

# Pre-owned Bells find an appreciative home at Transkei Quarries

**A leading Eastern Cape quarrying company has been expanding its capacity due to demand from clients and in doing so, is depending on a trusted original equipment supplier to help it meet increased production targets.**

Transkei Quarries is situated just outside of Mthatha and has been in the present owners' hands since 1986. At the helm is General Manager, Ernst Putter, a man who worked himself up through the company after starting as a driller and blaster. He has, along with a strong management team, steadily grown the company and with it, its fleet of earthmoving and crushing equipment.

'We're currently in a strong growth phase and despite the doom and gloom of the economy in

other parts of the country, we're blessed with strong and sustained demand from our many clients for our products and services," Ernst says. "Our second crushing plant had been contracted out for a while but since that contract had been concluded, we've erected a third crushing plant due to demand from especially road construction companies working in a radius around Mthatha."

According to Ernst, the recent construction of a large shopping mall in Mthatha also called for much fill material and aggregate. Having additional crushing plants is one thing but to then effectively feed them continuously calls for a fleet of reliable mining, haulage and material handling equipment.

Transkei Quarries has had a long relationship with Bell Equipment since the company first bought three Bell 1206 Haul Tractors with 9-cubic metre dump trailers back in the 1980s. These stalwarts served Transkei Quarries well and led the company to later acquire four Bell

B18A Articulated Dump Trucks (ADTs). Even though they were used machines, they too still clocked between 10 000 and 12 000 hours, which did much to cement the company's trust in the Bell brand.

More and bigger Bell ADTs followed and the company saw its mined rock hauled by Bell B20B, B20C, B20D, B25D and B30D ADTs, the latter bought new in 2014. Transkei Quarries operates on the basis of drill, blast, load and haul and as its pit has become deeper, so its ramps have become longer and more challenging for its Bell haul fleet. Bigger loads have demanded bigger engines but the company's faith in the Bell ADTs powered by Mercedes Benz power plants still equate to lower production costs per tonne through frugal fuel consumption.

"We have over the years traded some of our older Bell ADTs in on newer models but we've somehow hung onto our one Bell B20B ADT and it is still going strong," Ernst says. "In early 2016, we took delivery of three pre-owned Bell B30E ADTs and we would have taken four had there been an additional one available. This must tell you a lot about our faith in the brand."

Transkei Quarries have for a long time trusted machines from Bell Equipment for their in-pit loading, using Bell HD1430 Excavators. In the plant area where there is a constant movement of products such as various sized aggregate and crusher dust, Bell Wheeled Loaders have been relied on. Various models of the legendary Bell C- and C-Plus series gave way to models in the Bell

D-series and most recently, the new Bell E-series of Wheeled Loader. Some of their older Bell Wheeled Loaders are moved to their quarry operation at Butterworth.

"We have just ordered a Bell L1806E Wheeled Loader and even though it is a pre-owned machine with some 7 000 hours on the clock, it comes with an extended warranty to 9 000 hours, which gives us the assurance that we're buying a reliable piece of equipment," Ernst says. "This Loader will work around 200 hours a month and given that all our Bell machines are maintained by Bell Equipment mechanics from their Customer Service Centre here in Mthatha, we sleep well at night."

Bell Equipment's foresight of elevating its former depot in Mthatha to that of a Customer Service Centre, under the able leadership of Skungo Gxididi, is paying dividends as customers such as Transkei Quarries can rely on technical support and parts back up on their doorstep.

The National Department of Water Affairs and Sanitation is planning to construct five dams in the Mthatha area to supplement the city's water supply. With its new crusher plant being fed by reliable machines from Bell Equipment, Transkei Quarries is confident that there won't be any delay when it comes to supplying this important project with rock fill and aggregate material.



Skungo Gxididi (left), the Team Leader of Bell Mthatha, speaks to Leon de Lange, Quarry Manager for Transkei Quarries.

