SQF NEWS

SiyaQhubeka Forestry for Life

Stakeholder Newsletter for SiyaQhubeka Forests 2025



uMusa Dindi we Dindimusas' Hope services ekhombisa izinduna namalunga omphakathi umsebenzi owenziwe kulelikhaya.

Inqubekela-phambili Ekwesekeni Intsha Ekhubazekile

U-SQF uxhase Ukulungiswa Kwe-Port Durnford Disabled Centre

USiyaQhubeka Forests (SQF) ulethe usizo e-Port Durnford Disabled Centre, isikhungo esibalulekile esinakekela abantu abasha abangama-25 abaneminyaka eyi-6 kuya kwengama-35 abakhubazekile. Lesi sikhungo bese sibhidlika, uphahla lwangaphandle beluvuza, obekumosha amapulangwe kanye nophahla lwangaphakathi. Lokhu bekwenza indawo ingaphephi, ikakhulukazi ngezikhathi zezimvula.

Lesi sikhungo sasungulwa ngumhlengi osethathe umhlalaphansi, uMnuz Bheki Thusi ngonyaka ka-2017, ngoba enobizo lokusiza intsha ekhubazekile emphakathini wakhe.

"Ngasungula lesi sikhungo ngoba baningi abantu abakhubazekile emndenini wami. Ngangingumhlengi kodwa ngathi uma ngithatha umhlalaphansi, ngafuna ukuqhubeka nalo msebenzi. Ukwakhiwa kwalesi sikhungo ngakukhokhela ngokwami kodwa kwangaphelela ngenxa yokushoda kwemali," kuchaza uMnuz Thusi.

Iyaqhubeka kwikhasi 4











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BONGINKOSI KUNENE –
Message from the Manager

Ukuba umholi kwaSiyaQhubeka kwenza ngaso sonke isikhathi uhlale ucabanga ngokuphepha kwabasebenzi, osonkontileka, izivakashi zethu kanye nomphakathi esiwakhele ngaphambi kokucabanga ngokuphumelela kwebhizinisi. Lokhu kusenza sithi unyaka ube yimpumelelo enkulu uma konke lokho kuhambe kahle.



Bonginkosi Kunene, SQF Area Manager.

Unyaka ka-2025 siwuqale ngamazinga okushisa aphezulu ahambisana nomoya ogijima ngesivinini esikhulu kunokujwayekile! Lokhu kuholele ekutheni kuqubuke umlilo omkhulu oshiye uSiyaQhubeka ulahlekelwe ngamahektha amaningi ezihlahla eziphilayo. Ngokubambisana okukhulu nosonkontileka bethu sikwazile ukuvunasiphinde sithengise amathani ezingodo angu 30 000 kulawo mahlathi abeshile emshinini wakwa-Mondi e-Richards Bay, nokuwumsebenzi esiziqhenyayo ngawo.

Umshini wakwa-Mondi e-Richards Bay nawo awuqalanga kahle kulo nyanka ka-2025, okwenze sangakwazi ukuthengisa ngendlela ebesihlele ngayo. Siyathemba sizoqala kahle ngaphandle kwezingqinamba emva kokulungiswa okuhleliwe.

Izinga eliphezulu lokuqeqeshwa kwabasebenzi bethu kwezokucisha imililo kanye nemikhankaso yezokuphepha efana nomkhankaso wokuphepha ezimotweni (Safe Travel Campaign) kanyenowokuphepha ezintweni ezihambayo nezizungenza ngesivinini (MORO) eyenziwa ngokuhlanganyela nethimba lezokuphepha, elezempilo, elezemvelo kanye nosomahlathi, kwenza abasebenzi bethu bagweme izimo ezingafaka izimpilo zabo engozini. Kuyintokozo kithina ukuthi akekho oke walimala kuzo zonke izingozi ezibandakanya izimoto ezibe khona. Lokhu kuholele ekutheni kulo nyaka singabi naneyodwa ingozi lapho kulimele khona umsebenzi kabi (Zero TRCR).

