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Inclusive procurement makes the circle bigger

Thungela is supporting our suppliers to go local – just like we do.

Thungela supports local businesses, employs local people, develops local skills and contributes to local community projects. So, imagine the difference we could make if all our suppliers did the same.

Inclusive procurement manager Lucas Kotsoane and his team are making this happen through their strategic engagement with major business partners like UAV & Drone Solutions (UDS), the company that conducts aerial surveillance at all our sites.



"We constantly work with our suppliers to identify ways in which they can help us uplift local communities," says Lucas, adding that the fruits of many of these efforts will be realised over the coming months.

One of the first to get actively involved in our social responsibility partnership programme, UDS is a member of the Bidvest group and delivered 126 school desks, 252 chairs and two laptops, as well as printer paper and hand sanitiser to two disadvantaged schools in one of our host municipalities.



Inclusive procurement manager Lucas Kotsoane returned to the classroom to applaud UDS's support of two schools in one of our host municipalities.

Education is the bridge that enables the transition from poverty to prosperity, and you saw fit to make a difference," he said," says Bonke

Learners were kept entertained when drone pilots took photographs from the sky. Photographed here are children and dignitaries at the handover staged by Zibulo colliery.

Theron Mathebula is studying architecture at Wits University. William Sebesho and Kagiso Tshehla are pursuing degrees in teaching at Unisa and the University of Cape Town, respectively, while Sifiso Vincent Shongwe is working towards his diploma in safety management. Nicole Mapea from Bethal is in her third year of study at the University of Pretoria and is working towards a BSc Mathematics degree.

"This bursary has helped me move a few steps closer to being a future mathematician and economist," says Nicole.

In an upcoming initiative, 26 local youths will be given an opportunity to participate in UDS's Cadet programme. On completion of a six-week course, students will be enrolled in the company's in-house operations training initiative.

This bursary has helped me move a few steps closer to being a future mathematician and economist," says Nicole.

Ntimane, Isibonelo general manager

Zibulo and Isibonelo collieries identified these schools – Mpumelelo Primary School in Leandra and Muzimuhle Primary School in Evander – as beneficiaries, and the schools gratefully received these donations in August.

Speaking at Muzimuhle Primary, Isibonelo general manager Bonke Ntimane thanked UDS for its contribution to ensuring that local children are empowered with improved educational resources.

“Education is the bridge that enables the transition from poverty to prosperity, and you saw fit to make a difference,” he said.

In addition to these donations, UDS has provided bursaries for five students in our areas of operation.



A number of our major suppliers have recognised the need to **contribute to local development** and have pledged their **support** in a number of exciting ways.

WHY? BECAUSE TOGETHER WE CAN DO MORE!

We'll be sharing news of these developments soon.



Isibonelo colliery general manager Bonke Ntimane expressed his support for an initiative that ensures a more conducive learning environment for local school children.



Members of the Thungela and UDS teams pictured with learners from Muzimuhle Primary School.

This will see them qualify as licensed drone pilots. There is considerable demand for these skills as the drone industry continues to grow. Drones are used in many applications, including security, conservation, surveying and stockpiling.

“We are thrilled and excited. This donation came at the right time, as we are in dire need of furniture. I had sleepless nights over how we were going to host out new learners. We welcome this partnership. We are thankful!”

– Mpumelelo Primary School principal Lorraine Mnguni

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