

CORPORATE ACTIVITY

Beyond Stipulation

Joest exceeds Mining Charter target as it sells 30% to black consortium

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Local vibrating equipment manufacturer Joest entered into an agreement with black-owned consortium Vhatsila Holdings last month to form Joest Kwatani. The agreement sees Vhatsila Holdings acquiring a 30% stakeholding in the company, making Joest Kwatani the first in its class to exceed the requirements of the Mining Charter.

As a result of this move and the concerted effort to continue its programme of preferential procurement and skills development, Joest Kwatani has also achieved Level 3 broad-based black economic empowerment certification. Two shareholders from Vhatsila Holdings have been appointed to Joest Kwatani's board as nonexecutive directors.

Joest Kwatani MD **Kim Schoepflin** said at a media briefing held in Johannesburg, Gauteng, last month, that the company had a heritage that was proudly African and it was, therefore, fitting that the company changed its name to one which embodies this credo.

"Interestingly *kwa tani* means 'tonnage' in Swahili. This is appropriate, given the fact that Joest Kwatani has a 39-year record of designing and supplying high-quality customised



KIM SCHOEPFLIN

Part of the company's heritage is its ongoing commitment to overall transformation

vibrating equipment, characterised by robust construction and emphasis on continuous [production]," she says.

She added that part of the company's heritage was its ongoing commitment to overall transformation and it would leverage this operating strategy to continue to empower and uplift South Africans.

"We have a philosophy of identifying talent from within the organisation and have a programme whereby individuals' skills are developed in their area of potential, allowing

them to better their position in the company. This includes the ongoing training of artisans, both at learnership level and above," said Schoepflin.

Showing care for the communities in which it operates is one of Joest Kwatani's core values and education remains the key focus of the company's Social Upliftment Programme.

Joest Kwatani facilitates business and administrative skills development for a

number of disabled, previously disadvantaged individuals who would otherwise not have access to this type of education.

"Since Africa has some of the harshest mining conditions in the world, we engineer our products to global best practice standards and, as a result, we can boast an established footprint on the African continent of screens and other vibrating equipment. In all instances, our products set the benchmark for reliability, efficiency and performance," Schoepflin pointed out.

"Similarly, the Vhatsila Holdings directors and shareholders have strong mining and engineering backgrounds, indicating that there is a clear understanding of the industry

in which we operate as well as the challenges faced in the sector.

"They will naturally leverage their expertise and experience to assist us on our continued growth path," she added. ■

To watch a video in which Joest Kwatani MD Kim Schoepflin talks about the new partnership, scan the barcode with you phone's QR reader, or go to Video Reports on www.miningweekly.com.



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CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT

SRK once again supports youth development career day

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AS PART of its continual drive to support skills development in the mining sector, mining consulting company SRK Consulting (SA) took part for the second time in nonprofit organisation (NPO) Kodumela Bokamoso Youth Development's yearly careers day earlier this year in Limpopo to encourage matric learners to pursue careers in mining and the natural sciences.

Covering the secondary schools in the Seotlong and Mphahlele circuit, in Limpopo, SRK donated lunch packs and handed out

marketing material to the students following a brief presentation made by SRK senior coal geologist **Sello Nzama**, SRK engineering geologist **Siyamazi Ndlovu** and SRK consultant **Malose Ramashala**.

The SRK representatives gave presentations on the life of geologists, career opportunities and university courses that learners could consider should they want to pursue a career in the field.

About 1 600 learners attended the careers day, which Nzama mentions was a success as it drew a bigger crowd than expected.

"This has motivated us to be part of this kind of initiative again next year as the feedback and interest from the learners keep growing," he says.

This is the second year that SRK has had the opportunity to participate in such an event,

which aims at encouraging the youth to pursue further studies on matriculating in the fields of the natural sciences and mining.

As a group, Nzama points out that SRK seeks to promote socioeconomic development, which will bring lasting benefits for those involved. To do so, informing the learners about educational routes that they can follow is one aspect of fulfilling the company's mandate.

Kodumela Bokamoso Youth Development hosts leadership development workshops and life skills training events yearly as it addresses and tries to develop leaders within rural communities. Programmes run by the NPO focus on the needs of the different schools in the rural areas and it approaches companies such as SRK Consulting to assist in developing leaders from these areas. ■

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