Congratulations to Arnot for achieving a YTD LTIFR of 0.13 at the end of February.

Happy to be home
Exxaro invests in community housing

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THE ATTEMPTS of government and the private sector to alleviate South Africa’s housing crisis have been admirable, but much still needs to be done. To this end, Exxaro invests in housing projects in the communities in which it operates. Victor Khanye Municipality (VKM) near Leeuwpan is one of these communities.

The municipality’s most pressing socio-economic challenge is the housing shortage but also aided the development of local contracting and labour skills. The municipality’s most pressing socio-economic challenge is the housing shortage but also aided the development of local contracting and labour skills.

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NBC PLAYS IT SAFE and has the results to prove it!

When safety is the name of the game, great things can be achieved! Just ask NBC employees who recently celebrated 31 fatality-free years.

AFTER REACHING 22,914 fatality-free production shifts in September last year, calibration was in order at NBC. To revel in this impressive achievement, which equates 31 safe years, employees kicked back with a braai in January.

Speakers at the event included Simon Mkhoza, BU manager, and a Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) representative who praised employees for reaching this milestone and encouraged them to keep up their great performance. They were joined by Mongezi Veti, Exxaro’s general manager for SHEC, who congratulated Simon on his team’s achievement.

He asked that the DMR investigates whether any other South African mine holds a similar record and, if not, to publicly acknowledge NBC.

“Achieving 31 years of zero fatalities is no easy feat, especially in this industry,” said Richard Mahlangu, National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) co-ordinator for Exxaro’s business units (BUs) in the Mpumalanga Region.

“This can only happen if employees make safety part of their lifestyles. I look forward to seeing NBC reach another decade without a fatality.”

The rules of the game NBC knows that a good safety record is the result of employees who:

• have an attitude that supports safety efforts (employees don’t just dress in their safety shoes and vests as part of their daily routine, but also make a conscious effort to embed safety in their hearts and characters);
• understand that safety, health and the environment are at the core of business success;
• accept that safety training is an ongoing process;
• continuously work towards ensuring safety standards are maintained and improved.

Annemarie de Villiers

“I am humbled to be part of an organisation that takes the safety of employees seriously.”

Simbatho Hinani, acting SHEC manager at NBC

DEVELOPED BY mine safety solutions company Strata Worldwide, the Proximity Detection System (PDS) was designed to reduce risk on mine grounds. It does this by detecting if a person gets too close to a moving machine and then slowing the machine down before bringing it to a standstill.

Traditional warning systems on moving machinery sound an alarm to alert people who are in danger. However, with legislation around warning systems set to change in 2014, Exxaro decided to be proactive and introduce the new system sooner rather than later. System trials started at Arnot in 2011 and now company operations will start to benefit from years of hard work.

In a similar last year, Exxaro’s PDS team gathered at the AIM Group’s testing site in Delmars for a system demonstration. Tested on an AIM tractor, the PDS performed beyond expectation andproved that people and machines can work safely together. The system will be implemented on all electrical equipment used underground, including the continuous miner, loader breaker, roof bolter, shuttle cars and battery haulers.

“The system definitely works as it should – the results speak for themselves,” said demonstration attendee Schalk van Eeden, project foreman for Sasol Mining. Equally impressed with the PDS was Chamber of Mines representative Harold Stonbek.

“We were very pleased to be invited to this industry-leading demonstration and to be part of such a positive experience,” he said.

The PDS rollout started at Arnot’s 10 Shaft as well as at Matla earlier in this year. Exxaro aims to implement the system at all operations before legislation demands it.

Thato Motlhabi

NCC makes safety count

AN ACHIEVEMENT of zero incidents is the result of a carefully formulated plan and a committed team who puts this plan in action – as proved by NCC over the past year.

At the beginning of 2013, the mine’s management team implemented a number of measures to achieve safety goals, including:

• weekly mass meetings;
• continuous feedback sessions during which the BU manager directly communicates information to the entire workforce and encourages active participation;
• daily visits to the various work areas by senior and middle management members to interact with employees about safety matters (in addition to regular Visible Field Leadership visits); and
• increased visibility of safety personnel providing assistance to the management team.

By implementing and adhering to these initiatives, safety standards are maintained and improved.

Mthokozisi Shezi, acting Mining manager

“Safety is an integral part of our lives. Humans and animals rely on it for survival, and so does business. Let’s make safety a priority in everything that we do.”

Keeping a safe distance

Testering proved that a vehicle moving at 18km/h stops at an average of 1.6m before an obstacle, thanks to the PDS.

Exxaro walks the innovation talk

Putting safety first not only means adhering to all current rules and systems but also keeping up with new measures and industry requirements. For this reason, Exxaro recently introduced the innovative Proximity Detection System to the Arnot mining community.

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A view from the top

Mxolisi Mgojo, Exxaro’s executive head for Operations, visited Laeuserpan on 6 December to tour the mine and discuss production progress. Mxolisi shared Exxaro’s coal strategy and upcoming group projects, explaining how Laeuserpan fits into them. He also discussed Mapela developments.

Accompanied by the Laeuserpan management team, Mxolisi visited Weltevreden and DD South pits as well as the plant stockpile area where he got to see and understand logistics challenges.

To conclude his visit, he toured the Andru Mining overburden removal site at CH pit.

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