ISSUE 2 • AUGUST 2006

LET'S TALK ASIKHULUME

A QUARTERLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE PEOPLE OF DRDGOLD SA

MEET THE NEW CEO OF DRDGOLD SA

Niel Pretorius was appointed CEO of DRDGOLD SA on 1 July, having acted in the position for some six months, and took time to share his thoughts on his new role with Asikhulume.

What is the greatest challenge for DRDGOLD SA going forward and for you in your new role?
One of our greatest strengths, historically, has been our ability to sustain operations that are at the end of their lives, and to position them to take advantage of a better gold price environment. Building on that strength we can take the company to the next level of stability and strategic growth, and achieve that elusive '10% at the top'.

What is the greatest opportunity for the company?
One of our great strategic advantages is our mix of assets. Our underground operations have good ore bodies, with long lives. We also have surface assets, easier and less costly to run. This mix means that we have the capacity to generate cash through the surface operations during the lean years, to sustain and position ourselves to take advantage of an improved gold price environment, as we are experiencing now.

What is the first priority for the SA operations?
We have ageing infrastructure on a lot of our operations, and our challenging cash flow position in the past meant we had to be very selective where and how much we spent on routine maintenance. A priority now is to fix what needs to be fixed to give us the flexibility we need, and to ensure our improvement projects are planned in a logical sequence.

How would you describe your management style?
Essentially participative.

What are the essential qualities for an employee of DRDGOLD SA?
A lot of the characteristics the DRDGOLD SA team has already shown. We have proved we are adaptable, innovative, resilient, flexible, multi-skilled and able to think on our feet, and I'd like to see those qualities maintained as new people come in.

What message would you like to give the people of DRDGOLD SA?
First, we need to position our operations through the intelligent application of resources, to achieve a more comfortable level of flexibility. Remember we remain exposed to fluctuations in the gold price, currency and supplier pricing.

Secondly, we must continue to develop our people. Our Career Development Centre is established, and we're formalising career paths and development plans at all levels. I would like to say to ALL the people of DRDGOLD SA: if you have potential we will identify it, nurture it and provide you with an opportunity to develop it. I place a high premium on loyalty and honesty – loyalty to your colleagues, the company and to yourself – and performance to these standards will receive the recognition it deserves.

Ngomhla wokuqala kwinyanga ka July u Neil Pretorius watyunjwa njengomhathi omkhulu we DRDGOLD SA, oku kwenzeke emva kokuba abe libambela kwesisihlalo kangange nyanga ezintandathu. Uchazele uAsikhulume ngemibono yakhe kwesisihlalo sakhe esitsha. Okukulandelayo yeminye yemibono yakhe.

Ukuya phambili, ndinemilayezo emibini eya kubantu be DRDGOLD SA. Okokuqala kufanele sisebenze ngendlela evelisa iziqhamo ezihle emgodini kunye nase surface. Okwesibini, kufanele ukuba siqinisekise ukuba abantu bethu baya phuhliswas kwaye nenkokheli zethu nazo ziyaphuhliswa. Sinabo ochwepheshe bethu kwaye siqhibezela iplani yethu yophuhliso lwabantu. Ngalo lonke ixesha ndibeka phambili ukunyaniseka nentembeko kwaye ngokusebenza ngalemigaqo ufumana ukuqatshelwa nemivuzo.

MESSAGE FROM Mark Wellesley-Wood, CEO DRDGOLD Ltd

DRDGOLD SA's production for the year 25% UP!

South African production for the year – 25% higher at 315 976 ounces or 9 828 kilograms – is an early measure of some of the benefits starting to flow from repositioning our company's assets into two distinct regional entities – DRDGOLD SA and Emperor Mines.

Looking forward, Blyvoor's plan to deliver fewer, more profitable ounces is going ahead.

ERPM's great promise lies in the extension of high-grade mining into the Sallies lease area: exploration drilling is already under way.

For Crown, a key focus in the medium term is the successful outcome of the application to mine the Top Star Dump in Johannesburg.

We remain unshakeable in our belief that gold is a long-term certainty, and that we now have the flexibility, between deep and surface mining and a geographic spread of assets, to achieve sustained growth going forward.

