

Magagas Civils makes a difference with its Bell TLB

People, especially married couples, fall in love with many things. Firstly, they fall in love with each other, then they can fall in love with a home or property they aspire to, or a piece of furniture.

Falling in love with a piece of earthmoving equipment is rare, especially for a married couple, but not impossible, as we will tell you.

Tshepo Mogase and his wife Lynette, worked for the National Intelligence Agency and the South African Police Services respectively when, in February 2002, they took the big step to resign their commissions and start their own construction company in Rustenburg.

“We started work with a one-ton bakkie and our first contract saw us building the wing walls of the toll plaza on the N4 at Swaruggens,” Tshepo says. “Soon after that, we progressed to building a 4km stretch of road at Rooikraal, close to Rustenburg where we picked up valuable experience.”

“During this time, we registered our company, Magagas Civils cc, with the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) to learn more about construction and also registered as contractors on the vendor lists of the major mining companies in and around Rustenburg,” Lynette adds. “With our CIDB contact, we could use skilled people to teach and advise us.”

The couple soon realised that hiring in earthmoving equipment, although handy, did eat away at their profits and by 2006, they took the big step of buying a versatile earthmoving machine, in this case, a Bell 315SG Tractor Loader Backhoe (TLB).

“We both fell in love with this machine and could not believe how we had previously worked without it,” Lynette says warmly. Tshepo shows his wholehearted agreement when he says: “We used our Bell TLB for site establishment, loading material, digging and backfilling trenches and even did some grave digging for the municipality.”

By 2009, Magagas Civils was awarded a contract to build six classrooms, an athletics track and a soccer field at a school in a village with the unusual name of ‘Los my Cherry’ (‘Leave my girlfriend alone’). “This was a further milestone for us as we did not use outside consultants as we now had the know-how of this type of project,” Lynette says. “The successful completion of this project also led us to be nominated for an award as the best contractor in the province.”

Leading on from the success of the school project, Magagas Civils was awarded a big and challenging housing project for the Department of Human Settlements, which would see them build 500 RDP houses in Bloemhof and Christiana, respectively. This they did and delivered both projects on time and to the satisfaction of their clients.

It is said that nothing succeeds like success and success for the Mogase couple and their loyal and dedicated staff brought more work and more pressure on their fleet of equipment. But there was light at the end of the tunnel when they made use of a financial leg-up offered by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Black Business Suppliers Development Programme (BBSDP).

“Making use of this assistance would see the DTI and BBSDP pay 50% towards the cost of new equipment

that we needed with us contributing the balance and the VAT,” Tshepo says. “This was an opportunity too good to miss and we happily bought two Bell 315SK 4x4 TLBs as our first Bell TLB had performed so magnificently over the years.”

“I should also add that our first Bell TLB, although now eight years old, has just given us endless pleasure and the service we’ve received from Bell Equipment has left us in no doubt as to where we would look for other equipment in future,” Tshepo says. “And we feel we’re in for an exciting future as we look towards a mining venture where we will need excavators, articulated dump trucks, wheeled loaders and rollers.”

And we’re willing to bet that the charming Mogase couple would fall in love with those Bell machines as well.



One of Magagas Civils’ two newest Bell 315SK TLBs being used on the construction site of a new warehouse complex for a leading mining group near Rustenburg.



Tshepo Mogase (front left) with Bell Equipment Sales Representative, Devon Cort (standing), and Lynette Mogase.