



## **IMPLATS' APPROACH TO CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT**

Implats believes the sustainability of its mining activities depends on its ability to contribute to the wellbeing and prosperity of its mine communities.

“Given the challenging socio-political environment – characterised by high levels of joblessness, persistent income inequality and increasing evidence of community frustration – it is important we play an active role in finding solutions to societal challenges. We need to work with all our partners - including business, the government, labour and local communities - to build an inclusive economy that provides opportunities for social mobility, facilitated by equitable access to jobs, education and health,” says John Nkosi, Implats Group sustainable development manager.

Complementing the emphasis on providing accommodation and improved living conditions, the communities in which Implats operates continue to benefit significantly from the Group’s social and labour plans, which seek to address identified community needs by focusing on improving infrastructure and access to clean water, as well as health, education and employment.

“We are driving legislated transformation requirements and are committed to meeting the transformational objectives of the countries in which we operate through the empowerment of historically disadvantaged South Africans and indigenous Zimbabweans. We continuously invest in socio-economic development, while ongoing engagement with community representatives remains a priority,” says Nkosi. “We provide employment, skills and training for our employees, we pay taxes and royalties to governments and dividends to our shareholders, we purchase goods and services from local businesses and we invest in the development and improvement of infrastructure and other social services in the communities that are home to our employees.”

Over the last eight years Implats has invested approximately R3.1 billion in skills development, spent more than R14.3 billion at local HDSA suppliers, invested R729 million in socio-economic development, and R193 million on building and upgrading schools. In addition, Implats has spent R3.7 billion upgrading the living conditions of its employees, which includes the construction of 3 000 houses.

The sustainable development departments at Impala Rustenburg and Marula manage the socio-economic development initiatives at these operations. A technical team is responsible for implementing the projects, working with the stakeholder engagement department.

“We identify community projects based on a needs analysis, undertaken in consultation with stakeholder representatives from communities, local government and employees. Once

approved, the projects are recommended to the Implats' executive committee, a multi-disciplinary executive-level management team that evaluates the merits of investing in each project," says Nkosi.

Each year an independent audit is conducted on selected social projects, based on the financial, legal and reputational risk, and to determine the impact, progress and potential remedial action where a project faces possible failure.

"Accountability and measuring specific results related to our initiatives is vital. We must know we are making the agreed and desired impact," concludes Nkosi.

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