

BLM PMT AND BE BEERS VENETIA MINE MANAGEMENT TEAM MEET FOR ENGAGEMENTS ON SLP AND UNDERGROUND PROJECT DEVELOPMENTS

On January 19, 2023 the Blouberg Local Municipality Political Management Team (PMT) comprising the Mayor, Her Worship Cllr Maria Thamaga and Council Speaker, Cllr Blanco Boloka met with De Beers Venetia Mine management team as part of the teams engagement sessions.

The purpose of the session was for the mine to update the municipality regarding social and labour plans (SLP) and the progress on Venetia Mine Underground Project Demobilisation.

Giving the timelines of events at the mine, Corporate Affairs and Sustainable Impacts Senior Manager, Ms Gloria Lekalakala indicated that the exploration in the area was done in 1969 when De Beers launched a sampling programme with the construction of the mine commencing in 1990 and subsequently starting operations in 1992.

The mine ceased its open-pit mining in December 2022.

In her presentation, Ms Lekalakala also indicated that, the mine will start project demobilisation as contractors will be concluding their work on the project. De Beers is currently undertaking a major project to transition Venetia Mine from an open-pit operation to an underground mine.

"The purpose of this meeting is to update you and the communities regarding what's happening in the business and ensure that mine critical stakeholders are appropriately apprised of the development and that they are aware of what's happening".

The underground project was approved in 2012 and the construction of the underground project began in 2013. The first production from underground blast was on 2023 and the development of the underground continuing".

This will extend the lifespan of the mine to 2046 , with options of further life extensions under consideration.

Council Speaker, Cllr Blanco Boloka indicated that the hopes for better livelihoods for the locals and the province are also pinned in the existence the mine and made a call to mine management to join hands with the municipality by forming partnership to work on ways to create more jobs for the locals.

The discussion around SLP 4 , is scheduled for five years from 2023-2027.

Bad roads condition tops the list of the service delivery concerns from communities. Her Worship, Cllr Maria Thamaga indicated that the Blouberg Council has taken a decision to channel the SLP funds to a road project, and the identified road being D1589(from Devrede to Taaiboschgroet (Ga-Mamadi) route.

The PMT presented the proposed project to the mine management.

The mine indicated that its staff has already been capacitated to transition into the underground project

and also highlighted the socio-economic projects currently being implemented in Blouberg Local Municipality ranging from education, agriculture, entrepreneurship and community health.

The PMT was accompanied by Economic Development and Planning Chairperson, Cllr Dan Mosena, Community Services Director, Mr Potedi Mphateng and the Performance Management System (PMS) Manager who's also the Acting Manager in the Mayor's Office, Mr Ludwig Manamela.