Dipoelo tsa DRDGOLD Ltd tsa mafelo a kotare le mafelo a selemo 30 Phupjane di lokotswe ka di 24 August. Ho buella hodima dipoelo tsena, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Mark Wellesley – Wood o boletse hore matlafalo ya kuno (production) ya selemo (9 828 kg) ke pontsho ya pele e bontshang ditholwana tse ntle tse tlang ho a rolwa pakeng tsa (DRDGOLD SA le Emperor Mines in Australasia). Mark o ile a eketsa ka hore o na le kgolo ya hore ka mogwa oo khamphani e tiileng ka teng, e nang le moruo ka teng, ho bobebe ho dumella khamphani ho namela ditulong tse ding moo ho nang le moruo teng. Ka mokgwa oo khampani, e le bokamoso bo tsetsitseng.

Safeguarding ERPM's future

A R41m project has ensured the future of ERPM's existing mining area, as well as the adjacent prospecting areas.

"Water, of course, runs downhill," says General Manager Manny da Silva. "Underground, water runs through disused mining areas, starting from a high point under the old Durban Roodepoort Deep mine in Roodepoort, and finishing at the Hercules Basin under ERPM's Far East Vertical (FEV) shaft.

"If we had done nothing, our pumping capacity would have been far exceeded and our current and future mining areas would have been flooded – water levels were rising at over a metre per day."

The solution was to contain the water through constructing a series of underground plugs in disused haulages underground. "Each plug segment has a width of about 7.5 metres, and consists of hand-stacked rocks, strengthened by pumping a cement mixture through the rock and contained by cement retaining walls," says Production Manager Cliff Blom. "We built five plugs at the South East Vertical (SEV) shaft and three at FEV. Because of the greater depths at FEV – about 2 800 metres below surface – each plug there consists of five segments, while three segments were sufficient at SEV."

The project started in December 2004, and is scheduled for completion in April 2007. "We benefited from a Government subsidy for part of the cost," says Manny."Thirty of our own people were assigned to the project, with the balance of the work handled by Murray and Roberts Cementation."

When finally signed off, each segment will be able to bear a load equivalent to 860 metres of water. "Water in the Hercules Basin already extends from 3 400 to 1 900 metres below surface," says Manny.

"The sheer volumes of water are difficult to visualise. Say a typical household uses about 32 kilolitres of water per month: the Hercules Basin alone, which contains 26 828 million litres, could supply nearly 70 000 households with water for a full year!"

Metsi a ka tlase ho lefatshe a ne a senya mmaene o ntseng o le teng wa ERPM esita le dibaka tse ding tse haufi le ona. Bakeng sa ho rarolla bothata bona, ho ile ha kengwa dikwalamasoba dithapong tse mathang ka tlase ho lefatshe. Ha ho se ho qetilwe, thapo ka nngwe e tla kgona ho fupara bongata ba metsi a ka bang b ongata ba dimethara tse 860 tsa metsi.

Letters to the Editor

This is your newsletter and we want to hear from you. Write to James Duncan (james@rair.co.za).

If you have a question you would like to put to Niel Pretorius, please send it to us. Niel will answer the most interesting question received every quarter.

DRDGOLDSA

Highlights of this issue

- The launch of Tsietsi
- 105 years at ERPM
- New mills at Knights Plant
- Blyvoor's 1st woman miner

Taking a holistic view of health

"Our vision is to have the healthiest workforce in the mining industry," says Human Resources Officer Gerald Tlhabeli, speaking of Project Tsietsi, a major new initiative launched at Blyvoor on 17 July.

Tsietsi – the name commemorates Tsietsi Kamela, a member of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) branch committee who died last year – is the brainchild of the Blyvoor Lifestyle Committee, and is driven by Gerald, Employee Relations Officer Paul Leenderts and Corene Breedt of Healthshare Health Solutions, Blyvoor's health services provider.

The project has a broad mandate, covering seven key areas (see box). "For each of these, we've identified a clear mission and objectives, as well as the expected benefits," says Gerald.

For its first initiative, the team identified a need in the Blyvoor community for education on alcohol and drug abuse.

The launch of Project Tsietsi.

