

# LET'S TALK ASIKHULUME

A QUARTERLY NEWSPAPER FOR THE PEOPLE OF DRDGOLD SA

## John Sayers – an agent of change



When John Sayers joined DRDGOLD as CEO in 2007, the company was losing financial strength, focus and morale. The company and group has since come a long way.

“My role at DRDGOLD has been as an ‘agent of change’, borne out of a necessity to establish a clear strategy to stabilise the group by removing non-performing assets, correcting the balance sheet and improving dwindling morale,” says John of his tenure at DRDGOLD.

Under John’s direction, DRDGOLD implemented a two-pronged approach, which led firstly, to the withdrawal from Australasia, and secondly, to the restoration of the South African operations to stability. As a result, the company declared a dividend for the first time in recent history, for the year ended 30 June 2008.

On 21 August 2008, Niël Pretorius was appointed chief executive officer-designate and will take over as CEO when John retires on 31 December 2008.

“I am confident that Niël and the DRDGOLD management team will be able to build on the platform the team has worked hard to establish over these past months. Notwithstanding the challenges faced most recently, the company has sound growth prospects and I foresee the continuation of all projects for many years to come. DRDGOLD, and the South African gold mining industry as a whole, have faced many challenges in the past – most of which have been overcome – and I believe the team will be able to prevail over the challenges the company is faced with in both the short- and long-term,” John concluded.

*Pictured here are members of the DRDGOLD Corporate team (from back to front): Themba Gwebu, Shawn Arter, Neville Lane, JJ van Coller, Hannes Botes, Dirk Grobler, Andre Pretorius, Barry de Bloq, Niël Pretorius, Ben Nyirenda, Craig Barnes, Andrew Weir, Andronica Mahlase, Leonie Marupen, Amanda Hoosen, Martie Steyn, Stephanie Meyer, Cheryl Marais, Veronica Maconi, Wendy Bowins and John Sayers.*

## Ergo on track

The Ergo joint venture (Ergo JV) is on track, with the commissioning of the first carbon-in-leach (CIL) circuit at the Brakpan plant scheduled to begin during the December quarter. Production from the Benoni tailings dam is set to ramp up to 600 000 tonnes per month until the second quarter next year, and then to 1.2 million tonnes per month from the Elsberg Tailings Complex thereafter.

The construction of the reclamation station at the Benoni tailings dam has been concluded, with the refurbishment of the Brakpan plant in addition to the recommissioning of the Brakpan tailings dam, nearing completion. Furthermore, significant progress has been made relating to Phase 1.2, with construction of the Elsberg pipeline currently under way and construction of the pump station set to commence soon.

With regard to Phase 2, the feasibility study currently under way is scheduled for completion within the first half of next year. The outcome of this study will determine the

viability of Phase 2, which will entail the construction of a uranium and sulphuric acid plant.

Focusing on surface retreatment operations, DRDGOLD SA has announced the acquisition of a further 15% interest in the Elsberg joint venture (Elsberg JV) from Mintails SA, taking the company’s interest in the first phase of the Ergo JV to 65%. In addition, the company has a conditional option to acquire a further 11% in the Elsberg JV.

“Thus far, we have achieved against set objectives in line with both budget and planning requirements. This is indicative of all the hard work and effort by each and every person involved in getting this project to this stage. On behalf of DRDGOLD, I would like to express sincere thanks to Wayne Hatton-Jones, Ergo JV project manager, in particular, and everyone else involved for their contribution to the Ergo JV,” said executive officer of surface operations at DRDGOLD, Charles Symons.



*The Ergo site has undergone significant transformation since the project started*

## Ergo e motjheng

Ergo Joint Venture (Ergo JV) e motjheng ka ho fana ka mosebetsi wa ho qala wa carbon in leach circuit mane polanteng ya Brakpan, e leng mosebetsi o lokelang ho qala kotareng ya Tshitwe (December), moo tlhaiso ya letamo la Benoni Tailings e tla eketsehanga ka ditone tse tla fihla ho 600 000 ka

kgwedi ho fihlela ka Mmesa selemong se tang, e be e nyoloha ka ditone tse 1.2 million ka kgwedi ho tloha Elsberg Tailings Complex ka mora moo.

