

Boost for Western Cape

The opening of a mineral sands operation on the west coast has given local communities new hope.

The long-awaited official opening of Australian-based Mineral Commodities' Tormin mine on the Cape west coast, about 400km north of Cape Town, took place recently.

Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabangu addressed guests at the ceremony to mark the milestone of the first new mineral sands operation in the Western Cape since Namakwa Sands started mining further north early in the new millennium.

The Tormin mine is set to inject more than R1-billion a year into the Western Cape's economy over the next five years. The mine features a substantial zircon-rich beach resource which also provides ilmenite, rutile and garnet minerals. Dwindling global supply and an ever-increasing demand for zircon and rutile has made Tormin an attractive resource. "During the mine's construction, 65 jobs were



created and up to 160 people will be employed during the mine's life.

"We expect an additional 400 indirect jobs will

result from the expansion of the transport and other feeder systems," says Andrew Lashbrooke, Mineral Commodities' CEO.

From left, Mineral Commodities' chairman Mark Caruso, Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabangu and Mineral Commodities' CEO Andrew Lashbrooke.

All aboard for safety

The South African mining and quarrying sectors must nurture and embrace a culture of safety.

Legislators must make health and safety tantamount to maintaining an operation's mining licence, says Nico Pienaar, director of the Aggregate and Sand Producers Association of Southern Africa (Aspasa).

Speaking at Electra Mining West Africa recently, he said that lessons could be learned from South

Africa's well developed mining industry, which recently began to embrace a culture of safety.

If legislation is not adhered to, Pienaar says that governments should then be in a position to withdraw the licence of an operation, especially when the immediate health and safety of its workers

is at stake. "Although challenging, it is also imperative to get workers and management of a mine to work together. Right from the outset it is best to get unions and workers involved so that it doesn't become a "management" issue only. "Leaders need to take charge of health and safety and this must

be visible. They must walk among workers and talk to them in order to create a visible culture that extends from the top to every person on site.

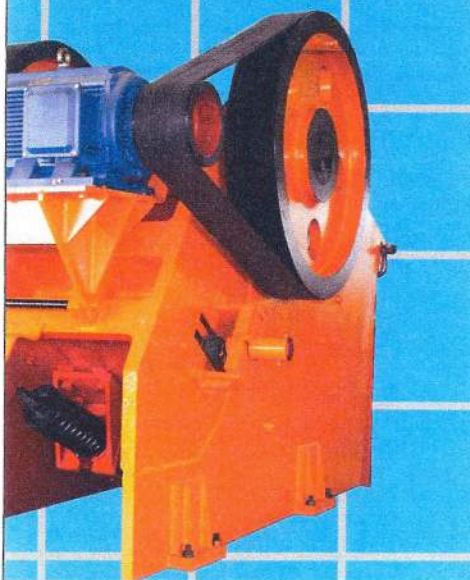
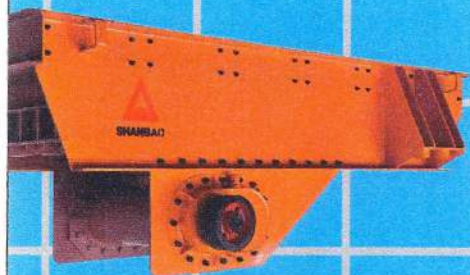
It is also important to "enable" workers and let them take decisions, and give input on their own health and safety," Pienaar said.



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Crushers in demand

A construction company in northern Mozambique has ordered crushers from a South African dealer.

Britanor, a construction company based in Cuamba, northern Mozambique, recently ordered a Sandvik US440i heavy duty cone crusher from Johannesburg based Pilot Crushtec International.

According to Wayne Warren, the compa-

ny's sales manager for Africa, the installation and commissioning took place without a hitch at Britanor's quarry site. This was Pilot Crushtec's second order for Sandvik crushers in a short space of time.

The first order, from Seneca Civils, a large

contractor and hire company based in Johannesburg's southern suburbs, was for a new Sandvik QJ331 jaw crusher. According to national sales manager Nicolai Govender, the crusher was delivered in just 24 hours after receiving the order.

Top 10 killers at mines

The Aggregate and Sand Producers Association of Southern Africa has outlined the main safety concerns on modern mines, and highlighted dangerous situations that can be prevented.

