

# COMMUNITY BRIEF



Orion Minerals

## MQA learnership opportunity for communities



In keeping with our community upskilling objectives, Orion has accessed fifty (50) Mine Qualification Authority (MQA) learnerships which will be facilitated by the Murray and Roberts Training Academy. The learnerships will be provided to community members from the Siyathemba and Nama Khoi Municipalities and the town of Vanwyksvlei. They will focus on the areas of occupational health, safety and environmental practices, as well as entry level requirements for mining.

The learnership programme, which is expected to start on the 31st of October, is accredited by the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA) – the mining industry's Sector Education and Training Authority. Orion had anticipated the commencement of training at the end of September but due to capacity constraints at the M&R Training Centre, the start date was postponed.

Once completed, the participants will achieve an NQF Level 2 National Certificate in occupational health, safety and environment (OHSE). In addition to mine OHSE, participants will also obtain qualifications in First Aid, Pipe Tracks and Vents, Competent B (underground competency), Working at Heights, Basic Fire Fighting, Safety Health and Environment Representative and Intermediate Rigger. The training will be undertaken at the Murray and Roberts Training Academy in Carletonville and will be provided in monthly 2-week blocks over a period of 6 months.

The MQA grant funding will cover all training-related expenses, accommodation, meals and a

monthly stipend. Transportation will be provided to and from the training venue by Orion.

The host community members selected to participate in the training were identified from the company's database and included Introduction to Mining course attendees who went through several phases of screening such as occupational assessments and testing. To meet MQA requirements, only those participants who are medically fit, under 35 years of age and who have been unemployed for the duration of the training were eligible.

While the training will not result in guaranteed future employment for participants, the qualifications gained will provide an excellent grounding for consideration when vacancies arise on commencement of mine development and for consideration for possible further specialised training. Orion remains committed to creating as many training, employment and business opportunities as possible for our host communities.