Senze isiqiniseko sokuthi bonke abasebenzi baphindela emindenini yabo bengalimele futhi besaphila.Ukusondezwa kwezinsizakalo zezempilo emiphakathini nakosonkontileka bethu ngezimoto ezingomahamba-nendlwana kusaqhubeka kahle yize izimoto zethu zingasekho esimweni esihle. Isimo esingagculisi sezimoto zethu siholela ekutheni lomsebenzi omuhle nomkhulu kangaka ungabe usenzeka ngendlela. Lezi zimoto ziwusizo olukhulu emphakathini wethu, zenza kube lula ukuthi nalabo abangakwazi ukuzilandela imishanguzo balethelwe ezindaweni abahlala kuzo mahhala. Isimo sabasebenzi sezempilo naso sihle kakhulu

> ***Kuyintokozo kithinaukuthi akekho oke walimala kuzo zonke izingozi ezibandakanya izimoto ezibe khona. Lokhu kuholele ekutheni kulo nyaka singabi naneyodwa ingozi lapho kulimele khona umsebenzi kabi (Zero TRCR).***

kanti nomkhiqizo ukhula imihla namalanga. Siziqhenya kakhulu ngalezi zimoto ezingomahamba-nendlwana kanti kuyisifiso sethu ukuba ziqhubeke futhi zande ukuze sithuthukise izinga lezempilo ezindaweni zasemakhaya.

Ukulonda nokunakekela imvelo kuyinto ebaluleke kakhulu kithi. Senza isiqiniseko sokuthi izihlahla zemvelo, izilwane, nakho konke okungamagugu siyakugcina ukuze kungashabalali. USiyaQhubeka Forests yinkampani yokuqala ukukhombisa ukuthi kuyasebenzeka nezilwane zasendle ezifana nobhejane, izindlovu, izinkonkoni kanye nezinye ngaphandle kokulimala kwabasebenzi. Kuyintokozo ukubika ukuthi asibanga nangozi ebandakanya izilwane nokuyinto esiziqhenyayo ngayo, ngalokho ngibonga bonke abasebenzi, abasiza ngokuqeqesha kanye nethimba lezempilo nezokuphepha. Kuyintokozo enkulu futhi ukubikaukuthi sisanqenqeleza phambili ngokunakekela imvelo. Ukulonda nokuvikela imvelo kuyigxathu esiziqhenyayo ngalo ngoba kubeka uSiyaQhubekakwibalazwe. Enye yezindlela esivikela ngayo imvelo esibeka kwibalazwe ukuvikela imbali ebizwa nge-Kniphophia, etholakala KwaMbonambi nokuyiyona yodwa ekhona emhlabeni wonke jikelele futhi ezimilela ngokwayo endle.

Kwezokusebenzisana nomphakathi siqhubekile nokusondelana nezinduna kanye nezinhlaka zemiphakathi ukuqinisekisa ukuthi siyahambisana, nalapho kunezinkinga khona zixazululeke ngokushesha. Sikholelwa kakhulu ekusebenzisaneni nasekugcineni ubudlelwane nemiphakathi esakhelene nayo bubuhle. Ukuhlanganyela nezinhlaka zemiphakathi yikho okwenza sazi lapho inkampani ingafaka khona isandla, ngokubambisana nosonkontileka.

Siqhubekile nokukhulisa uhlelo lwethu lokuvumela umphakathi ukuba utshale izithombo phakathi kwezihlahla zethu ezisakhula, olungezinye zezinhlelo zethu esiziqhenya kakhulu ngazo. Imiphakathi yethu ibuye ngobuningi bayo kulo nyaka ukuzotshala izithombo zommbila, amazambane namantongomane, kwaphinde kwakhula kakhulu ukutshalwa kwezingadi emakhaya, nokuyizinhlelo esizigqugquzela kakhulu ukuba imiphakathi yethu ibambe iqhaza kuzo. Lezi zinhlelo ziqinisekisa ukuthi umphakathi uxosha ikati eziko uphinde uthengise okusele, kanti futhizithuthukisa isimo sezempilo.

Sibheka kakhulu ekuthuthukiseni ezemfundo kusuka emazingeni aphansi, ukuthuthukisa intsha, izakhiwo kanye nokubhekela inhlalonhle emiphakathini esiyakhele.

Kuningi esikwenzele imiphakathi yethu kulo nyaka kodwa okungithinte kwaphinde kwangihlaba umxhwele umsebenzi omuhle nomkhulu esiwenzile esikhungweni sabantu abakhubazekile esisendaweni yase-Port Durnford. Lendawo ihlala abantu abadala abangakwazi ukuzenzela abangama30, isimo ebebephila ngaphansi kwaso ngenxa yesakhiwo esingekho esimweni esigculisayo besenza impilo yabo ingathuthuki. Sikwazile ukuxhasa lesi sikhungo ngokufakwa kophahla olusha, ukulungiswa kwamawindi, ukupendwa kwesakhiwo nodonga olubiyile, ukufakwa kwezicabha ezintsha nezisefo zokugeza, ukulungiswa kukagesi namapayipi amanzi kanye nokuqedelwa kwesakhiwo sesibili esingaphelelanga kusakhiwa okokuqala.

