Vedanta Zinc International’s operations in the Northern Cape province of South Africa, including Black Mountain Mining (BMM), comprising the Deeps and Swartberg shafts, and the Gamsberg Project, are committed to raising the quality of life and social wellbeing of their host communities.

Community development initiatives are prioritised according to local needs:

- Social investment (health, education and livelihoods)
- Bio-investment (water harvesting, agriculture and social forestry)
- Environmental conservation

These corporate social responsibility activities are included in the operations’ business plans and appropriate implementation is carefully considered in collaboration with associates, government bodies and volunteer organisations.

Progress and performance are measured by third-party reviews and reported regularly to all stakeholders.

Our business is based on a strong value system, which has been established by building sound relationships with people in our host communities. We strive to empower these communities so that they may achieve self-sustainability.
**PROGRESS AND PERFORMANCE: CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ACTIVITIES**

### Training and skills development
- 248 community members assessed for driving ability and performance
- 54 local engineering students (twelve from Pella / Pofadder / Aggenys), sponsored by National Skills Fund/Mining Qualifications Authority, are placed at BMM for workplace exposure. We will aim to take more Khai-Ma students going forward
- 10 BMM community trust bursaries granted to students from Pella and Pofadder
- Educational assistance to Khai-Ma schools: more than 250 learners benefit
- Operator training: pilot programme launched on 13 October 2016 for women (second group of 15 learners began training in February 2017; 60 learnerships planned for 2017/18)
- 60 dump truck operators and 10 drill rig operators are being trained

### Local employment
- 493 people employed from Northern Cape and 142 from Khai-Ma local community (around 1,200 jobs during construction phase of Gamsberg Project; around 850 permanent jobs when mine is in production)
- Local employment strategy in place, involving contractors, Khai-Ma Council, Department of Labour and union
- Monthly meetings/feedback sessions among key stakeholders
- Central recruitment centre within Khai-Ma Local Municipality (responsibility shared with Department of Labour)
- Regular updates on Gamsberg in Pofadder and Pella

### Enterprise and local supplier development
- 51 small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) assessed and registered and 47 assessed
- Seven tenders issued for laundry operation, canteen operation, cleaning services, vehicle wash bay operation, fuel supply, staff transport and air-conditioning maintenance
- 28 further “quick win” opportunities identified
- Four subcontractors appointed: contract valued at R523,000
- 41 jobs supported

### Compliance with legislation (Mining Charter reporting and biodiversity offset requirements)
- All assessment and progress reports completed and submitted to Department of Mineral Resources on 13 April 2017
- Implementation of 2017/18 social and labour plans (SLPs) discussed with Mayor and other stakeholders
- Third offset property acquired (~20,000ha in total)
- Vegetation survey in March 2017 to determine compliance status

### Housing
- Strategy agreed internally: additional houses required for Gamsberg Project and future BMM requirements
  - 109 houses currently under construction
  - approval for 200 additional houses in short term and 156 in medium term
- Compliance with Mining Charter requirement for home ownership
- In consultation with local, regional and provincial authorities about housing development strategy
**TRAINING ARTISANS**

Participating in the ‘Decade of the Artisan’, BMM has provided 250 unemployed young people with training as electrical and construction engineers, diesel mechanics, boilermakers, and fitters and turners over the past year.

An initiative of South Africa’s Department of Higher Education and Training, co-sponsored by the National Skills Fund and implemented by the Mining Qualifications Authority, the Decade of the Artisan addresses the critical need to bridge the gap between skilled and unskilled labour through vocational training.

BMM has joined this initiative to provide aspiring artisans with practical learning opportunities and work experience.

After a stringent recruitment process involving over 700 applicants, the learners began their theoretical training at the Northern Cape Rural Technical and Vocational Education and Training College, Okiep, in May 2016. After three months at the college, learners were ready to undergo three months of practical training before returning to college in January 2017.

Brian Ontong, Training Manager at BMM, says: “We are pleased to host these young learners in their various disciplines at our facility. Our artisans are providing mentorship and training to comply with the highest standards. Vedanta Zinc International is committed to the development and skills training of unemployed youth in the province“.

After undergoing rigorous medical testing, 25 learners – one woman and 24 men from the Khai-Ma and Namakwa districts – started their training at BMM at the end of September last year.

“We hope that this will be a fulfilling and enriching experience for every learner, and that each one will go on to qualify as a competent artisan,” says Ontong.
SIGHT RESTORED IN NORTHERN CAPE
BMM helped restore the eyesight of 197 people in De Aar, Calvinia, Aggeneys, Upington and Kuruman from the end of January to mid-March 2017.

In partnership with the Northern Cape Department of Health and the South African National Council for the Blind, BMM ensures that eye surgeons specialising in cataract removal continue to reach these remote communities.

Last year, the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy recognised this life-changing initiative by presenting BMM with a Health and Wellness Award.

The project, now in its sixth year and set to continue for another four years, also provides glasses at a nominal fee of R50 to people with poor vision. The project will return in September 2017.

WE HELP SAVE LIVES
BMM helped more than 600 vulnerable people, who have no medical aid, receive free life-saving early cancer detection with PinkDrive/MBTM from 5 to 8 September last year.

A mobile clinic, funded by BMM, stopped at Pofadder, Pella and Aggeneys to provide local people with mammograms, breast examinations, pap smears, prostate screening and education about HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and cancer.

Noelene Kotschan, CEO and founder of PinkDrive, is certainly impressed with BMM’s social investment: “What an amazing, caring organisation – not only in terms of its staff but their families and the local communities from which it draws its resources. We covered more than 4 000 kilometres. Everyone was exhausted but we know we have made a difference.”

Christo Witbooi, Manager: Corporate Affairs and Stakeholder Relations for Vedanta Zinc International, supports this initiative because it shows BMM’s commitment to host communities.

“We are committed to improving the quality of life of the people living in the communities in which we operate,” he says.

Local and provincial government, as well as the South African National AIDS Council, were involved in this campaign.

More than 100,000 South Africans are diagnosed with cancer every year, according to Dr Sudeshen Naidoo, PinkDrive oncologist. She says the top five are breast, cervical, colo-rectal and prostate cancer, as well as Kaposi sarcoma.

“People with HIV/AIDS have a higher risk of developing cervical cancer, Kaposi sarcoma and Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma, which are AIDS-defining conditions. Unfortunately, the majority of patients in South Africa are diagnosed at an advanced stage of disease due to several factors, including lack of education in communities and constrained government resources. Government’s current waiting list for cervical cancer treatment – chemotherapy and radiation – is about three to four months.” Pink Drive 2017 is scheduled for October.

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