

# Kobelco Excavators prove their worth at Premium Plant Hire & Civils

South Africa's northernmost province Limpopo is blessed with an abundance of mineral, cultural and agricultural wealth. On the agricultural side, the jewel in this green crown is undoubtedly the area around Tzaneen and here the locals will tell you that they love everything that's green, from young bananas to especially avocados and mangoes for these point to sustainable job creation and a thriving local economy.

But now there's a new shade of blue-green or turquoise in the area that is causing some hearts to beat faster while also benefitting the local economy.

Local resident, Renier Reyneke, had worked in insurance for many years when he realised that local fruit and vegetable producers around Tzaneen needed to get their fresh produce to the larger markets in Gauteng. "In 2003, I bought an eight-ton truck with which we transported the local fresh produce to those larger, more demanding markets. In time the demand for reliable transport grew so much that we sold our insurance brokerage to concentrate on this business, and so our company Premium Trucking was born," he says. "We're proud to say that we now run a fleet of 34 refrigerated and tautliner trucks and the latter are often loaded with essential supplies like cement on the return journeys from Gauteng."

In 2011, Renier saw a gap in the local market for the supply of sand and stone for the construction industry and, with two small wheeled loaders bought from the Tzaneen branch of Bell Equipment, he started supplying sand and stone.

"We use Finlay 683 Screens to separate the materials into sand and aggregates and currently own two such machines with one bought from Bell Equipment and the other on the used market," he says. "This side of our business, Premium Sand and Stone, is now run by our daughter, Renette du Preez, who trained as a teacher but is thriving in this role."

Renier and his wife, Annette, also have a son, Renier Jnr, who with two commerce degrees also works within the group. "When Renier Jnr joined the business, we decided to grow our plant hire offering coupled with small civil works and Premium Plant Hire & Civils now has earthmoving equipment working all over Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and Gauteng," Renier continues. "During recent droughts we saw support from many farmers wanting to build dams on their farms."

The Premium Group has grown to now consist of four divisions namely Premium Trucking, Sand and Stone, Plant Hire & Civils and Premium Readymix. The latter has two concrete ready-mix plants in Tzaneen, one in Hoedspruit and another in Thohoyandou.







**Renier Reyneke Jnr, Renier Reyneke Snr and Renette du Preez with Charl Coertse, Bell Tzaneen's Sales Representative.**

"As far as I can remember, we've always had yellow equipment from Bell Equipment and apart from the excellent products, we've enjoyed the company's technical support as well," says Renier Jnr. "Over time we've owned 12 machines bought from Bell Equipment in Tzaneen and these include the aforementioned Wheeled Loaders, the Finlay Screens, a Grader, Backhoe Loaders and some Rollers. "We also own a Bell B25B Articulated Dump Truck (ADT) that we use in the aggregates division, and despite its age, it still works every day," he says.

Renier Jnr has grown Premium Plant Hire & Civils into a company with a solid reputation for delivering projects on time and on budget, and has expanded its offering to include bulk earthworks and the construction of platforms for large civil construction projects like shopping malls in Limpopo, Mpumalanga, and Gauteng. On the agricultural side, the company does de-bushing and land preparation that involves creating earthen ridges for the planting of macadamia and avocado orchards.

"In 2020 we needed a new excavator to replace an older machine and after thoroughly researching the wider excavator market and receiving information on hydraulic oil flows in Kobelco Excavators from Bell Equipment, we settled on a Kobelco SK210LC-10

Excavator, which has proved to be a revelation for us in the way it has performed," Renier Jnr says. "Knowing what these machines cost, the Kobelco SK210LC-10 machine's price was extremely competitive and its performance over the past 5 000 trouble-free hours has been remarkable."

Renier Jnr mentions the speed with which the machine builds ridges in especially agricultural applications making it a sought-after piece of equipment amongst the company's farming clients. Whether the machine is working with G5 aggregates or de-bushing Eucalyptus trees, an average fuel burn of 13 litres an hour seems to satisfy all the company's clients.

"We've subsequently bought two new, Kobelco SK220XD-10 Excavators and plan to slowly replace our fleet of 10 excavators with Kobelco Excavators," adds Renier Snr. "We're happy with the machine's standard warranty of three years or 5 000 hours as these machines just don't break down."

"We just love these quiet turquoise Kobelco Excavators for their ease of operation, speed and sustained performance and we look forward to the time when our entire excavator fleet is one colour," the father and son duo echo.