



Community development Trust -Bohwa Bja Rena reports progress in supporting Twickenham communities

At Anglo American Platinum, we are committed to our purpose of re-imagining mining to improve people’s lives. We do this by continuously striving to improve existing relationships with host communities and to engage in ways that will deliver value to them. In line with one of the pillars of our sustainable mining plan, we measure our progress by thriving communities.

In 2011, Platinum launched project Alchemy, a community ownership share scheme created to promote local, inclusive community development. The purpose is to build thriving communities beyond mining, through leveraging the community’s shareholding in Platinum.

Through Alchemy, we have established development trusts to address and facilitate the sustainable social and economic development of historically disadvantaged South Africans living in certain demarcated areas around four of our mines. One of these areas – collectively known as our “benefits areas” – is Twickenham Mine.

On 31 May 2023, Twickenham’s community development trust, Bohwa Bja Rena, held a multi-year annual general meeting at the Chuene Resort, Ga Chuene in Limpopo. At the meeting, community members were taken through the trust’s 2016 – 2021 financial audit report prepared by Deloitte and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Details included the financing structure, dividend amounting to over R37 million that was soon to be paid out after submission of the 2021 unqualified audited statements, as well as the projects that Bohwa Bja Rena has implemented to develop the 12 communities around Twickenham.



Platinum’s executive head of corporate affairs and sustainability, Yvonne Mfolo, acknowledged the journey of the trust to where it is today. “Bohwa Bja Rena community development trust has been faced with a number of challenges,” she explained, “including the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic, no dividend payout as a result of the company’s performance and even delayed dividend payments due to the non-readiness of the audited financials. However, we now have a lot to celebrate, too.”

The trust recently handed over administration blocks at Makgopa Primary School and Ntwampe Primary School, as well as one block of three grade R classrooms and ablution facilities. The trust has, over the years, implemented several skills development projects such as coding and programming training, as well as programme delivery projects such as working with FAMSA to educate learners about gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy and substance abuse. The trust has also been involved in the training of community health workers, the provision of food parcels as Covid-19 protection packs and the provision of support to goat-farming enterprises, among many other socially important initiatives.



The trust board members were able to explain the progress made by the trust against its mandate as well as key objectives, and provided a high-level synopsis of the trust’s strategic intent. Some community members expressed their satisfaction with the progress that Bohwa Bja Rena has made in developing the communities and the youth through diverse projects.

Community members were encouraged to approach the trust for support in future, since Bohwa Bja Rena is also there to create an enabling environment for community members and future generations in which to earn a livelihood by providing support for local development. Twickenham community members believe that going forward, further support, partnership and collaboration between community members will continue to drive projects with real impact.

The chair of the trust’s board, John Motimele, said the trust’s initiatives are aimed at fostering thriving communities and ensuring sustainable, inclusive community development that extends beyond mining and leverages the community’s shareholding in Platinum. “Bohwa Bja Rena is driven by the vision and desire to see the communities of Twickenham become self-sufficient to manage their resources and champion their own development – even after mining operations have stopped,” he said.

[CLICK HERE](#) to watch the AGM.