

West Coast Resources

WEST COAST RESOURCES STEPS IT UP

Almost two years have passed since West Coast Resources acquired mining rights in the Namaqualand region of the Northern Cape and the Company has indeed made the most of that time. With mining operations underway and the staff complement steadily increasing, an exciting time lies ahead.

Mining operations

Construction of the Michells Bay production plant was completed towards the end of 2015. The 50 tons/hour DMS plant was commissioned in November, followed by the washing and screening plant in December.

Mining operations also started in December in the Langklip area and as at 31 March 2016, initial production for the mine totalled 24 930 carats.

Mining activities for the remainder of the year will focus on the Langklip area and sections of the Koingnaas area.

Job creation

As at the end of May 2016, the Company had created 166 permanent jobs and 24 part-time employees were employed as a result of the Company's operations. West Coast Resources plans to create approximately 686 jobs, directly and indirectly, by 2020.

91% of all West Coast Resources employees comprise local residents originating from the nearby communities of, amongst others, Kommagas, Kleinzee, Nababeep, Concordia, Okiep, Koingnaas, Buffelsrivier, Hondeklip Bay and Soebatsfontein. 26% of the employees are 25 years old or younger, and 13% are women.

The first phase of the Company's trainee programme resulted in the permanent appointment of 20 young local matriculants, with no work experience, as trainees. These employees receive continuous on-the-job training, coaching and mentoring. In addition, they have attended work readiness training, legal compliance training and Code 10 driver's licence training. The second phase of the trainee programme is currently underway, with nine more local youngsters already appointed.

The Company is also currently recruiting for a third mining shift and vacancies have been advertised in local newspapers, on local notice boards and on the Company's website at www.westcoastresources.co.za

More than 5 100 applications have been received to date. These candidates' CVs have been captured on the West Coast Resources candidate database and are automatically considered for future vacancies.

Community relations

The Company's Social and Labour Plan has been submitted to the Department of Mineral Resources for approval. The Plan will be implemented over a period of five years and includes projects focused on education, job creation and health services.

As part of its Plan, West Coast Resources has already started to build play parks in the surrounding communities of Kommagas, Buffelsrivier, Hondeklip Bay and Soebatsfontein. Internet cafés are also being established in these towns.

The Company is once again co-sponsoring the Namasci Project presented by Stellenbosch University. The Project is in its second year and in April 2016, 80 Grade 10, 11 and 12 learners from across Namaqualand attended the learner sessions at Namakwa High School in Springbok. The next sessions are planned for the July school holidays.