

A RE SHOMENG HAS AN EYE ON CREATING OPPORTUNITIES



The joint-venture core site team at the Elias Motsoaledi bridge. From left to right are Joseph Masekwameng (A Re Shomeng CEO), project community liaison officer Phikisile Nkosinathi, quantity surveyor Linden Williams, Stefanutti Stocks Civils contracts director Mike Stevenson and site engineer, Ericka Lambi. Seated, from left to right are foreman Wayne McKenzie and sub-agent Zaine Bishton.

“As a businessman I want to contribute to the development of South Africa, not only by expecting opportunities to come my way, but by creating opportunities that will sustain our growth,” says Joseph Masekwameng, chief executive officer of A Re Shomeng Holdings Limited. “We have grown and benefited from being developed by Stefanutti Stocks, and in turn, by applying what we know, we intend to develop individuals and empower our own structures. Our solution is beyond enterprise development - it is a strategic formation that offers South Africa what it needs.”

The construction arm of A Re Shomeng Holdings covers both civil works and roads & earthworks, two areas within which Stefanutti Stocks's considerable experience and expertise adds great value to the enterprise development relationship between the two.

Furthermore, A Re Shomeng owns a colliery in Mpumalanga, including the coal prospecting and mining rights. As Stefanutti Stocks Mining Services has particular expertise in tailings disposal, in particular for brownfield projects, Masekwameng hopes to be able to undertake civil-related mine infrastructure construction on his company's mine in partnership with Stefanutti Stocks. “I do not believe that our strategic enterprise development partnership should be a one-sided relationship, or that we should limit the sectors within which we collaborate,” he says. “I'd like to see us using our enterprise development as a springboard into other opportunities, including growing into other markets - and at the same time, we can also assume the role of project provider.”

Since formalising their relationship in 2014, Stefanutti Stocks and A Re Shomeng have tendered on 11 projects, three of which have been awarded to the joint ventures. “Great expectations can only be realised through great efforts, and our expectations are slowly being realised,” says Masekwameng. “There has been visible growth in our projects, our professionalism, our resources, skills development and our compliance, and I'm secure in the knowledge that we are capable of extending ourselves further.”

Projects

In late 2014 the Johannesburg Development Agency awarded the retrofit work to Rea Vaya's Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) stations in Johannesburg and Soweto to a Stefanutti Stocks Civils / A Re Shomeng Joint Venture. The project was completed in June 2015. A further BRT project was awarded in May 2016 to build fifteen new BRT stations in Johannesburg.

The third joint venture project is being undertaken for the City of Johannesburg's Housing Department, and entails the construction of an access road, stormwater pipeline and a vehicular bridge across a river in the Elias Motsoaledi District in Soweto. The project commenced in February 2016 and is due for completion in February 2017.

Professionalism

In addition to the implementation of policies and procedures, that support the professional administration of the company, Masekwameng says that this professionalism extends onto the joint venture site, where site establishment, including the new branding and clearly demarcated working areas, support the corporate image and conduct that he is striving towards.



A Re Shomeng site engineer, Ericka Lambi, enjoying working on the project. In the background, Joseph Masekwameng and Mike Stevenson review the bridge plans.

Resources

A Re Shomeng has recently employed a quantity surveyor, three engineers and an admin clerk. Masekwameng hopes to employ an estimator soon, as currently he relies on Stefanutti Stocks resources or external consultants for assistance on the commercial and accounting side of the business. "With the growth in our human resources, we are having to implement recruitment procedures and employment policies, which is another key area where Stefanutti Stocks has been adding value."

Skills development

Four of A Re Shomeng's employees are currently attending the Stefanutti Stocks Site Leadership Development Programme (SLDP) and these employees are paired with Stefanutti Stocks employees on site, either at the Elias Motsoaledi bridge contract, or at the BRT project.

Compliance

"We are currently focusing our discussions with Stefanutti Stocks on credit facilities and insurances that are compliancy requirements from institutions to which we intend to render our services," says Masekwameng. "Our main drive is to ensure that that these are put in place as part of our contractual processes and procedures."

"It's not a one-way relationship, and I am very grateful that we are working towards the same objective," says Masekwameng. "The interest and support of Willie Meyburgh, Werner Jerling, Mike Stevenson, my enterprise development team as well as my project team, is invaluable. The guys on the ground doing the skills transfer to my site team are applying great effort, and of course I'd also like to thank Hannes Roets and our client, the JDA. Finally, as a family man, I must thank my wife, Lindiwe, our three boys, and our broader family, for supporting me as I pursue every opportunity - I do believe that together we will go far."

In summary, to date Stefanutti Stocks has provided the following in order to assist the development of A Re Shomeng:

- Construction Computer Software (CCS) licensing and training;
- Compiled a procurement database;
- Assisted with human resource policies and recruitment procedures;
- Assisted with guidance and implementation on compiling resourcing invoices;
- Four employees are attending the Site Leadership Development Programme, with one employee expected to graduate in 2017;
- Re-branded and purchased a storage container, overalls, car magnet stickers and golf shirts to encourage brand awareness;
- Is in the process of applying for A Re Shomeng CIDB Grade 7 CE PE; and
- The two companies tendered on eleven bids in joint venture, three of which have thus far been awarded.



The project team review progress on the project in the site office boardroom. From right to left are Joseph Masekwameng, Mike Stevenson and Jonathan Adams from the Johannesburg Development Agency.