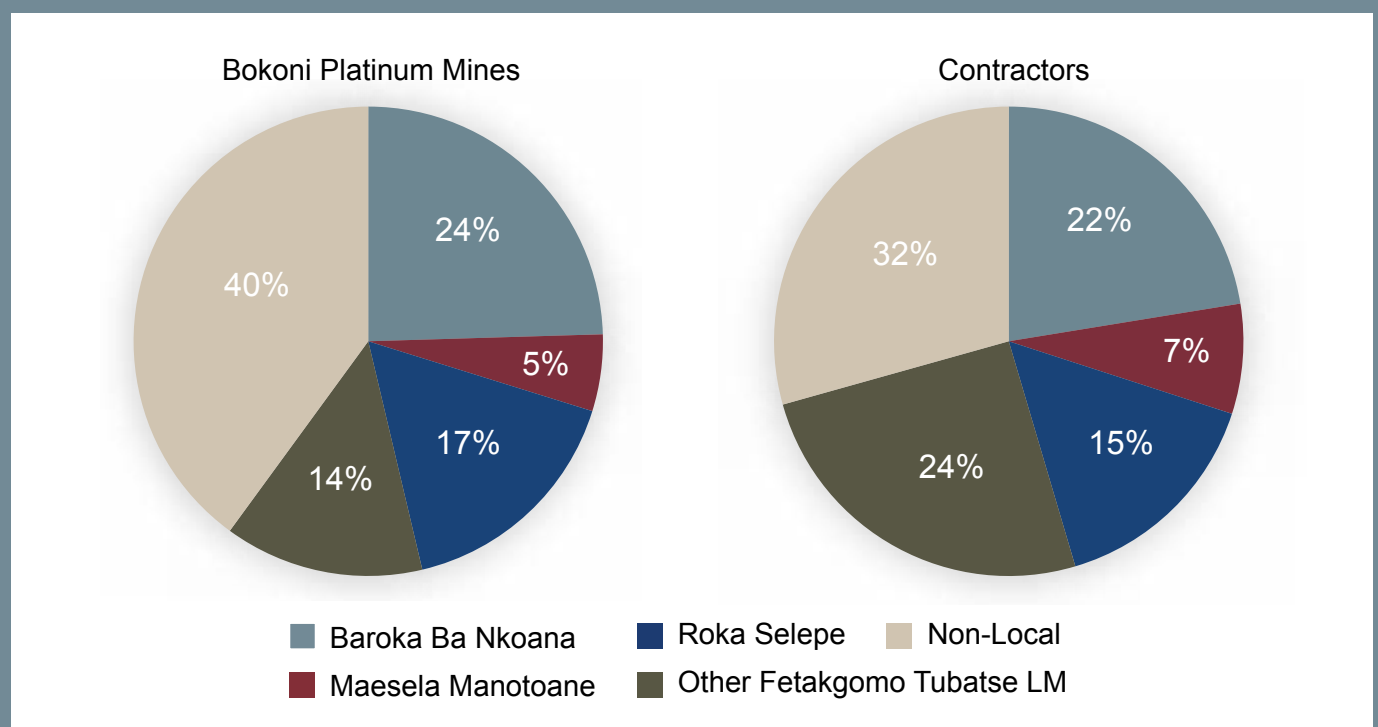
Despite the challenges faced, including recruitment hurdles and environmental concerns, he remains optimistic about the future. He emphasises the importance of diversity and inclusion in building a strong team and offers advice to aspiring leaders to lead with respect, purpose, and a listening ear.

As Sthembiso continues his journey at Bokoni Platinum Mines, his unwavering commitment to excellence and community upliftment serves as a beacon of inspiration for both his team and the surrounding community. With his leadership, the mine is poised for continued success and positive impact in the years to come.

BPM's Commitment to Local Employment

Bokoni Platinum Mines (BPM), commitment to community empowerment is solid, and plays a significant role in our mission to create a better future for everyone in our communities. We believe that one of the pillars of a thriving community is providing meaningful job opportunities for our community members. It is, therefore, important for us to share the truth about our employment practices with you through our recruitment Statistics.

Recruitment statistics as of January 2024



BPM achieved
60%
 on local employment across all levels.

BPM Business Partners achieved
68%
 on local employment across all levels.

Ex-Bokoni employees constitute
59%
 of the total BPM Headcount.