“Ho fihlela jwale, re atlehile ka ho ya ka maikemisetso a rona, ka ho ya ka ditlhoko tsa bajete le thero. Hona ho bonahala ka mosebetsi yohle e boima le maiteko a motho e

mong le e mong ya amehang ho etsa hore projeke ena e be e tlo fihla boemong bona. Lebitsong la DRDGOLD, ke rata ho leboha haholo Wayne Hatton-Jones, motsamaisi wa projeke wa Ergo JV, le bohle ba amehang bakenng sa matsoho a ba wa kentseng ho Ergo JV,” ho rialo moofisiri wa pletshatso wa mosebetsi ya ka hodimo wa DRDGOLD, Charles Symons.

## Challenging times present innovative possibilities

“This has been one of the most challenging quarters in my time with DRDGOLD,” says CEO-designate, Niël Pretorius.

“After an encouraging period of fatality-free shifts, we sadly lost four of our colleagues. A lot has been said about the stoppages associated with the fatalities and we sometimes feel frustrated by these interventions, especially in instances where death has occurred because of circumstances beyond our control. However, the simple fact remains that there is no convincing argument which suggests that there is a justifiable trade-off between

the commercial contribution we make and the lives lost in the process. South African mines, because of their large orebodies, and consequently long lives, are often deemed almost indestructible this in not the case however and all mines have finite lives. South Africa is very reliant on revenues from raw materials and un-beneficiated minerals.

“Without these changed dynamics we have to increase our focus to higher and more efficient output per individual and measures to create a sophisticated manufacturing environment.

“The South African mining industry therefore now has an obligation to put programmes in place to create second- and third-tier industries after the mines have ceased operations as part of their Social and Labour Plan (SLP) requirements; and these programmes should be aimed at enterprise development within the communities surrounding current mining activities. This is the only way South Africa will become less reliant on raw materials and unbeneficiated minerals”

“We must not let the events of the past three months discourage us. By means of careful planning

and innovation, we have overcome worse circumstances in the past and we can do it again. DRDGOLD SA needs to repeat both the safety and operational performance we experienced between October 2007 and September 2008. Indeed, these were exceptional months during which we witnessed the real potential of our operations and our people.

“I would like to express my personal thanks to each and every person for their contribution during this year and wish everyone a blessed festive season as well as a safe journey if you are travelling.”



### Letters to the Editor

This is your newsletter and we want to hear from you. Letters or questions can be sent to your HR manager or faxed to Memory Johnstone at (011) 880-3788.

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

DRDGOLDSA ▶

### Highlights of this issue

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- ▶ Meet the new general manager at Blyvoor
- ▶ Crown: growing trees, growing jobs
- ▶ Tour de Soweto

# Meet the new GM at Blyvoor



Owen O'Brien joined the Blyvoor team in November 2008.

"I feel like I have come home. The Blyvoor people are very dedicated and friendly, and there is a lot of potential here just waiting to be unlocked." With these words, Owen O'Brien, Blyvoor's newly appointed general manager, sums up his first impressions of his new working and living environment.

From a mining family, Owen was born in Boksburg, and grew up in Evander, Brakpan and Welkom.

Owen describes his management style as team-focused, participative and coaching. He also sets high standards: "There is only one way – the right way; and we need to do things right the first time," he says firmly.

He believes there is ample opportunity for Blyvoor to grow. "Getting to the target Main Reef areas will enable us to increase our volumes," he says. "Increasing our volumes is also our greatest challenge, as we need

to do this to lower our rand per tonne costs. Throughout, safety must remain our number one priority: Blyvoor has a proud record, but we cannot rest on our laurels, we must continue to strive for a zero harm track record."

Owen started his mining career in 1983, when he joined Harmony's Rand Mines as a learner official. He rose steadily through the mining ranks, being appointed mining manager at Unisel shaft in 2003 and mine manager of the Unisel, St Helena and Brand shafts in 2007.

Owen is married to Gwen, and they have two sons, Stanley (22) and Jaco (19). In his spare time, Owen plays social golf, keeps fit at the gym when time permits, and – a keen Lions supporter – enjoys watching rugby.

