

Small businesses set for R2bn boost

STAFF REPORTER

AN IRONCLAD commitment was made by Kumba Iron Ore to support small businesses in areas where it operates.

Kumba Iron Ore has grown its procurement targets by 75% from R500 million two years ago, to a target of R2 billion by the end of 2019.

It was recently reported that the company would be increasing its investment in black-, women-, and youth-owned businesses by creating the opportunity for them to supply products and services across the mining value chain by approximately R2 billion this financial

year.

According to a recent report, a R500 million target for procurement in 2017 was set to create a more inclusive supply chain.

The report further stated that this target was exceeded by R20 million as well as securing business with 160 local suppliers.

Kumba invested R 1.4 billion in local businesses last year by sourcing products and services needed to run its mines from 267 local businesses.

The mine hopes to double this target to R2 billion this year.

It was reported last year that the Anglo American subsidiary, Kumba Iron Ore,

has, since 2011, established 11 early childhood development (ECD) centres in the vast but infrastructure-poor John Taolo Gaetsewe District area.

More than a thousand Grade R pupils pass through the ECD centres at local primary schools every year.

Humbulani Tshikalange, manager of public affairs at Kumba Iron Ore, Sishen Mine, pointed out at the time that ECD was critical, especially for children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“Through the ECD centres that we built and equipped, we’re seeing that the children are more school ready when they reach Grade 1,” Tshikalange said.