We want to encourage every community member to actively visit the B-Connect App to stay informed and apply for advertised within the mine. With this online, paperless system, it is easier than ever to apply. The career opportunities are also advertised on the mine's website www.bokoniplatinum.co.za.

Grade 12, The Key to a Brighter Future

Congratulations to all the 2023 Grade 12 learners who passed their exams! Obtaining your grade 12 is a cornerstone for individual growth and through that, also for the development of the community. In today's ever-changing world, education paves the way for a brighter future. We've heard the concerns regarding the Grade 12 qualification required for entry-level jobs at BPM, and we want to address them. It's important to note that the Grade 12 requirement is a standard practice for many companies, not just BPM.

Congratulations to all the 2023 Grade 12 learners who passed their exams!

Education is the key to numerous benefits:



Empowerment Through Education

Completing Grade 12 provides you with the skills, knowledge, and confidence for a competitive job market and a stable career. As Bokoni moves towards a mechanised mining the need for technical skills will become more.



Better Job Prospects

Grade 12 opens doors to well-paying jobs, ensuring financial security and contributing to our community's economic growth.



Strengthening Our Community

A more educated community means improved knowledge, skills, and economic stability, promoting social development and enhancing the quality of life for all. Prioritising education breaks the cycle of limited opportunities, inspiring future generations to complete Grade 12 and pursue higher education, ensuring our community's success and empowerment.



Career Advancement

Education is your path to career growth, enabling access to specialised roles and higher earning potential, benefiting your family and community. We need to grow our community to enable them to become the managers of the future.

Ex-Bokoni Employees

For those who have previously worked at the old Bokoni mine, there's a special exception. You only need a Grade 10 because your experience equips you with the necessary skills for the job. This exception is a transitional measure designed to help people from the old mine adapt to the new one and make a smoother transition.

We have resources and support available to help individuals further their qualifications. BPM offers learnership training opportunities and community-based training programs.

STORIES OF Success

In this bulletin, you'll read about youth from our villages who have been awarded Intern positions at BPM. Their stories are filled with pride, determination, and hope. They got an education and came back to invest in a better future for everyone.

Education is more than just a job. It's the key to a brighter, more empowered future for all of us. We encourage you to keep learning, whether you want to work at BPM or somewhere else. It's the path to a better future for our whole community.

Together, we can make a brighter tomorrow.



Success Stories

from local communities being employed as Interns at BPM



Dimakatso Maoko

Social Performance Intern

Dimakatso Maoko, a resident of Atok's Bogalatladi Village, faced challenges but kept her dream alive. She started at Bogalatladi Primary and later Serokolo High School, never giving up. She made sure to finish grade 12 and her passion for learning helped her get a bursary, enabling her to further her studies.

Studying hard, Dimakatso earned an Honours Degree in Development Studies, focusing on helping communities and managing projects. She also got a bachelor's degree in development studies and an HR Management National Diploma from Sekhukhune TVET College.

She believes in resilience and advises local youth to stay strong despite challenges. Dimakatso's story shows that dreams can come true. She wants everyone, especially those from tough backgrounds, to know that studying hard and applying for a bursary can change everything.

Dimakatso's journey gives hope. Her success shows that with determination, education, and a bit of help, anyone can achieve their dreams.



Thembuluwo Mabodi

Mining Intern

In the heart of Tshaulu village, Limpopo, Vhembe district, a story of empowerment unfolds. Meet Thembuluwo Mabodi, a local resident who triumphed over challenges to secure a promising future. Thembuluwo completed matric with a focus on Math and Science at Milton Mpfumedzeni Secondary School.

Thembuluwo pursued higher education at the University of the Witwatersrand, achieving a Bachelor of Science in Mining Engineering. The journey was made possible through support from National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) in the first year and subsequent funding from the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA).

Thembuluwo now proudly interns at Bokoni Platinum Mines, a testament to the transformative power of education. Thembuluwo encourages fellow youth to prioritise education and actively seek information on diverse career paths. Through dedication and support, the community is fostering a generation of empowered individuals, ready to contribute to the prosperity of Bokoni Platinum Mines.



Mokgethi Sekgobela

Environmental Intern

Mokgethi Sekgobela, is a proud resident of Atok's Ga Manotwane Village. Growing up, she attended Moloke Combined School in Apel and completed high school at High School Kuschke.