Sikwazile nokuthuthukisa ukufunda nokufundisa kusuka emazingeni aphansi lapho sinikeleleumphakathi waseMtubatuba namaphethelo ngomtapo wolwazi osezingeni eliphezulu ozosiza kakhulu izingane kanye nothisha. Izikole eziningi zizokwazi ukusizakala kulo mtapo wolwazi. Lolu olunye lwezinhlelo esiziqhenya kakhulu ngazo ngoba luthinta izimpilo zabantu abaningi kunomphakathi owodwa.

Ngithanda ukubonga usonkontileka wethu osebenza ukuvuna amahlathi u-Ringomode esibambisane naye ukwenza lomsebenzi omkhulu kangaka waba yimpumelelo.Njengoba unyaka usuya emaphethelweni, kuningi okuye kwenzeke okuholela ekutheni kube nezingozi. Ukuphepha emsebenzini nokuphepha ekhaya yikho esihlale sikugqugquzela ukuze nangonyaka ozayo sibuye siphilile. Ngithanda ukuthatha leli thuba nginifisele amaholide amahle naphephile.

Sikwazile nokuthuthukisa ukufunda nokufundisa kusuka emazingeni aphansi lapho sinikeleleumphakathi waseMtubatuba namaphethelo ngomtapo wolwazi osezingeni eliphezulu ozosiza kakhulu izingane kanye nothisha. Izikole eziningi zizokwazi ukusizakala kulo mtapo wolwazi. Lolu olunye lwezinhlelo esiziqhenya kakhulu ngazo ngoba luthinta izimpilo zabantu abaningi kunomphakathi owodwa.

IYAQHUBEKA ISUKA EKHASINI 1

Inqubekela-phambili Ekwesekeni Intsha Ekhubazekile
U-SQF uxhase Ukulungiswa Kwe-Port Durnford Disabled Centre

Isikhungo sinakekela intsha ehlala khona amahora angama-24 osukwini, okuhlanganisa ukuhlinzeka ngokudla, imithi kanye ne-physiotherapy, futhi sinabasebenzi abayishumi: abanakekeli abayisishiyagalombili, usonhlalakahle kanye nomphathi wemisebenzi. Lendawo isebenza ngosizo lwesibonelelo sikahulumeni esitholwa yilabo abasizakala kuso.

UMnuz Thusi ubalule ukuthi abanakekeli basebenza ngokushintshana ngenxa yobunzima bomsebenzi: “Abanakekeli bethu bafana nezingelosi,” kusho yena.

Isigaba Esisha e-Port Durnford Disabled Centre

Ngokubona ubukhulu bezingqinamba ezibhekene nalesi sikhungo, u-SQF uxhase ukulungiswa kwalendawo okuhlanganisa ukufakwa kophahla olusha, ukulungiswa kwamawindi afile nama-tiles, kanye nokupendwa kwesakhiwo nodonga olubiyile. Lomsebenzi uphinde wahlanganisa ukufakwa kwezicabha nezisefo zokugeza ezintsha, ukulungiswa kukagesi namapayipi amanzi, kanye nokuqedelwa kwesakhiwo sesibili esasingaqedwanga ngesikhathi kwakhiwa okokuqala.

Lomsebenzi omkhulu uholwe nguMnuz Musa Dindi, umqondisi weMusa Construction.



uSonhlalakahle uNosihleShezi echaza kabanzi ngekhaya labakhubazekile.

“Sakhe kabusha cishe yonke ingxenye yalesi sakhiwo nethimba lami labantu abayi-12 abenze lomsebenzi. Ngiyaqikelela ukuba ngisebenzise ochwepheshe uma kuza kumsebenzi wamapayipi



Isithombe esiveza ikhaya labakhubazekile.



uBheki Thusi owumsunguli walelikhaya elisePort Durnford.



Abahlali bakulelikhaya.

amanzi kanye nogesi. Ngazalelwa futhi ngakhulela kulendawo, isikole samabanga aphezulu engafunda kusona singenhla nje komgwaqo, ngakho-ke kungijabulisa kakhulu ukusiza abantu endaweni yangakithi," kusho uMnuz Dindi.