## ERPM at the crossroads



Collie Russouw, executive officer: underground operations, DRDGOLD SA, reports on recent developments at ERPM

"A sad series of events over the last two months led to an announcement by DRDGOLD Limited on 19 November of its intention to place on care and maintenance the underground operations of ERPM, and to proceed with a consultation process in terms of Section 189A of the Labour Relations Act to determine the future of the mine's 1 700 employees.

"Earlier this year, ERPM went through the substantial pain and cost of restructuring its unprofitable underground operations. Just as early signs of improvement were starting to show, two of our colleagues – Fernando Vate and Pieter Jonker – died after being overcome by carbon dioxide while underground at ERPM's South West Vertical (SWV) Shaft. SWV Shaft, for many years, has been used only to pump water from the Central Witwatersrand Basin, in the national interest.

"In spite of intensive investigations by our own experts and outside consultants, neither the source of the carbon dioxide nor a solution to the problem could be determined. We agreed 100% with the Department of Minerals and Energy that it was not safe to continue to send people underground to maintain the pumps and to measure the water level, and with a heavy heart, we discontinued pumping at SWV Shaft on 6 October.

"As we expected, rising water in the Central Witwatersrand Basin began to decant into the Hercules Basin and eventually, the pumps at South East Vertical (SEV) Shaft were unable to cope with this and with water resulting from the ice we were sending underground from surface every day to cool the working places underground at ERPM's only producing shaft, Far East Vertical (FEV) Shaft.

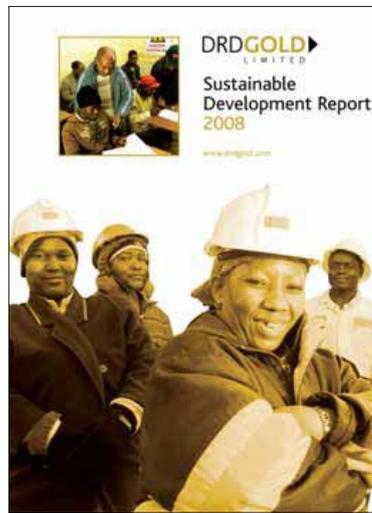
"Unable to continue to cool the underground working places, we had no alternative but to stop drilling and blasting at FEV Shaft on 31 October. Cementation was called in to assess and do a time and cost exercise for the installation of a pumping system in FEV shaft. Their study revealed that the cost amounted to R115 million and it would take a period of 12 months to complete.

"ERPM has been in a serious loss-making position for a long time now and simply cannot afford either the R115 million or the cost of keeping all of its employees on the payroll, with no underground production going on, for the 12 months it would take to install the additional pumping. In the last financial year, ERPM's losses amounted to R102.7 million before tax and in the last quarter to R128.1 million after accounting for impairment of assets.

"In this situation, it was essential that we begin consultations with ERPM employees and representative unions, in terms of Section 189A of the Labour Relations Act, on the future of the mine's employees. These consultations, facilitated by a facilitator from the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration, began on 2 December and will continue for the prescribed minimum of 60 days.

"Management, meanwhile, has given undertakings to representative unions to consider where possible redeployment of some ERPM employees to other DRDGOLD SA operations and expressions of interest from outside parties to buy portions of the ERPM operations."

## Sustainability reporting gets off to a great start



We are particularly proud that this year we have completed our first Sustainable Development Report – a report that has helped focus the attention of our company's management and employees on all of the issues that will ensure our and our communities' futures.

According to Niël Pretorius, CEO-designate, "As a responsible corporate citizen, we need to: ensure that our operations' environmental footprint is small; that we contribute to the economic welfare of our host communities by, wherever practicable, sourcing goods and labour locally and; that we offer career training for our employees so as to ensure a pool of skills needed to run our mines and recovery plants.

"These are reported on fully in our Sustainable Development Report and we confidently expect that in succeeding years we shall be reporting steady progress in all our sustainability endeavours."