"With the help of Healthshare, we engaged the South African Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (SANCA) to stage their well-known five-step 'Success is a Formula' intervention at Blyvoor," says Gerald.

The programme involves question and answer sessions designed to educate employees on the effects and consequence of drug addiction and alcoholism. A number of celebrities such as Chi-chi Letswalo, formerly of the TV show Generations, and fashion event producer Wayne Stafford, themselves once victims of substance abuse, reinforce the message through motivational talks.

The programme, which was attended by mine employees, members of the Exco team and Ward 5 Councillor Hanson Nkayitshana (a full-time Blyvoor NUM committee member), was held at No 3 and No 5 Hostel on 17 and 18 July.

Employee Relations Officer Paul Leenderts and Human Resources Officer Gerald Tlhabeli.

The seven pillars of Tsietsi

- HIV/AIDS
- TB
- Nutrition
- Occupational health
- Hostel facilities
- Sport and recreation
- Education and commitment

Ho kgakolwa ha Morero wa Tshebetso wa Tsietsi

Gerald Tlhabeli, Moofisiri wa Basebetsi ha a ne a bua kgakolong ya boithaopo bo atlehileng ba tsa bophelo mane Blyvoor ka la 17 Phupu, o ile a re tjhebelopele ya Tshebetso ena ya Tsietsi ke ho ba le sebaka sa mosebetsi se lokileng ka ho fetisisa bakeng sa bophelo bo botle kgwebong ya mmaene.

Bakeng sa boithaopo ba pele, sehlopha sena e ile sa lemoha tlhokeho setjhabeng sa Blyvoor bakeng sa ho rutwa ka tshebediso e mpe ya tahi le dithethefatsi, mme se ile sa mema Lekgotla la Afrika Borwa mabapi le Tahi le Bokgoba ba Dithethefatsi (SANCA) ho tla pepesa kalaneng thuto ya bona e tsebahalang ya dipontsho ya 'Success is a Formula' e le mokgwa wa tharollo. Lenaneo lena le kenyeletsang dipuo tsa kgothatso ka dithatohatsi tse kang Chi-chi Letswalo (eo pele e neng e le sepapadi ponshong ya thelevishene ya Generations) tseo le tsona ka nako e nngwe e neng e le mahlatsipa a tshebediso e fosahetseng ya dithethefatsi, le ne le tshwaretswe mane Hosteleng ya Nomoro ya 3 le Nomoro ya 5 ka la 17 le la 18 Phupu.

SAFETY REPORT

Look before you work!

DRDGOLD SA's new safety campaign is well under way at Blyvoor and ERPM.

"The central concept of the campaign is that teams must make sure the workplace is safe before they start work," says Group Safety Co-ordinator Phillip Watters. "Team training has started, and refresher training will be given once a year.

Chief Safety Officer Willie Nelson is driving the campaign at Blyvoor, while ERPM's champions are General Manager Manny da Silva and Safety Co-ordinator Anton Swanepoel.

ERPM's Lost Time Injury Frequency Rates showed an encouraging trend this quarter, reducing from 16.41 to 12.21 per million man hours.

Reportable injuries unfortunately increased at both Blyvoor and ERPM. Phillip reports that this regression in the reportable injury rates is attributable to increased seismicity.

"Falls of ground still account for over 40% of reportable injuries, and this highlights the vital importance of good in-stope support," says Phillip.

B4 WENA SEBENZA

NB!

LO NDLELA KA LO VIMBELA LO NGOZI

- Mina setsha lo ndawo
- Mina setsha lo mphahla kalovimbela lo ngozi nalo mphala kalo job
- Mina setsha noko lo madoda yena jopa kalo ndlela kalo vimbela lo ngozi

4 STEPPIS KA LO VIMBELA LO NGOZI

In memoriam

With deep regret, we record the deaths of two employees of DRDGOLD SA in mine-related accidents during the June quarter.

Team leader Phalali Silase died on 4 April in a seismically-related rockfall at ERPM.

Matjoesa Samuel, a stope team member at ERPM, died in a similar incident on 27 June.

SAFETY FIRST

… is the motto at Blyvoor, and this applies to the local community as much as to the mine's employees.

In February this year, major storms hit the area, with rainfall levels not seen for a century.