Umcimbi wokuvula lesi sakhiwo esilungisiwe wethanyelwe abasebenzi bakwa-SQF, abaholi bomphakathi kanye nabasebenzi besikhungo. Usonhlalakahle uNks Nosihle Shezi, ukhulume kabanzi ngezinsizakalo nezingqinamba: "Sinohlelo lokunakekelwa komzimba olukhuthazayo olusiza ukugwema ukuqina nobuhlungu kwemisipha okudalwa ukukhubazeka. Siphinde sibe nohlelo lwezemfundo olukhethekile oluphuma kuMnyango Wezemfundo, esiqeqeshelwe ukulifundisa. Isimo sesikhungo besingasivumeli ukuba sethule lezi zifundo kodwa lokhu sekushintshile ngoba sekulungisiwe, izifundo sezizoqala. Lokhu kuyintokozo enkulu."

Induna yendawo, uMnuz Phethokuhle Ngema, ubonge uMnuz Thusi ngomsebenzi awenza emphakathini, wabonga u-SQF ngomnikelo wayo. Uphinde wancoma impumelelo yenkundla yokuxoxisana ekukhombeni izidingo zomphakathi. Induna uMkhwanazi uhambe emagameni kaNgema, wathi: "UBaba uThusi usizile ukwakha isikhungo esiwuphawu lwethemba emphakathini. Lesi sikhungo siyancomeka kakhulu kanti nathi singafakaza ngomsebenzi omuhle owenziwa ngabanakekeli nosonhlalakahle."

UNks Sanelisiwe Mbense okhulumele u-SQF, ubonge bonke ababambe iqhaza nabalingani, kusuka kosonkontileka kuya kubasebenzi besikhungo kanye nethimba lakwa-SQF elithumele usizo lapho ludingeka khona kakhulu.

UMnuz Dindi ukhombise abaholi bomphakathi nabasebenzi bakwa-SQF isikhungo esilungisiwe – izicabha nokunye okusha, isakhiwo esithuthukisiwe, kanye nezindonga ezipendwe kabusha.



"Lezi zingane zithembele kithina, manje sesizokwazi ukuzinakekela ngendlela eziyidingayo. U-SQF ithuthukisa izimpilo zomphakathi. Ngibonga angiphezi, enikwenzile kuhle kakhulu, sengizokhombisa abantu isikhungo sami ngokuziqhenya," kuphetha uMnuz Thusi.



Onompilo abasebenza kulelikhaya ukunakekela abantwana.



Izinduna ebezikhona kuvulwa ikhaya lase port Durnford, induna u Bongani Dlamini, induna uPhethokuhle Ngema kanye nenduna u Bhekizenzo Mkhwanazi.



Eminye yemisebenzi eyenziwe kulelikhaya, kulungiswe izindlu zokugeza kwafakwa namawindi kanokusho.

Uhlelo lwamathoyizi OKufunda lwe-SQF ne-Cotlands: Isahluko Esisha

USiyaqhubeka Forests unikeke kwezemfundo nenhlalakahle yezingane zasezindaweni ezakhelene nayo ngokuvuselela ubudlelwano bayo ne-Cotlands, inhlangano engayenzi inzuzo ehlinzeka ngamathuluzi emfundo asebenzisa ukudlala ezinganeni ezihlala ezindaweni eziswele izinsiza.

NgoMeyi kulo nyaka, u-SQF ehlangene noNjojo Construction bakhokhele uhlelo lokuqeqeshwa lwesonto lonke, okuhloswe ngalo ukugqugquzela nokuthuthukisa amakhono othisha basezikhungweni ezingama-25 zokukhula kwabantwana abasebancane ezaziwa ngama-Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres, ezindaweni zaseNyalazi naseDukuduku. U-SQF uphinde yathenga inqwaba yamathoyizi okufunda okuzoshintshwana ngawo kulezi zikhungo, nokuzothuthukisa ukufunda ezinganeni ezineminyaka emihlanu kuyaphansi.

Umlando Waloluhlelo

Ngonyaka ka-2018, abakwa-Mondi bethula uhlelo olusha behlangene noMnyango Wezempilo ne-Cotlands, wokuletha izinsizakalo noxhaso lokukhula kwezingane ezisancane ezindaweni zasemakhaya ezingama-46, ngokusebenzisa imitholampilo engomahamba-nendlwana. Kwakulayishwa amathoyizi kwinqola eboshelwe kumtholampilo ongumahamba-nendlwana, okwakusiza ukuba inqola elayisha amathoyizi emfundo nomhlengikazi bavakashele izindawo ezifanayo ngesikhathi esisodwa. Ngesikhathi umhlengikazi ehlinzeka ngezinsizakalo zezempilo, umphathi wamathoyizi okufunda wayefundisa izingane ezingaphansi kweminyaka engu-5 ngokudlala.