Please see our Sustainable Development Report at [www.drd.co.za](http://www.drd.co.za)

## Pay it forward

DRDGOLD, in conjunction with its Ergo joint venture partner, Mintails, is giving life to its social responsibility and deliverables in terms of its social and labour plan (SLP) commitments. The Ekurhuleni Business Development Academy is an initiative which will aim to equip the surrounding community, and DRDGOLD group operations, with the requisite skills, enabling them to pioneer much-needed enterprise development in South Africa.

Located at the former Metallurgical Training Centre at Ergo (which is currently utilised as an ABET centre), the academy will incorporate both vocational and business skills training, and will be accredited by the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA).

Significant progress has been made with the refurbishment of the centre – around 30 computer stations have been provided by business software solutions applications and service provider SAP. The first modules are scheduled to start during the first half of 2009.

"The centre will not only help DRDGOLD deliver against very real SLP targets, but will assist with the alleviation of poverty and the development of second- and third-tier enterprises, in line with government requirements," said regional human resources manager Wayne Swanepoel.

## Yihlawule ngaphambili

Iziko lezifundo zophuhliso loshishino lase-Ekurhuleni linyathelo eliyakujolisa ekuxhobiseni abahlali abangongile le nkampani, kunye neenkqubo zemisebenzi yenkampani ye-DRDGOLD, ngezakhona ezidingeka ngamandla, nto leyo eyakwenza ukuba bakwazi ukubayinxenye yesisombululo sophuhliso lwamashishini ngaphakathi eMzantsi Afrika.

Eli ziko, elisekwe kwindawo ebisakuba liziko loqeqesho ngobugcisa besinyithi e-Ergo (ekungokunje esetyenziswa njengeziko lemfundo yabadala i-ABET),

iyakunikwa iikhredithi nguGunyaziwe weeKhwalfikheysini zaseMigodini, i-Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA), ndawonye neenkonziso zenkxaso kumashishini eziyakufaka isandla ekukhuleni, ekweliseni inzuzo nasekuqhubeleni phambili kwabahlali.

"Eli ziko alukwanela nje ukunceda i-DRDGOLD ifezekise iinjongo ezigqalileyo ekujoliswe kuzo ze-SLP, koko iyakuncedisa ekuthomalaliseni ubuhlwempu nasekuveliseni kwamashishini akwinqanaba lesibini nelesithathu, ngokuhambisana neemfuno zikarhulumente" utshilo umanejala wemiba ejongene nabantu, u Wayne Swanepoel.



# Growing trees, growing jobs

While Johannesburg has been described as the world's largest man-made forest, this was in the past, more true of the older, leafy suburbs of the north than of the bustling south. DRDGOLD's Crown Gold Recoveries (CGR) team is helping to change this through an initiative that will both improve the environment and provide sustainable employment.

"As part of our social and labour plan (SLP), we had already established a joint venture to set up a nursery at the old Crown Mines No 17 Shaft, now the 17 Shaft Convention Centre owned by Steve Korie," says Crown's environmental manager Louis Kleynhans (see *Asikhulume* Issue 8 for more details). "The next step is to put together a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between ourselves and Steve Korie, and to set up a joint project team."

With the help of a research biologist from Wits University, cuttings from a number of indigenous trees have been supplied to various nurseries in the surrounding communities. The trees, all particularly hardy, salt-resistant species have the potential to be used both in the rehabilitation of old tailings deposition sites and to be planted as shade trees in streets and gardens.



DRDGOLD is doing its bit to keep Johannesburg green.

"This project linked perfectly with the *Greening Soweto* project, an initiative launched in 2006 by Amos Masondo, executive mayor of the city of Johannesburg," explains Louis. *Greening Soweto*,

launched to beautify the city ahead of the 2010 World Cup, received the highly-regarded United Nations LivCom (Liveable Communities) award in London in November 2007.

"It is anticipated that the 17 Shaft project will have an estimated five-year life, after which it may be handed over to local nurseries as a sustainable and viable enterprise development project," says Louis.

## Quarter wrap-up

This has undoubtedly been a very challenging period for DRDGOLD and the mining industry in South Africa as a whole. The volatile global economy, political uncertainty, and reduced safety performance, coupled with lower surface production at ERP, has brought about the need for the company to engage in some serious introspection in order to focus its efforts on risk management, cost control and margin management.