"The rain exceeded our pumping capacity, resulting in water – carrying sand from the dams – flowing from Number 4 and 5 Dams to the P111 national road and into the adjacent Carletonville Extension 8," says Metallurgical Manager Matt Stratton.

"In agreement with the provincial authorities, we immediately closed the road to obviate any accident risk. We sent in crews to clean up the deposit left by the receding water in the residential areas, and invited representatives of local government to meet us and discuss the issue."

The sand in the water is not in fact toxic: cyanide is used in the metallurgical process, but breaks down naturally within a fairly short time on exposure to sunshine. The Department of Water Affairs (DWAF) has given Blyvoor a clean bill of health on this issue.

Comprehensive measures have been put in place to prevent a recurrence of this problem.

"As a first step, we are completing the rehabilitation of Number 4 and 5 dams," says Matt. "Because these dams were laid down nearly thirty years ago, when recovery processes were less efficient than they are today, there is still recoverable gold in them.

"The tailings from the recovery of the material from these dams is being deposited at Number 6 dam, which is further away from any residential area. As a precaution, we're also installing additional capacity to deal with exceptional rainfall, and we're keeping clean and dirty water separate by installing channels to divert rainfall from the return water."

Ukhuseleko Phambili

Ligwijo lethu e Blyvoor, kwaye eligwijo silisebenzisa nasekuhlaleni naku basebenzi basemayini.

Ngo February kulonyaka, kube nesichotho esahlasela kulendawo, sikhatshwa yimvula enkulu engazange sayibone kwiminyaka emininzi edlulileyo.

Ngenxa yemvula, amanzi anentlabathi asuka emadamini ukusuka ku nombolo 4 no 5 dami ukuya kwindlela enkulu engu P111 kwaye nase Carletonville extension 8.

"Ngesivumelwano kunye nabaphathiswa bengingqi, sakhawuleza sayivala indlela ukuze kubenokhuseleko. Sathumela amaqela abasebenzi ukuba baye kucoca intlabathi esalele apho kuhlala khona abantu, saphinda samema abameli borhulumente wasekuhlaleni ukuba sizokudibana sithethisane ngoludaba" kutsho u Mphathiswa u Matt Stratton.

Kunemithetho nemigaqo ebekiweyo ukukhusela ukuba oku kungaphinde kwenzeke.

105 years at ERPM

That's the combined service for three proud ERPM employees, who received their awards for 35 years' contribution to DRDGOLD at a function at the Boys' Club, ERPM, on 29 March. General Manager Manny da Silva presented the awards to Labour Controller John Cotterill (left), General Engineering Supervisor Ian White (centre), and Section Surveyor Vivien Labuschagne (right). After the awards, Chief Operating Officer (DRDGOLD SA) Louis Lamsley congratulated the three on their achievement.

DRDGOLD SA – QUARTER'S PRODUCTION UP 4%

Production from DRDGOLD SA this quarter increased by 4% to 90 181 ounces or 2 805 kilograms. Total cash operating costs for the DRDGOLD SA operations held steady in US Dollar terms (US$507/oz, compared with US511/oz in the last quarter), but increased slightly in Rand terms, rising by 2% from R103 519/kg to R105 117/kg.

Blyvoor
Total gold production 10% up at 1 242 kilograms
Underground 19% up at 937 kilograms
Surface 13% down at 305 kilograms

Crown
Total gold production 3% up at 741 kilograms

ERPM
Total gold production 2% down at 822 kilograms
Underground production steady at 629 kilograms
Surface 4% down at 193 kilograms

REACH for the sky

That's the dream of 28-year old Zodwa Siswana of ERPM – even though she spends her working life more than two kilometres underground.

Zodwa works at the Far East Vertical (FEV) production shaft, as part of the construction night shift.

Quietly-spoken and determined, Zodwa matriculated in East London. A family visit brought her to Ekurhuleni, where she decided to stay.

Her first job was in a restaurant in Boksburg. "The work offered no challenge – just cooking and preparing food for people. I'd heard about women joining the mining industry, and approached the local chairperson of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) at ERPM. I was part of the second intake of 10 women to the mine, in 2001. About half the group has left now, but I'm still here," she says proudly.

