

STORMERS INSIGHT

“Home of the Eternity Diamond”



A NEW ERA - CCEO'S FOREWORD

As announced on different platforms, SMD is now a member of the Responsible Jewellery Council (RJC) and the journey towards certification has so far been an exciting and successful one – thumbs up to the Sustainability team that is leading the process and thank you to everyone on the mine for the continued commitment to excellence.

Environmental Social Governance (ESG) has been a key ingredient in paving the trajectory that the mine will be following going forward, and as such, some of the significant changes that have been put in place include: management of overtime hours in order to minimize fatigue and maximize productivity, as well as provision of habitable living spaces for all Kao Mine employees. This will be noticed with the ongoing Mapoleseng accommodation renovations.

I would also like to take this opportunity to appreciate our veterans whom we adorned with appreciation gifts in August 2023. Their contribution has afforded us the luxury of growth and expansion. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for paving the way for the younger generation.

On this note, I pass my deepest condolences to the Whitelock family and the mining industry at large. Ntate Keith Whitelock passed on at the age of 90. He was a legend in the diamond industry and we will forever remember him as we continue cherishing the fruits of his discoveries – what a life well lived!

There have also been notable contributions detailed in this publication, which show SMD's dedication to the improvement of all Basotho and in particular Kao residents' livelihood as encapsulated in our Community Investment Strategy. To the former among others, SMD continues to sponsor top female athlete and Olympian Neheng Khatala-Seutloali in her campaign to participate in the Paris Olympics in 2024. She is quite a gem with great potential, and we are fully committed to walking this journey with her to shine in the international arena just like our pink stones.

Regarding the communities surrounding our operations, we remain committed to playing a meaningful role in their development. We continue to actively engage with Kao communities to ensure a positive contribution through sustainable programs with a major focus on areas such as education and training, development of sustainable income generating projects and investment on community health.

We have seen a rise in the onboarding of locals from surrounding villages as well as a significant number of promotions of nationals within different departments – The positive influence that these individuals have, resulted in management continuing to believe in their growth, impact and contribution towards the company – congratulations to all of you and keep it up.

Furthermore, we welcome Mrs. Kekeletso Mokebe-Molojwane to the Storm Mountain Diamonds team as our new Manager in the Human Resources (HR) Department. The HR Department is the heart of this mine as human capital is our greatest asset – welcome Mrs Kekeletso Mokebe-Molojwane to the team and as SMD, we wish you all the best in your new role.

I would like to conclude by commending our respective Site Managers who have ensured the great performance that we have seen in the past months in a challenging and dynamic environment – Thank you for doing a great job so effortlessly. To the people on the ground doing all the heavy lifting, thank you for continuing to contribute your time, effort and skills. Teamwork is the glue that will always hold SMD together.

LONG SERVICE AWARDS - THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!



It's often said that long service awards no longer have a place in today's world of work. However, SMD has uncovered that this is definitely a practice for us as we celebrated our veterans who have been with the mine for over 12 years, in a gift filled ceremony on the 30th August 2023.

1. Ma-Eric Patricia Letsoela
2. Mampho Ra lekuku
3. Mokotjo Sekonyela
4. Tsepang Rankoli
5. John Tsolele
6. Sootho Moeketse
7. Maphupu Tikoe
8. Khatatso Khoachele
9. Martin Mashoi
10. Tebaliso Khoetha
11. Bafokeng Ramabolu
12. Lethola Kobeli
13. Moletsi Rammea
14. Francis Makhobalo
15. Mbuyiselwa Chabalala
16. Thabiso Motsoane
17. Sekhohola Kulehile
18. Kananelo Sematlane



Each of these individuals have contributed tremendously towards the growth of this mine and we are indeed grateful for their dedication.

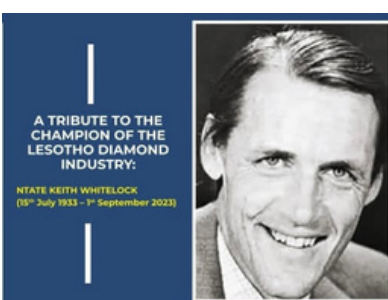


A TRIBUTE TO A CHAMPION OF THE LESOTHO DIAMOND INDUSTRY

Ntate Keith Whitelock passed away on the 1st September 2023, at a good innings age of 90. He was a champion of the natural diamond industry and the principal driver behind reviving the diamond industry in Lesotho in the late 1990s - early 2000s when he reopened Letseng. The King honoured Keith with the Country's highest award for his contributions in this regard.

His history with Lesotho dates back to the "Basutoland days" of Jack Scott, where he went on to lead the exploration effort by Maluti Diamond Corporation (Newmont) in the late 1960s - early 1970s, where his team discovered, and sampled, most of the kimberlites known in Lesotho today. This included Kao, which he brought into the then-listed Namakwa Diamonds stable in December 2009.

Keith led the setting up of Kao from 2010 through to commissioning in early 2012 followed by the initial production phase in 2012 after which he left to pursue various other smaller kimberlite options right until his passing.



GRADUATION OF STUDENTS FROM NTLAFATSO SKILLS TRAINING CENTER



On Thursday 06th July 2023, 36 youth from Kao villages surrounding the operations of the mine who had been admitted to Ntlafatso Skills Training Center were graduating in the following disciplines: Cooking and catering, plumbing and bricklaying.

Ntlafatso Skills Training Centre is a vocational skills training institution in Mphahlele fully sponsored by Kao Mine which offers skills training in cooking and catering, plumbing, bricklaying, motor mechanics, panel beating and spray painting, carpentry, sewing and computer and business skills.

