

Kobelco and Kamaz 'kuier' in the Free State



Bell Equipment demonstrated two popular models of its new Kobelco and Kamaz equipment ranges to existing and prospective customers in the Free State recently.

The initiative of Bell Equipment's Finlay Territory Manager, Wikus Kleynhans, and Sales Representative, Chris Botha, the demonstration was held on a private farm to the north of Bloemfontein where fill material was being extracted for the extension of a popular housing estate bordering the city. This provided the ideal working environment for the Kobelco SK350LC Excavator and Kamaz 6520 Tipper Truck.

"There are many construction and road building contractors in Bloemfontein and a variety of contractors and plant hire companies spread across the Free State and we invited them all to come and view and experience our exciting new machines," says Wikus Kleynhans. "The way we set up this equipment demonstration event meant that customers could operate the Kobelco Excavator and drive the Kamaz Truck and in doing so, experience firsthand how the equipment handles."

Toppie van Rensburg, the Manager: Roads and Storm water for the Senqu Local Municipality at Lady Grey in the Eastern Cape, was eager to get behind the controls of the 35-ton Kobelco Excavator. After a stint of working with the machine, he spoke to us with enthusiasm: "Our municipality is blessed with good administration, which means we have the means to buy and maintain our own earthmoving equipment and we appreciate being invited to attend demonstrations such as this one where one can experience operating the machines. We generally use slightly smaller excavators but handling this Kobelco SK350 machine was really exciting with all that power at one's fingertips."

Van Rensburg enjoyed the quiet engine and how comfortable he felt in the cab of the Kobelco Excavator with its smooth controls.



Bennie Burger, Plant Manager of Raubex Construction with Bell Equipment's Chris Botha.

Herman van Deventer hails from Reitz in the Eastern Free State where he runs his company H D Plant Hire. "I own two older Bell HD820 Excavators but this new Kobelco machine is a beast which oozes power," he says. "I particularly enjoyed the ergonomics of the cab, which has great all-round visibility."

Johan van Heerden, owner of a family-run business called Sand Van Heerden in Kroonstad, was keen to learn more about the Kamaz 65222 Rigid Tipper Truck, the 6x6 all-wheel drive version of the Kamaz 6520 model that was demonstrated. He felt it would be ideally suited for the heavy-duty hauls in the quarry where they extract stone aggregate and sand.

The Plant Manager for the listed Raubex Construction Group, Bennie Burger, took the demonstration experience to new heights. He, along with Bell Sales Representative, Chris Botha, took two full loads of fill material to the designated site where Raubex Construction is working. Along the way, with Bennie at the wheel of the Kamaz, they did speed and brake tests and returned with broad smiles.

"This truck has got more than enough power from its 400hp engine and we went from 0 to 80kmh in no time on the tarred road leading away from the site. Braking with a full load was positive and I am very impressed with this machine for both on-road and off-road applications," he said.

The demonstration took place under typical blue Free State autumn skies and customers from all over the province dropped in to look, learn and experience. Ideas were swapped and experiences shared and once again it was appreciated by all that the value of personal contact between original equipment suppliers and their customers can never be underestimated.



Wian Liebenberg, owner of Galactic Sand & Stone of Bloemfontein, behind the wheel of the Kamaz 6520 Tipper Truck with Patrick Mabita (owner of Dinaledi Sand & Stone of Bloemfontein).