

Busy times for local shaft sinking company

Big focus on training

Matthew Hill | Features Reporter

Shaft Sinkers has been involved in the mining industry for over 40 years, offering a wide range of services including shaft sinking, mining contracting, underground construction, large underground excavations, tunnelling, design, consulting and draughting, as well as engineering, procurement and contract management.

Shaft Sinkers shaft sinking and international divisional director **Louis Germishuys** boasts that the company has sunk in excess of 160-km of vertical shafts and more than 17-km of decline

shafts.

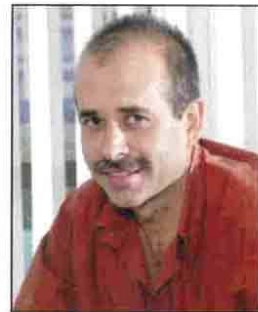
He says that the company has been significantly involved in Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho, and it has even recently done work in countries as far afield as Laos, China, Indonesia, Switzerland, Brazil and Ireland.

Germishuys reports that Shaft Sinkers is currently working on a project for Impala Platinum.

"We are sinking 16 shaft's main shaft and vent shaft, and we are in the process of equipping 11c's vent shaft," he states.



JANNIE HOOMAN
Company has expanded its mining division



LOUIS GERMISHUYS
Company has been selected as preferred contractor for Afplat's Leeukop project

"The 16 main shaft will have a depth of 1 657 m and a finished diameter of 10 m."

He says that the vent shaft will be slightly shallower, at 1 450 m, with a 6,8-m diameter.

Shaft Sinkers will equip the main shaft, and there will be off-shaft development on both the main shaft and the vent shaft.

The other project that Germishuys tells *Mining Weekly* about is the equipping of the Pakhisa shaft, near Welkom, for Harmony.

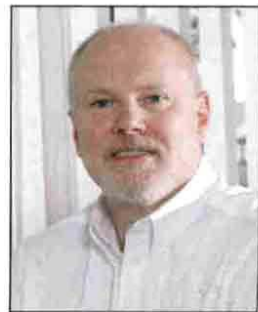
Germishuys also reports that Shaft Sinkers has been selected as the preferred contractor for Afplat's Leeukop project.

He says that the company is in the process of tendering for future work and there is a promising potential order book from the platinum industry.

Corporate services divisional director **Tom Pietrzak** points out that Shaft Sinkers is a pioneer in safety, quality and training in the shaft sinking and contract mining industry, and was the first local company to achieve 1 000 000 fatality-free shifts, ISO 9001 quality and NQA training accreditations.

Germishuys comments that another factor that differentiates Shaft Sinkers from similar companies is its outstanding project-management abilities.

He says that the company also puts a lot of focus on building and maintaining relationships with clients.



TOM PIETRZAK
Shaft Sinkers the first local company to achieve one-million fatality-free shifts

New training facility

A challenge that Shaft Sinkers is currently facing is a shortage of skills in the industry, but Germishuys affirms that the company is actively in the process of addressing this problem through its excellent training facility.

Pietrzak explains that Shaft Sinkers has been working to form a tripartite alliances with its clients, suppliers and contractors regarding training, which adds immense value.

"We are building a training facility at Aquarius Platinum's Everest site," he details.

"And we will build training facilities at Lonmin's Brits site."

Another challenge Germishuys mentions is to grow responsibly.

He points out that the market is buoyant and there is a lot of potential for growth, owing to current high commodity prices, but says

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Having a place to go is a home.
Having someone to love is a family.
Having both is a blessing.