Zodwa reports she is now fully acclimatised to working underground. "I enjoy my work, and like the group dynamics of working in a team: if we encounter a problem, we sit and discuss how to sort it out."

"Zodwa is a member of the ERPM training and development committee," says Assistant Human Resources Manager Buti Biloane. "Her commitment and enthusiasm contributed a lot to the successful completion of the Workplace Skills Plan and Annual Training Report, and we're proud to have employees of this calibre."

Zodwa manages to combine part-time study with her work schedule, and is busy with the UNISA Access to Mining Engineering programme, with the help of a bursary from the NUM. "The most important thing is for me to get my Blasting Certificate, and I've applied for a learnership through ERPM to take me through this. The UNISA programme will take me four years, but I'll get there," she says. In the long term, she wants to manage a mine. "Or I might move to the inspectorate, or maybe even go into politics and join the Department of Minerals and Energy."

Zodwa, who shares a house with a colleague in Comet Village on the mine property, doesn't get much time for hobbies. "Fortunately, I'm single and have no kids to worry about, so I can focus on work and study," she says firmly. She does find time to keep active in union affairs, and is a keen and accomplished singer.

Kopana le Zodwa Siswana

Zodwa Siswana o sebetsa tjhafong ya tlhahiso ya FEV mane ERPM, e le karolo ya mosebetsi wa tjhafo ya bosiu. O qadile ho sebetsa lebenkeleng la dijo empa a batla ho fumana mosebetsi o nang le phephetso e matlanyana. "Ke utlwetse ka basadi ba ingodisang mmaeneng mme ka ikopanya le modulasetulo wa lehae wa NUM mane ERPM. Ke thabela ho sebetsa ka tlasa lefatshe, mme ke rata boitshwaro ba sehlopha ha re sebetsa re le sehlopha."

Zodwa o ithuta e le moithuti wa nakwana University of South Africa (UNISA).Ka thuso ya tshehetso ya ditjhelete ya NUM, o qetella lenaneo la dithuto la Access to Mining Engineering. O se a entse kopo bakeng sa thuto ya ERPM ho mo thusa ho fumana lengolo la Blasting Certificate. Ka letsatsi le leng o tla rata ho laola mmaene. "Kapa nka nna ka ingodisetsa bohlahlobing ba dimaene, kapa mohlomong ke ye dipolotiking ebe ke ingodisa ho Lefapha la Dimenerale le Matla."

Go-ahead for Crown projects

The DRDGOLD Board has approved capital expenditure of over R10 million for two projects to replace pipelines at Crown, the world's largest surface treatment operation.

The first project, with a capital value of R3.25 million, involved the replacement of one of the two 5.6 kilometre long residue lines from Crown to disposal facilities in the Nasrec area. "The pipe was nearing the end of its life," says General Manager Henry Gouws. "We have been able to source a replacement pipe from Ergo (AngloGold Ashanti's retreatment operation, which closed in 2005), resulting in a major cost saving. A new pipe would have cost about R1 200 per metre: the pipe from Ergo has cost R425 per metre delivered, a saving of nearly 65%.

An additional advantage is that the new pipeline has a larger diameter, 550 mm compared to the old pipe's 400 mm. "This larger capacity will help us to prolong the life of the remaining pipe," says Henry, "by reducing the volume it is required to carry. We used to split the load between the two pipes approximately equally: the replacement pipe will carry about two thirds of the load. Final commissioning is scheduled for August, but the first section is already working and we have already seen a drop in pressure of the old pipe."

The second project, with an approved cost of R7.2m, will involve the replacement of the 8.3 kilometre CMR feed pipeline to Crown. "This line transports 70% of Crown's feedstock," says Henry. "Pipe failure does not only have a severe impact on production, but invariably involves risk of damage to the environment. The pipe also runs close to a major railway for a stretch of about 2 kilometres, and this obviously increases the risk of damage or injury in the event of a pipe failure."

The old pipe had returned a life of six years, because of the abrasive nature of the coarse sand it carried. "The new pipe is lined with High Density Polyethylene (HDPE)," says Henry "which has a lower friction factor than rubber, making for easier pumping and less wear, which should ensure a longer life for the new pipe."