Uma loluhlelo lubuyekezwa ngokwe-SQF, uNks Similo Magwaza, onguMdidiyeli Wezokuthuthukiswa Komphakathi waqaphela lokhu: “Sithole ukuthi zazincane kakhulu izingane ezaziyingxenye yohlelo lokufunda ngamathoyizi, ikakhulukazi ngoba izingane eziningi zisuke zisezinkulisa phakathi nosuku.

“Sibe sesisungula isu lokuba sithole indawo yokugcina amathoyizi okungawethu. Lezi zikhungo ze-ECD zizokwazi ukuwaboleka bese elethwa kuzo yimitholampilo engomahamba-nendlwana njalo ngenyanga. Amathoyizi azoya kuzo zonke izikhungo ngokushintshana, okuzoqinisekisa ukuthi zonke zithola izinsizakufunda ezisezingeni eliphezulu. Lamathoyizi



Indawo yokugcina amathoyizi emfundo.

ahluke ngezindikimba – ezolimo, umzimba, imvelo, izimo kanye nokunye," kuchaza uNksz Magwaza.

Isigaba esilandelayo kwase kuba ukudidiyela uhlelo lokuqeqeshwa kwalezi zikhungo ezazizoba yingxenye yomtapo wamathoyizi okufunda omusha we-SQF. Lolu hlelo lokuqeqeshwa kothisha abangama-25 ababemele imiphakathi eyahlukahlukene lwabanjwa ngoMeyi, eMtubatuba Town Hall, luhlanganiswe uNks Nokwanda Qwabe, umphathi womtapo wamathoyizi okufunda e-Cotlands.

"Injongo yami enkulu kunazo zonke ukusiza othisha baqonde ukubaluleka kokufunda ngokudlala ezinganeni ezincane. Kubalulekile futhi kunomthelela omkhulu ezinganeni, wonke amakhono abawafunda kule minyaka bawafunda ngokudlala," kusho uNksz Qwabe.

Ngokwesitatimende somsebenzi sase-Cotlands, iminyaka yengane emihlanu yokuqala ibalulekile ekukhuleni kwengqondo yayo. Izingane ezithola amathuba okufunda ngokudlala okusezingeni eliphezulu zithola amakhono adingekayo ukuze ziphumelele esikoleni, emsebenzini nasempilweni.

UNks Qwabe uphinde wachaza ngohlelo lwesonto lonke: "Ezinye zezindikimba esizithintile zihlanganisa ukuhlela igumbi lokufundela, izinhlelo zokufunda zansuku zonke, ukuphathwa kwegumbi lokufundela namathoyizi, izibalo, ukuxhumana, kanye nokudlala okukhululekile. Sixoxe nangokudlala okuholwa ingane nalokho okuholwa ngumuntu omdala."

Uphinde wancoma ulwazi nokuqonda othisha abafike nakho, kanye nokuzimisela kwabo ukufunda izindlela ezintsha. Waqaphela nokuthi izincwadi namathoyizi okusezingeni eliphezulu kuyimvelakancane ezindaweni zasemakhaya.

"Amathoyizi okufunda ayizinsiza ezibalulekile zokufundisa ezikhungweni ze-ECD, asiza ukulekelela imicabango yezingane, amakhono okufunda kanye nolwazi olujwayelekile. Izingane ezisebenzisa la mathoyizi ziphapheme kakhulu," kusho uNks Qwabe.

Kwakumenywe izinhlangano ezimbalwa kulolu hlelo lokuqeqeshwa. I-Lunchbox Fund yethula umsebenzi wayo, okungukuhlinzeka izingane ezingenabazali nezinezinkinga ezindaweni zasemakhaya nasemalokishini eNingizimu Afrika ngokudla nsuku zonke. Othisha banikwa imininingwane yokufaka isicelo salolu hlelo nokuthi lungazithuthukisa kanjani izimpilo zezingane.

I-Red Cross yaqeqesha othisha ngamakhono osizo lokuqala ukuze bakwazi ukubhekana nezimo eziphuthumayo. INjojo Construction yanikela ngama-first aid kit angama-25 kuzo zonke izikhungo ze-ECD ezazikhona.

