



Community NEWSLETTER



Orion Minerals

Developing a 21st century South African copper-zinc mine

1st EDITION / JULY 2021

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WELCOME TO THE NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the very first edition of Orion's newsletter for the communities of Siyathemba and Vanwyksvlei (SV)! We hope that over time this will become an important tool for sharing information with our communities – information about Orion and about mining, but also information that is relevant and interesting for all our readers.

A competition!

The very first thing that we need to do is to choose a name for this newsletter.

We call on all our readers to come up with fun, original and relevant names, and then send them to us at newsletter@orionminerals.com.au. A team will choose the five best suggestions, which we will then put up for a vote on the Orion Facebook page to choose the final name. The person who suggested the chosen name will win a prize of R1000.



OLYMPIC SPONSORSHIP

Orion will be sponsoring Prieska sprinter Chederick van Wyk as he works towards selection for South Africa's 4x100m men's relay team – and other possible sprint entries – at the Tokyo Olympic Games scheduled from 23 July to 8 August this year. Orion's sponsorship will allow Chederick to travel to Italy this month for a critical pre-Olympics camp.

This sponsorship forms the first phase of what Orion hopes will be a long relationship between the company and Chederick, who will become a sports ambassador for the Siyathemba community, especially for the young people of Siyathemba.



**Errol Smart / Managing Director
and Chief Executive Officer**

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Greetings to everyone in the SV communities. I hope that you will find this newsletter interesting and useful as we move forward.

I want to use this first newsletter to answer concerns that that may be held by many of you at the moment. People are asking how Orion will make sure that everyone benefits from mining at Prieska – that work, and contracts and opportunities are shared with everyone, not just a few.

Orion is 100% committed to ensuring that as much work as possible and as many contracts as possible, in both the construction and the mining phases of operations, go to individuals and businesses from the community. This is non-negotiable for us and will be non-negotiable for any company that is selected to carry out any of the major development contracts. They must use subcontractors and employees from SV.

At the same time, I want to be very clear – Orion will never, ever, compromise procurement or employment governance guidelines. Contracts will be awarded based on how companies meet the requirements of the work – from their expertise and their experience, to their cost, and their compliance with local requirements. We also want to make sure that there will be no gate keeping by parties that promise to secure work or contracts for locals. Local employees and contractors must compete fairly and get work on merit, not based on affiliation.

I want to assure the communities that, even if a major contract is awarded to a company that is not from SV, due to requirement for specialist skills or delivery, this does not, this does not mean there will not be work and opportunities for subcontracting and employment. Every company that works on the Prieska Project will be obliged to use local contractors, local suppliers, and local employees.

WHO IS ORION

**and what are we
doing in Siyathemba?**

Orion is a mining exploration company working in the Northern Cape, South Africa, and in Australia. We aim to develop mining operations in areas with a history of high-quality ore production, especially copper, zinc and nickel.

In SV, we are focussing mainly on the former mining operations outside Prieska, in the Copperton area.

We are currently focused on securing the financing for the Prieska Copper Zinc Mine that we have spent the past four years drilling and doing engineering studies on. If all goes to plan, this funding will be secured to commence mine construction in 2022 with production expected to start late in 2024.

What does this mean for the community? Firstly, we have already established a Community Trust that owns 5% of the mine. Our studies estimate that this should translate into benefits to the community of around R500 million over the first 12 years life of the project. We hope to ultimately continue mining for up to 20 years.

In addition, Orion will contribute to the community - among others - through human resource development (learnerships, bursaries, internships and ABET), local skills development initiatives, the upgrade and maintenance of the Prieska Waterworks, facilitating the building of more housing in the area, and renewable energy projects.





From left to right - Bill Pickard Hospital Manager Mandy Saaiman and Dr Bianca Jordaan with Orion Managing Director and CEO Errol Smart in the hospital pharmacy, which is now accredited to administer Covid-19 vaccinations.

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

SUPPORTING COVID-19 VACCINATION PREPARATIONS IN SIYATHEMBA

Orion in June formally handed over a specialised medical vaccine fridge/freezer unit to Prieska's Bill Pickard Hospital. The donation of the fridge has allowed the hospital's pharmacy to become an accredited Covid-19 vaccination centre.