By remaining focused, DRDGOLD has acquired a further 15% interest from Mintails South Africa in the Ergo joint venture (Ergo JV), taking the total interest held by the company to 65%. The first phase of the Ergo JV has seen the construction phase progressing extremely well, and has delivered against the company's surface retreatment ambitions.

Total gold production for the quarter remained virtually unchanged at 70 861 ounces, with an 11% increase in production at Crown offsetting the impact of a drop in production of 7% at Blyvoor due to section 54 stoppages and a 2% decrease at ERP owing to the decline in average surface yield.

"Looking ahead, we will continue to seek solutions for the ERP situation and expect our actions in respect of the Ergo JV to impact positively on costs and returns. We also envisage further progress in our drive to achieve a lower-risk, lower-cost, better-return profile, gaining as much leverage as we can from our long-established track record in surface retreatment," concluded John Sayers, DRDGOLD CEO.

## Junior Leadership Programme in focus

The first group of Junior Leadership Programme (JLP) apprentices completed their last classroom-based courses at the end of October.

As reported in the previous edition of *Asikhulume*, the programme comprises intensive practical training accompanied by comprehensive assessments. Now that the apprentices have finished their theoretical training, they will use the skills they have gained during their time spent in the classroom to implement a project with the ultimate aim of saving the company R20 000. These projects will be presented to the board of managers, and the candidate who presents the best idea will receive an award.

The next group of apprentices is set to start in February 2009.

When asked what benefit a student can derive from the Junior Leadership Programme, regional human resources manager Wayne Swanepoel explained: "People now realise that the company is actively seeking to grow the talent we have within the organisation. We are hoping that these candidates will take what they have learned back to their departments and create centres of excellence within DRDGOLD."

## A star is born!



The Top Star Dump deserves to exit the Johannesburg landscape with dignity.

As *Asikhulume* went to print, Crown was on the verge of starting retreatment of the old Top Star Dump, to the south of Johannesburg's central business district, to recover gold. The site was a well-known Johannesburg landmark for many years – home to the old Top Star drive-in. The mining licence was awarded by the Department of Minerals and Energy (DME) on 12 August 2008, and operations are scheduled to begin during November.

"The surrounding access roads have been closed, and all required infrastructure is in place," explains

Crown general manager Henry Gouws. "This includes a dedicated dust suppression system."

A full consultation and public participation process has been followed throughout the project, and a public feedback meeting was held in October, chaired by Henry and representatives from the environmental consultants, Digby Wells. "Dust was obviously a concern," says Henry, "and we described the mitigation measures in place, including, but not limited to, spraying operations with water mixed with a binding agent."

Some 4.5km of reclamation pipelines have also been installed, running to the Robinson Deep reclamation site and then to the City Deep Crown Plant.

**It is anticipated the project will last three years. The dump contains an estimated 128 000 ounces of gold, of which it is expected that some 82 000 ounces will be recovered during the first 20 months of the project.**

Around 45 people, mainly existing Crown and Fraser Alexander employees, will work on the project, which also forms part of Crown's social and labour plan (SLP), as submitted to the DME.

Plans are already in place for rehabilitation of the site at the end of the project's life. "The site

will be mined to natural ground level," says Henry.

Not unexpectedly, given the landmark status of the site, Crown has received a number of requests to keep a photographic record of the various phases of the project. "We will happily accommodate these, as Top Star most certainly deserves to exit the Johannesburg landscape with dignity," says Henry. "It turns out quite a number of people are interested in keeping a visual record of the history of the drive-in cinema. It makes those of us old enough to remember, think of the old sixties Jeremy Taylor song, "Ag please, daddy, won't you take us to the drive-in..."

## Ho hlahile naledi!

Ka nako eo ho neng ho ilo hatiswa leledinyana la Asikhulume, Crown e ne e se e le haufi le ho qala ka mosebetsi wa ho lokisa sebaka seo ho lahlelwang ho sona sa kgale sa Top Star Dump, se ka borwa ho setereke sa kgwebo tsa bohareng sa Johannesburg, hore ho boele ho fumanwe kgauta hape moo. Setsha sena e ne e letshwao la naha le tsejwang haholo mane Johannesburg bakeng sa dilemo tse ngata – e le lehae la drive-in ya kgale ya Top Star. Laense ya ho rafa e fumanwe ho tswa Lefapheng la Diminerale le Eneji (DME) ka la 12 Phato (August) 2008, mme mosebetsi o belletswa hore o tla qala hara kgwedi ya Pudingwana (November).