The institution was dilapidated, closed and not operational due to lack of funds until 2019 when SMD went into partnership with the institution which led to the renovation and maintenance of the facility. Not only did the mine renovate and maintain the school, but it also procured meals for consumption of the students for the duration of their studies, learning aids, teaching materials and equipment amongst others. The youth are also fully sponsored with tuition, stipend, transport, and medical needs.

In order to ensure investment beyond the life of mine, to date, 57 youth from Kao have graduated from the institution and SMD will continue to fully sponsor the youth of Kao until they have all acquired at least one skill in order to increase their employability or to capacitate them to create their own work/jobs because the future of this country is in the hands of the youth of this country.

SUPPORTING LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN INCOME GENERATION FOR IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY



Local government is key in leading and supporting the creation of community development strategies. The goal of providing revenue to maintain, grow and improve service delivery is one that Storm Mountain Diamonds (SMD) holds dear for the improvement of Kao community.

It is for this that on the 11th of May 2023, SMD handed over to the Nqoe Community Council five houses to assist in the council income generation activities.



These houses were received on behalf of the council by the Honorable Minister of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police Honorable Lebona Lephema, in a handover event that was also graced with the presence of Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Honorable Limpho Tau, Member of Parliament for Motete Constituency Honorable Teboho Mojaepela, and other senior government officials.

With a litany of responsibilities that characterize Nqoe Community Council, SMD saw it befitting to assist the council with houses that would help generate the much-needed income for the council. These houses shall be rented out to generate the much needed revenue for the council.

ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG)



Storm Mountain Diamonds (SMD) on Thursday 11, May 2023 held a handover ceremony of the newly built and furnished Health Post in the Sekiring (Porenki) village within the Kao community.

The health post is a result of SMD's commitment to Kao community development as expressed in the mine's Community Investment Program for Kao.

For SMD, realizing the need to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages is an integral part of the mine's business strategy and a framework. This strategy further involves community engagement and that of other stakeholders to support sustainable development initiatives, national priorities and international conventions.

The construction and handover of the health post is thus one of the many developmental activities that SMD has currently engaged in, which are also compliant to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 3 which speaks to the need to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.



The furnished Katlehong Health Post will serve a great deal to ease the frustrations of communities that had to walk between 15 and 20km to the nearest health facility at Rampai village for medical help. The health post will therefore assist Rampai clinic to accommodate the medical needs of all the people living in the Kao area.

The handover of the "Katlehong" Health Post was graced with the presence of Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Honorable Limpho Tau, Minister of Local Government, Chieftainship, Home Affairs and Police Honorable Lebona Lephema, Member of Parliament for Motete Constituency Honorable Teboho Mojaepela, and other high ranking government officials.

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP



Storm Mountain Diamonds (SMD) through its Community Investment Strategy (CIS) facilitated for a three-day training of community associations. The workshop aimed to capacitate these community associations with the requisite skills that would ensure they run them to their member's benefit. The workshop was administered by the Ministry of Defence, National Security and Environment through the Department of Forestry and Ministry of Trade, Industry, Business Development & Tourism. The two associations that benefited from this training are the Bees Association of Lihloahloeng and Kopanang Basotho, all of which are found in the surrounding communities of Kao mine operations.

KHATALA-SEUTLOALI : KAO'S GEM



SMD INJECTS IN WOOL & MOHAIR INDUSTRY



Storm Mountain Diamonds (SMD) through its Community Investment Strategy has donated 43 high breed rams and 86 pregnant ewes to the farmers in Kao. The farmers that benefited from this initiative are those residing in Ha Shishila, Lihloahloeng, Porenki, and Nokeng, which are villages surrounding the operations of the mine.

This initiative is meant to improve the breed of sheep of farmers residing in Kao in order to produce high quality wool which will sell at competitive prices in the market and thus improve the livelihoods of the communities surrounding our operations.



This is the second time that SMD invests greatly into the wool and mohair industry through the donation of rams and sheep. In 2022, SMD donated 30 high breed rams to the Motete Wool and Mohair Association. The mine further ensured the construction of offices, kitchen and five accommodation rooms for the personnel working at the woolshed during the wool shearing season.



THE GIFT OF GIVING BACK



Att: Storm Mountain Diamonds

SOS Children's Villages Lesotho, Board of Governors, SOS Management, Staff and Children wish to express their sincere gratitude from the bottom of their hearts for the contribution you made.

We appreciate you for making effort to come to our fundraising event: **SOS CHARITY GAMES TOURNAMENT 2023**. We had an amazing turnout and we managed to raise **M113,589.00** more than previous year! Your attendance and support have played an important role in our fundraiser's success. *We are hoping to see you again next year around same time.*

Thank You
Mokhele
RSVP: 58780233 / 62056614



Q3 & Q4 NEW ENGAGEMENTS

1. Thabelo Leoli - Site Admin Clerk
2. Tsepo Moletsane - Carpenter
3. Hlompho Masao - IT and Security Systems Technician
4. Sonia Bolila - Site Administrator

5. Mokene Maraisane - Permitter Fencing Supervisor
6. Thuso Mosabala - Sustainability Coordinator
7. Malefatsane Ntoloane - Mobile Crusher Operator
8. Thuhlo Lephoto - Electrical Assistant

9. Willem Kotze - Production Manager
10. Thapelo Mohale - Metallurgist
11. Molefi Molefi - Plumber Assistant
12. Relebohile Jae - Electrical Assistant

12. Tau Moloi - Laboratory Assistant
13. Matlakaese Tjoka - General Assistant
14. Moeti Ranthocha - General Assistant
15. Retseletsoe Napenyane - Water Attendant
16. Bakuena Diaho - Human Resources Business Partner