I Crown ifumene imvume – yamaprojeke

Aba bathi be DRDGOLD bavumile ukuba kungasetlenziswa imali engange R10 million ezakusetlenziswa kumaprojeke amabini okufaka amapayipi phaya e Crown. I projeke yokuqala kuzakufakwa elinye lamapayipi amabini anang 5.6 km ubude, lamapayipi asuka Crown aya kufutshane nase Nasrec. Iprojeke yesibini ibandakanya ukufaka ipayipi elitsha elingange 8.3 km ubude elisuka e CMR liya e Crown.

A home at last!

102 people at Crown have been helped to move into their own homes through the joint efforts of the company and the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) in helping eligible employees with the process of obtaining the government housing subsidy in Braam Fischerville, Soweto. This is a low-cost housing initiative that has been developed on a parcel of land donated by the Durban Roodepoort Deep Mine.

One of the successful applicants is Philip Itige, who works in the change house at Crown. "My wife Gloria and I always lived with my sister and her family, and it's wonderful to have a home of our own at last," he says. Philip and Gloria have four children, who have all now left home. "My daughter Faith works in the stores here at Crown, so we're really part of the family," says Philip.

Philip Itige proudly holds the keys to his new home.

Ikhaya Lam

Abantu abayi 102 e Crown baye bancedwa ngokuthi bafumane izindlu, oku kwenzeke ngokubambisana phakathi kwenkampani kunye ne NUM ngokuthi bancede abasebenzi abanelungelo lokufumana izindlu ngenxaso karulumente e Braam Fischerville, e Soweto. Ezi zizindlu zexabiso eliphantsi, ezakhiwe kumhlaba owanikezelwa yi Durban Roodeport Mine.

Inxaso ikhutshwa ngu rulumente kubantu abathi babe namalungelo athile obusakhamizi kunye nobume bomvuzo ukuze bancedeke ukuba bakwazi ukuthenga umhlaba baze bazakhele izindlu.

U Philip Itige ngomnye wabantu owafaka isicelo esaphumelelayo, usebenza echange house phaya e Crown. "Unkosikazi wam u Gloria kunye nam sivuye kakhulu ngekaya lethu elitsha," kutsho u Philip.

People on the move

DRDGOLD SA announced the following appointments on 8 August. See also Niel Pretorius (page 1) and Mark Munroe (elsewhere on this page.

Craig Barnes, currently Group Financial Accountant, becomes Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer.

Ben Nyirenda, Head of New Business, is appointed Alternate Director to Non-Executive Director John Sayers.

Henry Gouws, Operations Manager, at Crown, is appointed General Manager at Crown.

Thulo Mogotsi, an executive director of KBH, and Advocate Louisa Zondo, Legal Counsel for South African Airways and former CEO of the National Nuclear Regulator, are appointed Non-Executive Directors.

Collie Russouw, previously Mine Manager at Harmony Gold Mining Limited's Virginia Operations will join Blyvoor as General Manager on 4 September.

NWO: An independent perspective

Independent writer Kerry Swift has written a definitive, impartial account of the closure of the company's North West Operations (NWO) in 2005.

The piece makes fascinating reading, reminding readers of the shock and devastation that followed the massive earthquake – measuring 6.5 on the Richter scale – in the Klerksdorp/ Stilfontein area on 9 March 2005. The earthquake struck when more than 3 000 miners were underground at DRDGOLD's NWO. All but two were rescued but the damage incurred to underground infrastructure drove the struggling NWO into liquidation.

The full article will be available soon on the DRDGOLD website (www.drdgold.com) and an extract will appear in DRDGOLD Limited's Annual Report, to be published in September.

Blyvoor's FIRST WOMAN MINER beats targets

"I was determined to become a miner, but didn't have any experience underground," says Selina Sibiya. Undaunted, she approached a local accredited training provider, who arranged for her to undergo the necessary induction training and medical fitness examination to start work at Blyvoor.

On 19 October 2005, when she had gained a year's experience underground, she obtained her Blasting Certificate. "I signed her on then and there as a miner," says Mine Overseer Nick Theunissen. "I admired her dedication and guts, and knew she deserved a chance. There is no special treatment for Selina because she's a woman: we organised a separate change house and that was that, she is one of the team and has to perform like everyone else."