New mines and quarries are being established everywhere in Africa. In order to prevent unnecessary injury and loss of life at new sites, the Aggregate and Sand Producers Association of Southern Africa (Aspasa) has advised mine bosses to look at hazards on mines worldwide, and to put in place measures to mitigate risks. The top 10 hazards include:

1. Behaviour problems – people are often the problem and can be affected through fatigue, drugs alcohol and work hours;
2. Poor communication – bad or lack of communication can lead to misunderstandings;
3. Vehicle accidents (trackless mobile equipment) – dangers are not properly con-

4. Explosives – transport, storage and usage need to follow set procedures;
5. Electricity is potentially an instant killer if there is no Isolation – Just one mistake can be fatal;
6. Working at heights – safety rules and procedures need to be followed at all times;
7. Procedures need to be in place to manage work in confined spaces underground and at opencast mines;
8. Potential for fires from electrical, chemical and flammable gas need to be identified;
9. Lifting and falling objects – problems occur when heavy items are not lifted correctly, are not secured and fall onto

- workers, and
10. Ground falls are constant dangers underground, as well as on quarries where slopes and unstable ground may give way underfoot.

According to Aspasa, it is important to identify individual risks relating to each mine and to put in place appropriate health and safety policies to address them.

It then is the responsibility of mine owners and safety officers to ensure that everyone – workers and visitors – abide with these policies.

“We have developed our own health and safety system, based on global ‘best practice’, and adapted it to African conditions. Mines across the continent can make use of the system,” says Nico Pieenaar, Aspasa director.

Versatile screen added to the mix

A Johannesburg equipment manufacturer has added a new multi-frequency screen to its range of quarrying equipment.

Osborn, a Johannesburg-based manufacturer of crushing and screening equipment, has added a new American screen to its range.

The multi-frequency screen built by United States' Astec Mobile Screens is claimed to be extremely versatile in frequency and amplitude. The screen integrates conven-

tional and high-frequency screen movements to help maintain a higher production rate, as wet materials are easier to manage.

The company says that more amplitude and less frequency for coarse materials, and less amplitude and more frequency for finer materials, make the screen easy to apply in a variety of applications.

Visionary environmental planning is required

Mining and quarrying operations should develop their properties beyond the mining phase.

Mining operations should be viewed as temporary land-users and owners should have long-term plans to develop properties far beyond the mining phase, to enhance surroundings and benefit local communities.

So said environmental specialist Alan Cluett, speaking at a special workshop of the Aggregate and Sand Producers Association of Southern Africa (Aspasa) recently held in Randburg, Gauteng.

While much of the focus was on new legislation and best practices, Cluett took time to explain the importance of effective environmental planning to drive policies within companies.

He told an audience



Environmental specialist Alan Cluett.

of representatives from many of the country's top quarry operators that by simply planning ahead and aligning environmental management systems with closure plans, quarries can extract the required riches from the earth while simultaneously rehabilitating their properties in line with the next planned use of the land.

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WEIGHT: maximum payload capacity of dump truck with: 450 000kg
LENGTH: 20.60m
WIDTH: 9.87m
HEIGHT: 8.16m
MODEL: MTU DD 16V4000, Two diesel, four-cycle engines with V-type cylinders arrangement.
RATED POWER @1900 rpm, kW : 1715
SIZE OF TYRES: 59/80R63
TURNING RADIUS, m: 19.8

On the 25th of September BELAZ for the first time ever presented to the mining community a unique development of our engineering specialists — mining dump truck BELAZ-75710 with payload capacity of 450 metric tons.

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The uniqueness of the new generation dump truck BELAZ-75710 is provided by new and innovative solutions for a variety of systems and components:

- The highest payload capacity due to the use of eight tires.
- High maneuverability at the expense of two pivoted axles and original steering kinematics. Turning radius is 19.8 meters.
- High cross-country ability due to the all-wheel drive.
- Fuel efficiency due to the optimal algorithm of the double diesel engine installation. The total capacity of the power modules comprises 3430 kW or 4600 HP.
- High performance, reliability and safety of operation are provided by the "smart" AC electric drive with electrical differentials and antiskid system. BELAZ-75710 can climb protracted longitudinal slopes up to 12% (and short slopes up to 18%). Maximum speed of the truck can be up to 64 km/h. Estimated performance of the new truck is 25% higher than any existing heavy-duty dump truck with the highest payload capacity.

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