COVID-19 vaccination centres are eligible to be part of the Government's national vaccination program to administer COVID-19 vaccines to health workers and community members as part of a phased rollout. The vaccines will be sent to the hospital pharmacy from Kimberley via De Aar. The first vaccines arrived and were administered last week.

Hospital manager Mandy Saaiman said the whole of SV, including Prieska, Marydale, Niekerkshoop and Vanwyksvlei, will benefit. Before the pharmacy's accreditation, the closest accredited vaccination centre within the Pixley Ka Seme District was in De Aar, 180km from Prieska.

The hospital's accreditation as a Covid-19 vaccination centre was made possible with the help of Orion in collaboration with fellow members of the Siyathemba CSI Collaboration Forum. The pharmacy needed refrigeration capacity, shelving and digital infrastructure before it could be accredited as a vaccination centre.



**The hospital's pharmacy
is now an accredited
COVID-19 vaccination centre**

BICYCLES FOR HUMANITY PUTTING OUR COMMUNITY ON WHEELS

During April, a 20m shipping container holding 420 bicycles secured by Orion via a donation by Bicycles for Humanity in Australia was delivered to Siyathemba. The shipping and import from Australia were funded by Orion.

We want to thank the Department of Transport and Public Works and Deputy Director Howard Tsume and his team for providing workspace, Johan Botes of Partzone Prieska and NR Engineering for facilitating the offloading of the container, and Wilson Bosman, Cecil Skeffers, and Pastor Maliehe for helping with unpacking the container.

During June, selected community members attended basic bicycle mechanic and assembly training, run by the Bicycle Empowerment Network (BEN). We are working on developing an implementation strategy and Bicycle Empowerment Centre business model in consultation with the BEN. We will keep you posted on progress for this project.



Community members taught to assemble and maintain bicycles could go on to open their own workshops.

SKILLS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

Continuing its commitment to community training and development, Orion recently undertook occupational assessments for potential artisans and operators – these had initially been delayed as a result of the recent disruptions in Siyathemba.

The process was open to individuals who had previously completed Orion's Introduction to Mining course, and who had expressed an interest in artisan and operator roles. An initial group of 60 individuals from the SV communities were invited to participate in the current phase, with 44 individuals eventually taking Orion up the opportunity.

Based on the results of these assessments, training programs will be offered to high-potential participants to prepare them for

possible future employment opportunities on the Prieska Copper-Zinc Mine or within the broader South African mining industry.

Additional occupational assessments will be undertaken in the next few weeks. Orion is encouraging all community members who received an invitation to participate to do so, as this process will play a critical role in ensuring that local residents are eligible to be considered for employment once work begins on site.

Orion is conscious of the urgent need for skills development and employment opportunities in the SV area and is committed to playing a role in delivering these wherever possible.

UNITED
AGAINST
CORRUPTION



Orion stands with millions of South Africans who know that corruption puts all of our futures at risk.

Especially now as we try to recover from the impact of COVID-19, it is more important than ever that we stand #UnitedAgainstCorruption. You can learn more here <http://www.anticorruptionday.org/>, and you can report corruption to the **national number 0800 701 701**.



Captions – The first occupational assessments for potential artisans and operators completed at Orion Minerals

COVID-19

COVID-19 is still a big threat – in SV, in the Northern Cape, and in South Africa. It is clear that the country is now in a third wave, and that there will be many people hospitalised and perhaps at risk of their lives.

We urge all SV residents to continue to keep yourselves and others safe. Stick to all the current government restrictions. Always wear a mask if you are outside your home, avoid gatherings – especially the ones indoors, keep a safe physical distance from other people, and remember to sanitise or wash your hands well and regularly.

We are relieved that the vaccine rollout is underway. We encourage everyone who is eligible register for a vaccine, and to attend your appointment when you receive that information. We urge young people in the communities to help elders who may not have access to the internet.

REGISTER FOR COVID-19 VACCINES

You can register in three ways:

- Online at <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>
- By WhatsApp – send “register” to 0600 123 456
- Dial – *134*832*Your ID number#
- If you do not have an ID number you can call *134*832#

HOW TO CONTACT US



Orion has vacated the former Community Liaison Office to make space for a community clinic. We will inform the community once we find new office space or alternatively acquire a mobile office that can visit all community centers giving everyone access to our CSD coordination team. Until then you can reach us via WhatsApp on **060 468 9549**.

If you have suggestions for the next newsletter, you can send them to newsletter@orionminerals.com.au