Mokgethi pursued higher education with dedication, earning a bachelor's degree in environmental sciences from the University of Venda. Her focus areas included Ecology and Resource Management, Hydrology and Water Resources, and Mining and Environmental Geology. She later obtained a Postgraduate Certificate in Education, specialising in Geography and Natural Sciences from Stadio School of Education, supported by a bursary.

Encouraging local youth, Mokgethi stresses the importance of education, local skill development, and community involvement for a brighter future. She advises leveraging technology, identifying in-demand skills, and prioritising education as a pathway to opportunities.

In her words, "Age should never limit your dreams. Patience and persistence are key. Stay focused, work hard, and trust that your journey will unfold in its own time, creating a brighter future for yourself."

Mokgethi's journey embodies the belief that with determination and perseverance, dreams can indeed become reality, offering hope and inspiration to the community.



Lethabo Mogale

HR Intern

Lethabo Mogale, a shining example of how unwavering focus and determination can pave the path from humble beginnings to academic excellence.

Raised in a small rural village in Atok, Lethabo never let her circumstances define her dreams. With resolute determination, she embarked on a journey to pursue her passion for Human Resource Management Studies at the University of Limpopo. Despite the challenges that often accompany such efforts, Lethabo remained steadfast in her pursuit of knowledge.

Through the support of a bursary and the unwavering encouragement of her parents, Lethabo successfully completed her degree with a specialisation in labor relations, public administration, and human resource development. Now, as an HR Intern at Bokoni, she serves as a beacon of inspiration for aspiring graduates.

Lethabo's message to the youth echoes with hope and encouragement. She urges young minds to seize every opportunity for education, believing wholeheartedly in the transformative power of knowledge. Her journey is a testament to the fact that with dedication and focus, anything is achievable.



Katlego Phaladi

Social Performance Intern

Hailing from Ga Manotwane Village and a proud graduate of Tlouphuti High School, Katlego's journey is a testament to the transformative power of dedication and focus.

Armed with a Bachelor's Degree in Development Management and Planning from the University of Limpopo, along with a Certificate in Office Computing from Rosebank College, Katlego's academic prowess knows no bounds. Currently pursuing a second degree, a BCom in Supply Chain and Operations Management with UNISA, Katlego's commitment to continuous learning is truly commendable.

Katlego attributes her academic success to the unwavering support of her parents and the invaluable assistance of a bursary. Her advice to the youth of our area is equally inspiring. She encourages them to maintain a mindset for success, to believe in their own greatness, and to never be deterred by life's challenges.

Katlego is determined to make a positive impact on her community and society at large while pursuing her own career aspirations. Her story serves as a reminder that no matter where you start, with dedication and perseverance, anything is possible.



Jerstica Phalafala

Geology Intern

Born in Tembisa and raised in Ga-Makgafela, a small village outside Bochum. Her schooling began at Tihonasedimong Primary School, continuing at Little Bedfordview in Lebowakgomo from grade 3 to 7, then Lebowakgomo Senior Secondary School for grade 8, and finally Dendron Secondary School for grades 9 through 12. Despite the challenges of transitioning between schools, Jerstica's determination remained steadfast.

In 2010, Jerstica embarked on a degree in Geology and Environmental Management at the University of Johannesburg, graduating in 2014. Undeterred by the pursuit of knowledge, she furthered her studies, completing a diploma in nursing and midwifery at the Limpopo College of Nursing in 2019.

Jerstica credits her parents for making her educational aspirations a reality. Her advice to the youth echoes the sentiment of hard work and perseverance, emphasising that success is the fruit of diligent effort. Jerstica encourages the youth of our community to aspire for greatness, drawing inspiration from the opportunities within reach. She believes that each individual has the power to elevate their community and pave the way for future generations.

Arrest of Job Scammers



In a recent joint operation, our mine's Protection Services and SAPS detectives successfully arrested three job scammers preying on desperate job seekers.

BMP Protection Services received numerous complaints from community members who fell victim to a job scam on the Facebook page "Autok." The fraudulent ads promised positions at Bokoni Platinum Mines, leading victims to lose amounts ranging from R1000 to R5000 through PEP store money market deposits.

Protection Services and SAPS launched a comprehensive investigation, identifying the use of the old Bokoni Mine logo in the scam advertisements. On 16 January 2024, three suspects were arrested in Burgersfort.