"La ma-first aid kit azosiza ukuqinisekisa ukuphepha nenhlalakahle yezingane zethu. Zibalulekile izikhungo ze-ECD ngoba yilapho siqala khona ukubumba amathalente ezingane. Ukukhula kwezingane eminyakeni ephansi kuyisigaba esibalulekile esilungiselela izingane impilo, ukuze zizokwazi ukuthi zigcine zithuthukisa umnotho wezindawo lapho ziphuma khona.



Othisha abaphuma ezikhungweni ze-ECD ezingama-25 abamele imiphakathi eyahlukahlukene eNyalazi, okuhlanganisa iMfekayi, iDukuduku, iShikishela, iQakwini kanye neNkundusi.



Indawo yokugcina amathoyizi kanye nenqola ewalayishayo.



"Kufana nokutshala izithombo, okuyisigaba esibaluleke kunazo zonke kwezamahlathi. Kufanele sitshale ngokucophelela, futhi uma senza kahle, zizokhula zikhiphe isivuno esihle," kusho uNkululeko Tabete, umphathi omkhulu weNjojo Construction.

Umphathi we-SQF, uMnuz Bonginkosi Dlamini, uthe: "Siyaziqhenya ngokusiza imiphakathi yethu. Siqala ngezingane ezisencane, okuyizo ikusasa lemiphakathi yethu nabaholi bakusasa. Kuyintokozo ukubona esikuzuza ngokusebenzisana nosonkontileka bethu kanye nezinhlangano ezifana ne-Cotlands.

UNks Tina Zungu ofundisa e-Little Finger ECD e-St Lucia, uthe ufunde lukhulu ngokukhula komqondo wengane esigabeni seminyaka ephansi: "Sifunde ukuthi izingane zingafundiswa kanjani ngokudlala, nokusebenzisa amathoyizi okufunda ngendlela efanele nephumelelayo. Sengijahe ukubona izingane zethu zifunda ngokudlala ngamathoyizi amasha."

SQF Career Day – An Immersive Journey Through Forestry

SiyaQhubeka Forests (SQF) hosted its first-ever Career Day and field trip at the SQF KwaMbonambi work plan unit. The event was attended by 40 top performing learners from four local schools – Ndlabeyilandula High School, Ntongande High School, Mkhayideni Technical High School and Isikhalasenkosi High School.

The Career Day involved in-depth expert insights into forestry, information on the career paths and educational opportunities within the sector, as well as an exciting field trip to surrounding operations — showcasing everything from nurseries to harvesting, planting and even firefighting.

The day began with a welcome address and overview by SQF Silviculture Forester Ms. Sanelisiwe Mbense and Community Development Facilitator Ms. Similo Magwaza, who provided context for the field trip and explained the forestry value chain, from seedling to sawmill.

The group was then fitted with PPE before heading to the Mondi KwaMbonambi Nursery, where their forestry journey began. Nursery Manager, Ms. Ayanda Buthelezi, explained the process flow of the nursery, from vegetative propagation where GU clones are grown, to how the greenhouse operates, including the carefully controlled microclimate that should be maintained to support optimal seedling growth.

The next stop was a harvesting operation, where contractors Siyawisa Hlathi were extracting and stacking timber from a recently harvested compartment. SQF's Senior Harvesting Forester, Mr. Donny Mahlalela, gave the bright-eyed learners a summary of the mechanised harvesting operation. He explained the functions of the different machines — from the harvester and forwarder, which are used to extract and transport the timber to the roadside depot. He also discussed the shift from manual harvesting operations (chainsaw-operated) to mechanised systems, which are safer and more economical for large-scale production.

The field trip concluded with a visit to a planting operation, which was a highlight for many learners. Amahlathi Ethu Trading was the silviculture contractor in action.

Mbense and fellow Silviculture Forester Mr. Andile Mbanjwa gave a breakdown of the many facets of silviculture — from planting to conservation and firefighting. They also explained the Keep It Simple Seedling System (KISSS), a mechanised planting method that was run by Amahlathi Ethu Trading at this operation.



Top learners from four local high schools attended the first SQF Career Day.



Ms Ayanda Buthelezi hosted the tour of the Mondi KwaMbonambi Nursery.



Learners were given a briefing session that covered the many careers in the forestry value chain.



The field trip covered a nursery, harvesting, planting and firefighting.



SQF's Ms. Sanelisiwe Mbense explains the many facets of silviculture forestry.



A worker makes cuttings at the Mondi KwaMbonambi Nursery.