Selina is the only qualified female miner at Blyvoor. Part of a stoping team, she is responsible for three crews of about 13 team members each. "Some of her male colleagues tended to be resentful at first, and tried to undermine her, but they have come to respect her," says Shiftboss Prince Nofemele.

Results speak for themselves. "Selina has consistently beaten her targets," says Nick. "For example, in June she achieved 820 square metres in stoping, with a target of 734; she beat her target of 10.6 metres face advance, obtaining 10.8, and produced over 22 kg of gold, compared with a planned figure of 18.97 kg."

"Selina has been taken on as part of Blyvoor's Talent Pool (a group of young employees identified as having potential for further development)," says Human Resources Manager Colin Goodwin. "The group will obtain a balance of practical experience and theoretical training. We see the sky as the limit for Selina – there is no reason she should not achieve her Mine Overseer's ticket one day, and Nick Theunissen's leadership has played a big part in her development."

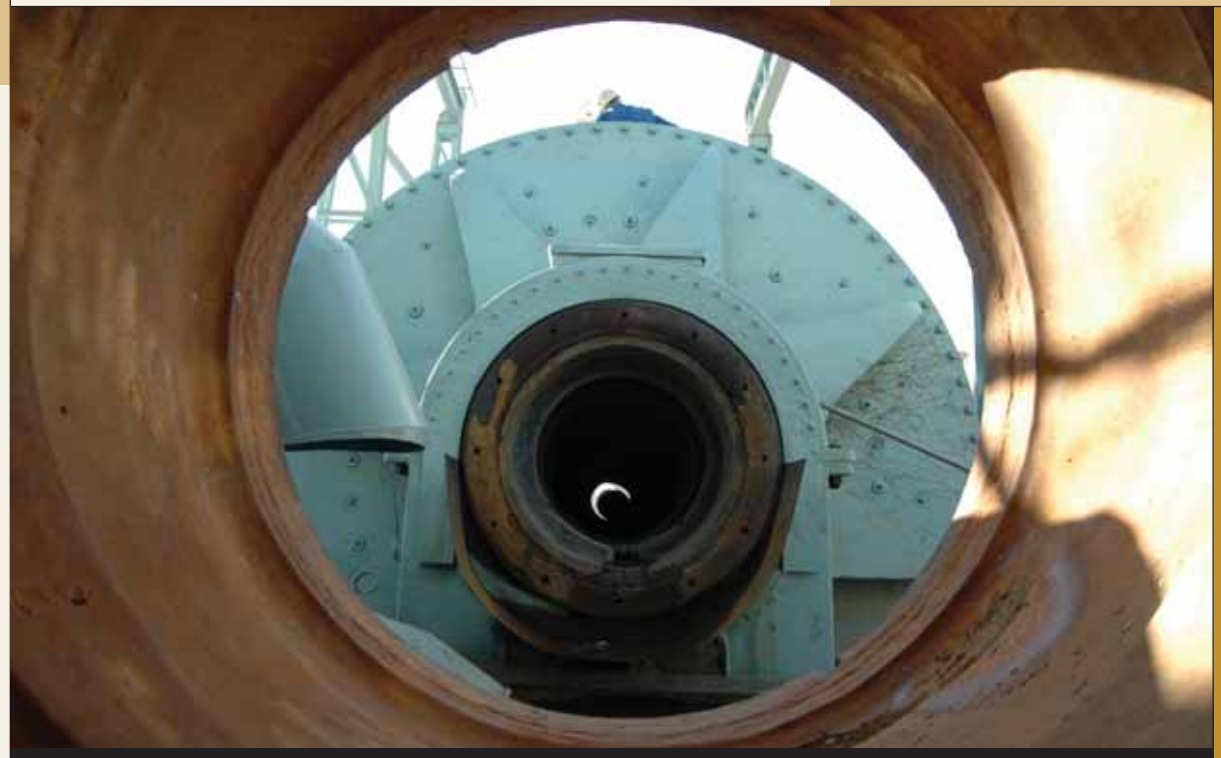
From left: Prince Nofemele, Nick Theunissen and Selina Sibiya.