The operation not only led to the suspects' arrest but also the recovery of crucial evidence, including six cell phones believed to have been used in the scamming operation.

There are more scammers out there. Employees and contractors are urged to report similar incidents promptly. Community members should share this warning with family and friends to prevent further victimisation.

In a climate of scarce job opportunities, caution is crucial when responding to job ads, especially on social media.

Verifying the legitimacy of job offers and reporting suspicious activities promptly is essential. These arrests highlight the importance of community vigilance and the authorities' commitment to safeguard residents from scams.

Bokoni Platinum Mines again wants to emphasise that it does NOT sell jobs. Every opportunity is available to all who apply and meet requirements. BPM is committed to keeping the community informed and safe.

Scammers are always devising new tricks, so staying informed and cautious is crucial. We will update you on this matter continuously. Let's spread the word, stay informed, and work together to keep our community safe.

Beware of fake social media accounts!

Attention, everyone!

Bokoni DOES NOT have a Facebook page, LinkedIn or any other social media profile. Be cautious of fake accounts pretending to be us on these platforms.



REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

If you come across suspicious job offers or companies, report them immediately to BPM's security team or the ARM Fraud line at [insert number]. We are here to support you and act against those who want to harm our community.



WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

Your safety is our priority. Let's work together to stop job scammers in their tracks. Stay safe, stay smart, and protect our community!

Remember:

Your vigilance keeps our community secure!



Upholding Integrity:

Bokoni Platinum Mine's Vigilance Against Fraudulent Supplier Activities

At Bokoni Platinum Mine (BPM), integrity in business transactions is paramount. We are committed to acquiring goods and services from reputable businesses while also supporting small enterprises, local economic development, and historically disadvantaged service providers. To uphold this commitment and protect the integrity of our operations, the mine has established a strict Blacklisting Procedure.

The Blacklisting Procedure governs the process of identifying and taking action against suppliers who engage in fraudulent or illegal activities. It includes various stages, including vendor onboarding, the bidding process, and contract implementation. The aim is twofold: to prevent BPM from doing business with individuals or entities who default on contracts or engage in corrupt practices, and to safeguard the interests of our community and stakeholders.

Some of the illegal and fraudulent activities that may lead to blacklisting include:

 <p>Fraud, Bribery, and Corruption Any attempt to deceive BPM through dishonest practices or offering bribes to influence procurement decisions.</p>	 <p>Continuous Work Without Official Order Engaging in work without proper authorization or contractual agreements.</p>
 <p>Compromised Quality Delivering goods or services that do not meet the specified quality standards.</p>	 <p>Forgery of Documentation Falsifying delivery notes, company details, or any other official documents.</p>
 <p>Damage and Removal of BPM's Property Intentionally causing damage to BPM's assets or removing them without authorisation.</p>	 <p>Theft of BPM's Property Stealing equipment, materials, or other assets belonging to BPM.</p>
 <p>Collusive Tendering Participating in bid-rigging or other forms of collusion to manipulate the procurement process.</p>	 <p>Exclusionary Acts Engaging in anti-competitive behaviours or practices prohibited by the Competition Act.</p>



Forgery of Inspection, Test, and Compliance Documentation

Providing falsified documents to misrepresent compliance with regulatory requirements.



Failure to Cooperate with Administrative Procedures

Refusing to provide necessary documentation or information requested by BPM.



Criminal Convictions

Being convicted of criminal activities, including offenses punishable by imprisonment for six months or more.



Failure to Meet Agreed Delivery Dates

Repeatedly failing to deliver goods or services as per contractual agreements.



Non-Compliance with Ethical Conduct Policies

Violating BPM's policies, procedures, and guidelines on ethical behaviours.



B-BBEE Fronting

Engaging in deceptive practices to falsely represent compliance with Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) requirements.



Utilisation of Blacklisted Companies or Their Senior Management Staff

Engaging with companies or individuals previously blacklisted by BPM.