The Last Blast

The final activity was a firefighting demonstration, giving learners the opportunity to see the fire truck in action and handle the high-powered fire hose. The truck's high-pressure onboard pump produced a spectacular foam-and-water blast that displayed the impressive reach and distance achievable when fighting a wildfire.

Quick response to fires is crucial in minimising the spread of wildfires and reducing damage to assets. Once again, safety was highlighted as the number one priority in firefighting operations.

Back at the SQF office, Mondi Zimele's Business Development Manager, Ms. Cindi Mji, explained how the forestry value chain offers numerous career opportunities beyond forestry operations — from community engagement to transport and logistics, science, and research.

Magwaza gave the learners an overview of the Mondi–SQF Bursary Scheme, which is offered to high-performing learners from areas where the business operates, from Port Durnford in the south to KwaMbonambi, Nyalazi, and Dukuduku in the north. The bursary supports forestry and other fields that help uplift communities across the region.

A fun Q&A and prize-giving session concluded the day's programme.

One of the star pupils, Thulani Mdletshe, had this to say about his experience: "My highlight of the day was learning how to work with nature," he said. "We learned how SQF takes care of the trees from when they are seedlings, to planting and even harvesting and delivery. I also learned a lot about managing the soil and the environment, which is the source of this business. It was interesting to learn about the importance of safety and how machines can increase productivity. After today, I can really say that I love forestry."

The Career Day offered learners a truly unique, first-hand experience of forestry, exposing them to new possibilities and revealing the many careers that exist in the SiyaQhubeka plantations.

> ***"My highlight of the day was learning how to work with nature, he said. We learned how SQF takes care of the trees from when they are seedlings, to planting and even harvesting and delivery. I also learned a lot about managing the soil and the environment, which is the source of this business."***
> ***– Thulani Mdletshe, high school learner***



Mr. Donny Mahlalela describes the many benefits of a mechanical harvesting operation.

A Library is a Window to the World

SQF and partners build a library at Ubuhle-Bemvelo Primary School...



SQF Manager, Mr. Bonginkosi Kunene, was joined by contractors Ringomode and Footprints Holdings at the opening of the new library at Ubuhle-Bemvelo Primary School.

SiyaQhubeka Forests (SQF) partnered with two of its contractors – Ringomode (harvesting and transport) and Footprints Holding (timber transport) – to convert a classroom into a new library at Ubuhle-Bemvelo Primary School in Khula Village near St Lucia.

The launch of the library was a grand affair – with colourful performances by learners, speeches by dignitaries, and a symbolic ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the occasion.

Ubuhle-Bemvelo is a large school with 1 144 learners, 60 teachers and support staff. SQF identified the project through its community liaison committee, a platform that facilitates CSI projects in communities neighbouring its plantations.

SQF Manager, Mr. Bonginkosi Kunene, cut the ribbon and showed guests around the vibrant new library. SQF funded the renovation and library furniture, Footprints Holding donated a laptop, and Ringomode sponsored books and teacher training. The space was also painted and decorated with vibrant colours to inspire creativity and focus, transforming what was once a run-down classroom into a fully functional library – a hub for reading, learning, and dreaming.

Kunene gave an inspirational opening address: “Today marks a proud moment for SQF. We saw an opportunity to transform a



Kunene spoke of the library as a window to knowledge and imagination.



Ringomode (SQF contactor) sponsored books and teacher training.



The new library will help improve literacy at the school, giving learners access to over 1000 books.



Learners performed traditional dances, poetry and readings from their favourite books.

classroom into a space that will open doors to knowledge and imagination and in partnership with our contractors, we made this transformation possible," he began.

Kunene proceeded to describe the extent of the renovation, which entailed repairing a leaking roof and broken windows, installing a ceiling board, proper lighting, an air-conditioner and shelves that were then stocked with more than 1 000 books.

"The learners now have a rich variety of resources to support their growth, including new tables, chairs, curtains, and a teacher's desk to complete the library setup, as well as a laptop to strengthen digital access – ensuring that technology complements traditional reading," he added.

He urged learners, educators, and the school community to take care of these resources and use them to inspire a journey of learning.

"At SiyaQhubeka Forests, we believe that education is the foundation of empowerment, and a library is a doorway to endless opportunities. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our partners, Ringomode and Footprints Holding, as well as the school community, for embracing this vision. To the teachers – may this resource help you shape the leaders of tomorrow," he concluded.

A Day of Wise Words and Bold Performances

The launch coincided with Literacy Day, aimed at highlighting the urgent need to improve and encourage literacy in schools.