Hlangana nowokuqala owesifazana wase Blyvoor ofumene itikiti lokitshisa

"Bendizimisele kakhulu ukuba ndibe yiminer, kodwa bendingena mava ngomgodi" utshonjalo u Selina Sibiya. Engenavalo, waya kwiziko lokuqeqesha lasekuhlaleni, apho wathi wafakwa kuqeqesho lokuqala ngezemigodi kwaye futhi waxilongwa ngobume bempilo yakhe ukuze akwazi ukuqala ukusebenza e Blyvoor.

Ngolwazi athe walifumana emva kokusebenza unyakawonke emgodini, wafumana itikiti lokutshisela waze wakhethwa njenge miner.

U Selina nguyekuphela owesifazana oyi miner e Blyvoor. Iziphumo zomsebenzi wakhe zibubunqgina. "Uhlalanjalo elidlula inani ebekelwe lona" kutsho umphathi wakhe U Nick Theunissen. "U Selina simthathe njenge qela letalente yase Blyvoor" kutsho u Colin Goodwin ongu mphathi wezabasebenzi. "Indlela zivulekile – siqinisekile ukuba uza kulifumana itikiti lokuba yi Mine Oversseer ngelinye ilanga.



New mills at Knights Plant

Two grinding mills, salvaged from the closure of the old Number 7 Plant at Hartebeestfontein (part of the now-closed North West Operations) in 2002, have been refurbished for use at Knights Plant, Crown's operation in Boksburg.

"We finally got the go-ahead late last year, and the refurbished mills were commissioned in early July, at a total project cost of R17.5 million," says General Manager Henry Gouws. "They are scheduled to be running at full capacity by the end of the first quarter of the new financial year."

Knights Plant has the capacity to treat 200 000 tonnes per month (tpm) of slime, and about 120 000 tonnes of sand. The installation of the two new mills will enable Knights to increase the treatment capacity of sand to 300 000 tpm. Sand first needs to be milled before the gold can be extracted. "We were previously using ERPM mills to grind sand: the new mills are better suited to this, and consequently more cost effective," says Henry. "We will save costs through centralising the process at Knights, and will achieve improved gold extraction."

Grades treated are low – between 0.5 and 0.6 grams per tonne (g/t) for sand, and as low as 0.3 g/t for slime – so it is vitally important to optimise cost and recovery efficiencies.

Malwala a matjha Polanteng ya Knight

Malwala a mabedi a neng a baballwe Tshebeletsong ya Leboya Bophirimela e seng e kwetswe ka selemo sa 2002, e ntjhafaditswe bakeng sa ho sebediswa Polanteng ya Knight, tshebeletsong ya Crown mane Boksburg.

Henry Gouws, Molaodi wa Ditshebeletso o re malwala ana a ntjhafaditsweng a ile a sebediswa ka ho hiriswa ka Phupu ka ditshenyehelo tsohle tsa tshebeletso ena tse kana ka dimilione tse 17.5 tsa diranta.

Ho kenngwa ha malwala ana a mabedi ho tla eketsa tshebetso ya polanta ya bongata ba santa e ka silwang ho tloha ho ditone tse 120 000 ka kgwedi (tpm) ho isa ho 300 000 tpm. "Pele re ne re sebedisa malwala a ERPM ho sila santa: malwala ana a matjha a sebetsa hantle haholwanyane mme a boloka tjhelete."

New role for Mark

Blyvoor General Manager Mark Munroe's friends and colleagues gathered at the Blyvoor Golf Club on 20 July to bid him farewell.

Mark has been appointed CEO of a new entity, DRDGOLD Capital, which will drive DRDGOLD's plans for expansion into Africa.

Mark, his wife Laurette and their two sons Damon and Matthew will be based in Johannesburg.

Chief Safety Officer Willie Nelson was Master of Ceremonies for the evening. Chief Operating Officer Louis Lamsley, Human Resources Manager Colin Goodwin and Financial Manager Mark Burrell paid tribute to Mark's contribution to Blyvoor, and to the mixture of hard work, dedication, teamwork and fun that had characterised his tenure.

In reply, Mark paid tribute to each member of his Exco team individually.

Louis Lamsley with Mark and Laurette Munroe.