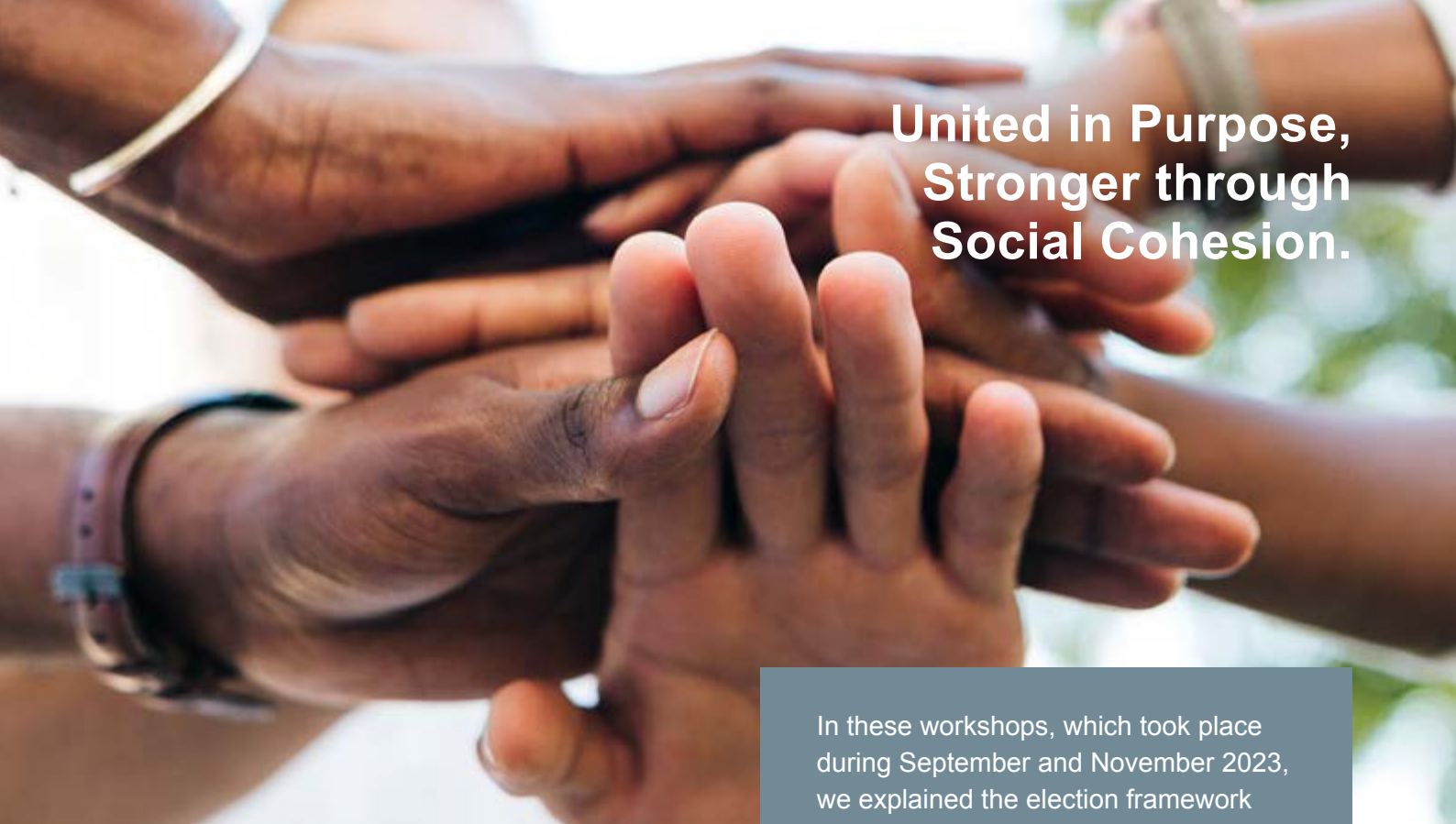


Sharing of Proprietary Information

Disclosing confidential information belonging to BPM to unauthorised third parties.

BPM'S BLACKLIST Procedure

is important to safeguarding the integrity of our procurement processes and promoting ethical conduct in business. By holding suppliers accountable for their actions, we ensure a fair and transparent business environment that benefits our community and stakeholders alike.



**United in Purpose,
Stronger through
Social Cohesion.**

Making Progress on Community Engagement

Bokoni Platinum Mines has been working hard to make sure everyone in our community has a say in what happens. We've been holding social cohesion workshops with the traditional authorities and members who used to be part of the previous community forums within our local mine-affected communities.

In these workshops, which took place during September and November 2023, we explained the election framework process and spoke about how to run fair elections for a new Community Engagement Forum (CEF).

