



*Lawrence Seleke - Site Nomulwethu Supervisor; Bucks Sibiya Nomulwethu – Owner and Caiphus Mutata - Nomulwethu QS.*

# Postmasburg entrepreneur has the world at his feet

**GEMSBOK-POSTMASBURG:** When Postmasburg entrepreneur Bucks Sibiya won a contract to help build the town’s new medical complex back in 2015 as part of Anglo American’s Kumba Iron Ore’s policy of using local suppliers, little did he know how life-changing the project would be.

The state-of-the-art facility is the result of a R40 million investment into local healthcare support by Kumba Iron Ore’s Kolomela Mine, and today serves thousands of people in the surrounding communities. For suppliers like Sibiya, becoming part of Anglo American’s supply chain has seen their businesses grow beyond their wildest expectations – and he says the best is yet to come.

Sibiya started his company, Nomulwethu Construction and Projects, in 2009, and business was hard to come by for the first few years. That all changed when his company became part of Anglo American’s supplier development programme, and he started winning contracts to perform construction work for Kumba.

After impressing with its work on the hospital living units, Nomulwethu won its first project inside the Kolomela Mine in 2017, to renovate one building and upgrade another. The company is currently working on renovations and additions to the HME building at the mine. Today, it provides full-time employment to 17 locals, and contract work to many more depending on the needs of the projects.

“Kumba Iron Ore has helped me in so many ways. Apart from the consistent pipeline of work, which has allowed my company to grow, they have provided intensive business skills training and mentorship. They also pay invoices quickly, which makes a big difference to my cash flow and my ability to pay my people,” said Sibiya.

Having helped thousands of South African entrepreneurs build small businesses over the years, Anglo American is now focusing its efforts on building the capacity of local suppliers in its host communities, with an emphasis on black-owned, youth-owned and women-owned suppliers. In 2017, the company’s Inclusive Procurement and enterprise development initiatives saw it spend more than R36bn with BEE-compliant companies, including small suppliers around its operations.

“A core element of our vision of re-imagining mining, and of our sustainable approach of ‘inclusivity’, is that we create thriving communities that are empowered and self-sufficient. Entrepreneur development is a major factor in creating sustainable businesses.