Ho belletswa hore projeke e tla nka dilemo tse tharo. Dump ena e na le

di-ounce tse ka bang 128 000 tsa kgauta, moo ho belletsweng hore tse ding tsa di-ounce tse ka bang 82 000 di tla fumanwa ka nako ya dikgwedi tse 30 tsa ho qala tsa projeke. Ke batho ba ka bang 45, bao bohola ba bona e leng basebetsi ba ha jwale ba Crown le Fraser Alexander, ba tla sebetsa projekeng ena, eo hape e bopang karolo ya morero wa kahisano le ho thea mosebetsi wa Crown, jwalo ka ha o rometswe Lefapheng la Diminerale le Eneji (DME).

Ho se ho ntse ho ena le merero ya ho tsofola setsha sena ka mora nako ya projeke. "Setsha sena se tla rafshwa ho fihlela boemong bo tlatsetlase ba tlhaho" ho rialo Henry.

# Tour de Soweto

The DRDGOLD cycling club raced their hearts out in the Tour de Soweto, a cycling challenge hosted in Soweto for the second consecutive year. The main aim of the challenge is to share the cultural diversity of Soweto with the rest of the world, and this year proved to be just as exciting as last, with DRDGOLD Limited's non-executive chairman of the board, Geoff Campbell, joining the rest of the DRDGOLD SA team en route to Soweto.

The race, which was first inaugurated in 2007, took place on 17 August this year, and had its start and finish located at the Dobsonville Mall in Soweto. Races included a 25-km "Dikwiel"; a 50-km fun ride and the main 100-km race. The DRDGOLD cyclists competed in the 50-km event.

Team DRDGOLD, all proudly donning their DRDGOLD cycling kit, comprised 12 members, and represented one of the biggest

corporate teams participating in the challenge.

"It was a lot of fun. The cycling route took us all the way from the Dobsonville Mall through several suburbs over Main Reef road and back," said human resources manager: corporate services, Barry de Bloq. The DRDGOLD team finished the race in an impressive 2 hours: 10 minutes, and then took a drive to the Hector Peterson Memorial before leaving Soweto.

"Not only were we able to see the other side of Johannesburg, but we also saw another side to our colleagues. The team was extremely impressed with Geoff's performance, and appreciated that at the end of the day, he's just a regular guy, like the rest of us."

All proceeds generated by the race will go towards the development of a cycling club in Soweto.



The DRDGOLD cycling club members competed in the Tour de Soweto. Pictured here are: Moses Thulo, Charles Symons, Wayne Swanepoel, Hannes Botes, Barry de Bloq, Jonathan de Bloq, John Goddard, Geoff Campbell, Danny Hitge, Willie Bernhard, Alwyn Hamman, Kobie-Marie Hamman and Frans Meyer.

## Ukhenketho lwase Soweto

Umbutho wabakhweli bebhayisekile wase-DRDGOLD uthathe inxaxheba kuKhenketho lwase Soweto, umcelimgeni wokukhwela iibhayisekile obubanjwe e Soweto kuryaka wesibini ngokulandelelana. Injongo ephambili yalo mcelimgeni kukubonisa kwihlabathi liphela ngobutyebi benkcubeko obuzintlobo-ntlobo base Soweto, kwaye lo nyaka ubonakele ungochulumankisayo njengalo uphellelwe, yaye nomhlali-ngaphambili webhodi ye-DRDGOLD Limited ongekho kwisigqeba, u Geoff Campbell, wazibandakanya neqela

le-DRDGOLD SA ngokugqitha endleleni eya e Soweto.