Bokoni has appointed an independent service provider to facilitate and supervise the election process. These people assist to make sure everything is done fairly and within the rules. They will also assist with identifying the dates and the venues for these elections. Once the full onboarding process has been finalised, the independent service provider will engage all stakeholders to start the election process.

We're excited about this progress and will remain keeping you updated every step of the way.

Mine Fencing Project Underway



The need for improved safety around the mining area was identified by both the mine and community leaders in our area. In a major step towards ensuring safety for all, the Mine Fencing Project has kicked off its first phase along the Via Monametsana Road. Through this project, the entire mining area of Bokoni Platinum Mines will be fenced off to create a secure barrier, promoting the safety of both the community and mining operations.

The initial phase, spanning 7.6 kilometers, involves the installation of clear Vu and Diamond mesh fencing from Middelpunt to Klipgat, passing the Main Building and Protection Services up to Atokia Village. This phase started in December 2023, and the project is well underway, with an expected completion date of 31 May 2024.

The overarching purpose of this project is to safeguard the mining area and the surrounding properties, as well as the well-being of people and animals in neighbouring regions. This project will contribute to preventing potential harm to community members, especially children, people, and animals, as they navigate through the mining area alongside heavy mining vehicles. The project also aims to manage and curb illegal mining activities in the region.

SpecAfrica was appointed to execute this project. They have joined forces with a local company that supplied ADT equipment for the project's execution. They will also be sourcing a dozer locally. This collaboration not only ensures the success of the fencing project but also empowers the community. SpecAfrica has demonstrated its commitment to the local community by employing 24 community members for the project. This is one of the capital projects managed by the ARM Projects Group.

As the Fencing Project progresses, it marks a significant stride towards a safer and more secure environment for the community and mining operations alike. The completion of this project promises to bring about a positive impact on the lives of those residing in the vicinity of Bokoni Platinum Mines.



BPM Enhances Local Education

Bokoni Platinum Mines (BPM) demonstrated their commitment to educational development by donating R100,000 in learning and teaching equipment to ten local secondary schools in Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality (FTLM).

In a powerful move against insufficient education resources, **BPM donated R100,000 worth of learning and teaching equipment** to ten local secondary schools, emphasising the collective effort needed to overcome educational challenges. Valuing the future of their community, Bokoni Platinum Mines strives to maintain a strong relationship with stakeholders, aligning with their commitment to empower local communities.

BPM achieved a significant milestone in their SLP 3 by presenting learning and teaching materials to Serokolo, Potlake, Nyaku, Malengine, Lefakgomo, Tloupfuti, Phutitlou, Selebalo, Frank Mashile, and Morokalebole high schools. Recognising the pivotal role of solid infrastructure and technical learning resources in facilitating education, BPM's donation aims to provide a conducive learning environment, empowering learners to reach their goals.



The handover ceremony, attended by esteemed ward 34 and ward 35 councillors, Koketso Lenox Thobela and Mmakgashane Phasha, the Bokoni Platinum Mine Social Performance Team, SGB, and learners, marked a historic occasion. School principals expressed gratitude for the contribution towards ensuring quality education. Mr. Mashabela, Selebalo Principal, praised BPM, stating, "In my history of teaching, I have never witnessed a mining company that prioritises education and empowers its people as much as Bokoni Platinum Mines."

To address the challenges of the evolving technological landscape, BPM donated essential gadgets, including projectors, laptops, headphones, gamification scrabble, and internet connectivity devices to help rural high schools adapt.

Learners and SGB members conveyed their appreciation, highlighting the positive impact of the equipment on their daily learning activities and motivation to focus on studies. Tlotlego Mokgoko, the Community Development Manager, shared that BPM supports local communities by providing bursaries to academically deserving learners, contributing to the fashionable aspect of education through the mine's SLP.

The handover ceremony showcased BPM's commitment to empowering and bringing positive change to communities, emphasising the stability achieved through collaboration within the mine and communities. The peaceful relationship between communities and the mine is benefiting schools, with hopes for continued projects to achieve community developmental goals. Celebrating not only the handover but also the resilience, teamwork, and dedication witnessed, the article concludes with a call to shape the anticipated future together. It emphasises inspiring and aspiring for the sake of future leaders, echoing Nelson Mandela's words, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."



Investing in the Future

Bokoni Platinum Mines Supports Early Childhood Development

Bokoni Platinum Mines (BPM) understands that true wealth isn't just measured in ounces of metal but lies in the potential of our youth and the prosperity of our community.

The mine reaffirmed its commitment to education with a significant donation to Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDCs) across Atok host communities. Laptops, printers, and educational toys, valued at R20,000 per ECDC, were handed over to 48 local ECDCs in a ceremony held at Atokia Malips Club on 30 January 2024. This generous contribution, totalling close to a million rand, demonstrates Bokoni's commitment to nurturing talent and empowering our community, especially our youth.

Among the distinguished guests at the event were JJ Joubert, BPM's Snr GM, Acting Mayor Cllr Queen Moeng, and Mr P Makola, from Sekhukhune District Department of Basic Education. This initiative follows the mine's previous support, including substantial contributions to 10 high schools in November 2023.

Why invest in early childhood development?

Because it's the foundation upon which a child's future is built. Research shows that positive early experiences are crucial for intellectual, social, and emotional development. By investing in education at its earliest stages, Bokoni is laying the groundwork for a stronger, more prosperous future for our community.

“ It takes a village to raise a child,” goes the proverb, and BPM is bringing these words to life.

By providing essential resources to our ECDCs, we're creating conducive learning environments where every child can thrive. The laptops, printers, and educational toys donated by BPM aren't just tools; they're catalysts for learning and exploration.

Lucy Sekonya, principal of Mahudu Pre-school, shared her gratitude for BPM's support. She highlighted the challenges faced during graduation periods and emphasised the importance of having access to technology and educational resources. With laptops and printers, tasks like printing certificates and communication become easier, saving time and money for teachers and administrators alike. But it's not just about the hardware. Educational toys play a vital role in stimulating young minds and fostering creativity. With BPM's support, ECDCs can now provide engaging learning experiences that inspire curiosity and imagination.

As we look ahead, let's remember that our greatest resource isn't found underground - it's right here in our community, in the bright eyes and eager minds of our children. Thank you, BPM, for investing in our future and empowering our youth to reach their full potential. Together, we'll continue to build a brighter tomorrow.



Operation Prosper:

Combating Illegal Mining for a Prosperous Future

Illegal mining operations directly impact the well-being and growth of our community, as these individuals are stealing our precious resources and hindering our progress. In recent months, the rise of illegal mining activities has posed a severe threat to our community's prosperity. These operations not only compromise the safety of our people but also result in fewer job opportunities, social issues, and a stagnant economy. In response to this growing problem, the government has launched Operation Prosper, a concerted effort to clamp down on illegal mining and protect our valuable resources.

As part of Operation Prosper, the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), in collaboration with the police and the mining industry, has been actively working to maintain law and order nationwide. Since November 2023, Protection Services, with the assistance of SANDF, SAPS, DMRE, and the Thorburn Tactical Team, has conducted several successful operations in and around Zeekoegat farms and surrounding areas.

Here are some key successes achieved during these operations:

November 2023

- 14 illegal mining operations were conducted.
- 8 suspects were arrested and detained at Apel SAPS for mining illegally.
- Confiscation of illegal mining instruments and tools, including a generator, jackhammer, and electrical cord, valued at R20,000.00.

December 2023

- 10 additional illegal mining operations were successfully conducted.
- 19 suspects were apprehended and detained at Apel SAPS for illegal mining activities.
- 31 undocumented persons (illegal immigrants) were arrested and detained at Apel SAPS.
- 91 loads of chrome-related material were confiscated and transported to UM2 Tip for further analysis and storage. (Value not yet determined)



The total estimated value of all confiscated and recovered illegal mining instruments, equipment, and tools amounts to an astonishing R179,475,500.00.

This includes generators, jackhammers, shovels, wheelbarrows, hydraulic pressure water pumps, drill bits, hammers, electrical cords/extensions, volt batteries, and more.

This crackdown on illegal mining is not just about law enforcement; it's about securing our community's future. By eliminating illegal mining activities, we pave the way for increased job opportunities, a safer environment, and enhanced growth opportunities for everyone.

We applaud the efforts of the authorities involved in Operation Prosper and encourage our community members to stay informed and report any suspicious activities. Let us unite against illegal mining, safeguard our resources, and work together towards a prosperous future for our beloved community.

STAY VIGILANT, **stay safe,**

& let's build a better future together.



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