Lo mdyarho, owasungulwa ngo 2007, wawubanjwe ngomhla we 17 Agasti kulo nyaka, kwaye waqalisa, waphinda waphela e Dobsonville Mall e Soweto. Imidyarho ibandakanye i 25-km "Dikwiel"; umkhwelo wokuzonwabisa we- 50-km kunye nomdyarho ongowona ndoqo we-100-km. linkweli zeebhayisekile zase- DRDGOLD zikhuphisane kulo mdyarho ungunoqo. "Bekumnandi mpela. Indlela yomdyarho

isuke e-Dobsonville Mall yaya kutsho kwiLite leSikhumbuzo sika-Hector Peterson, yatatyadula endleleni yase-Main Reef yaphinda yabuyela emva" utshilo umanejala wemiba ejongene nabantu, kwiinkonzo ze-ofisi eyintloko, u Barry de Bloq.

"Asanelanga nje ukubona elinye icala le-Johannesburg, koko sikwabone nelineye icala loogxa bethu basemsebenzini. Itim imncome gqitha u Geoff, kwaye yakuthakazelela kwanokuba, kanti phofu, ungunmntu nje oqhelekileyo, ofana nathi."

## People on the move

We would like to congratulate Ryno Botha on his promotion to mineral resources manager at DRDGOLD SA.

## 25 years with Blyvoor

"There's just something about Blyvoor that keeps people here," said Colin Goodwin, Blyvoor human resources manager, at the 25-years' service awards, which took place on 18 September. "We believe that the contribution of each employee, as well as the unions representing those employees, has helped towards the growth and continued existence of this mine and, in return, we would like to honour these people for dedicating a quarter of a century to this."

"There is just something about Blyvoor that keeps people here."

Of the 4 000 people currently employed at Blyvoor, 141 people have worked at the mine for more than 25 years. During this time, numerous events have transpired within the South African economic and political climate, resulting in major transformation within the mining industry, ultimately rendering long-standing Blyvoor employees spectators of change.



## Blyvoor's stars shine bright

A total of seven teams from Blyvoor took part in the sports and culture day held at Driefontein mine to celebrate Heritage Day on Saturday, 27 September. Overall, some 26 teams from the surrounding Gold Fields, AngloGold Ashanti and Harmony mines participated, and made the day – organised by the NUM regional structures – a resounding success.

"Events were open to both mine employees and community members," says Blyvoor's transformation co-ordinator, Chuma Mantashe. "The focus was on a fun-filled, healthy day for the whole family."

The Blyvoor contingent comprised two netball teams (junior and senior) and four soccer teams (men's junior and senior; women; and

under-12). A tug-of-war team also took part.

"We left Blyvoor at about 09:00, in transport arranged by the mine," says Chuma. "Luckily, we had good weather, and everyone enjoyed the refreshments provided throughout the day." Celebrities Solly Moholo, Xoli Nosenga and other local cultural groups also entertained the

crowds with musical performances that proved very popular. HIV testing facilities and assistance with voter registration were also available.

Blyvoor can be proud of its results: the senior men's and the women's soccer teams both received gold trophies; and the under-12 soccer players and the two netball teams were runners-up in their respective events.



Celebrity Solly Moholo's cultural group entertained the audience attending the sports and culture day held at Driefontein Mine recently.

## Safety remains key

The past quarter has been marked by a serious and disappointing reversal of DRDGOLD's track record of two successive fatality-free quarters; the group tragically lost four employees in work related fatalities.

It is with deep regret that the company has had to report the deaths of Aron Maqoma and Velelo Mshuwya, both rock drill

operators at Blyvoor, who died in rockfalls following seismic events in the vicinity, as well as the unfortunate deaths of timberman Pieter Jonker and shaft assistant Fernando Vato at ERPM, who died of asphyxiation while underground at the mine's South West Vertical (SWV) Shaft. The pumping of water from the SWV Shaft has since ceased.

Performance in respect of the other key safety indicators was mixed. ERPM and Crown reported improvements in their dressing station injury rates while Blyvoor reported a 13% regression. ERPM and Blyvoor reported improvements in their lost time injury frequency rates with Crown's performance unchanged.

"We are continuing with preparations for the roll-out of the behavior-based safety initiative. While the project is currently three weeks behind schedule, the project team remains confident that the pilot site No. 6 Shaft – will still be implemented during December 2008," says general manager-projects Phillip Watters.