Many brave learners took to the stage to read from their favourite books and recite poetry, proving that a culture of reading and performing has taken root at the school. However, statistics show that 81% of primary school learners cannot read for meaning, a sobering reminder of the work ahead.

> ***"At SiyaQhubeka Forests, we believe that education is the foundation of empowerment, and a library is a doorway to endless opportunities."***
> ***- Mr. Bonginkosi Kunene, SQF Manager***

In his address, Department of Education Circuit Manager, Mr. R. B. Mtshali referenced the National Strategy to address this challenge. The strategy rests on three pillars, teacher development, community support and partnership.

The Department of Education's Chief Education Specialist, Mr T. Mavundla, gave the keynote address, urging teachers to lead by example: "This is an investment in our children, our future. A school without a library is like a house without windows. You cannot see what is happening outside. The library is a window to the world. Let's invest our time, resources, and expertise to promote reading. Educators must also lead by example and read because children learn from what they see," he said.

SQF contractors also shared their thoughts:

"It is a proud moment for me to be present at the opening of this library. I never thought I would have this opportunity. Use the books wisely because they can have a big impact on your life," said Mr. Israel Nyawo of Footprints Holding.

Ms. Govender of Ringomode added, "We are privileged to be part of this day. We hope the books we've provided will inspire you, open your minds and help you reach your dreams. Reading is for people of all ages, you can read these books with your friends or with your gogos."

A promise of opportunity

This initiative demonstrates what can be achieved through collaboration. The library is more than bricks and books, it's a promise. A promise that every child in the school will have access to knowledge, imagination, and opportunity. A library enhances academic performance, nurtures lifelong learning, encourages curiosity and research, and provides a quiet study space and peaceful environment for learners.

The library renovations were contracted to local service provider, Mr. Thabiso Mjadu of Umhambi Pty Ltd, a construction, maintenance, industrial cleaning, plant hire and skilled labour supply business based in Dukuduku.

SiyaQhubeka Forests' Mandela Day at Bekithembakuye Creche



Educators and learners express their joy at the handover of the new and improved Bekithembakuye Creche.

SiyaQhubeka Forests (SQF) celebrated Mandela Day in 2025 with a special upgrade project that breathed new life into the Bekithembakuye Creche in the remote Ntuze community of Port Durnford.

Perched on a hill overlooking the breathtaking valleys of Zululand, this creche provides daily care to 23 local children. However, the building had become dilapidated and needed urgent upgrades.

This year, SQF stepped in to help by sponsoring several renovations to the building and the property. The upgrades included painting the exterior and interior walls (including some fun murals for the children), repairing roof leaks, broken windows and doors, installing new doors, upgrading the floors and toilet, and installing a new perimeter fence for safety and security.

A handover event was held in July, where SQF also donated new school furniture, educational toys and posters to inspire the children and improve the quality of education at the creche. In attendance were SQF representatives, Bekithembakuye



A newly renovated classroom offers the perfect environment for learning and play.



SQF team members came out to hang educational posters and install furniture.

Creche staff, the local traditional leadership and community members. SQF representatives and traditional leaders helped install the furniture and posters. The foresters also prepared lunch for the children and handed out treats.

Ms. Gugu Khumalo, a senior educator at the creche, was overwhelmed with happiness and gratitude: “We are very grateful to SiyaQhubeka for gifting us, and the wider Ntuze community, with a safer place of learning for our young children. I am overjoyed and emotional because of the love that SQF has shown us.”

Local induna, Mr. Simon Zibani, played a key role in identifying the creche’s needs.

“I am very excited to see the creche in its new form,” he said at the handover event. “As a leader in the community, I am always thinking about how we can take better care of our children because they are our future leaders.

“The building was vandalised at some point, and it was in a terrible condition. Now we have a new fence to keep the facility and the children safe. I will be looking after this creche in the future,” he said.

The upgrades were carried out by local company, Dindimusa’s Construction, which delivered the renovations with exemplary professionalism and quality workmanship.

“I was shocked when I first saw the condition of the creche. It made me want to do the best job I could for the children. It is quite rewarding to work with SQF towards uplifting the community I grew up in”, said businessowner, Mr. Musa Dindi.

Dindi went on to say that he is grateful for the opportunities he is given by SQF, as a local entrepreneur. Dindimusa’s Construction employs nine people who work on Mondi and SQF projects. These include local tradesmen such as painters, tilers, builders and plumbers.

This project is another example of how the forestry business can help bring hope and light to its neighbouring communities, which are important stakeholders in the success of the business.

Mandela Day is a significant event on the calendar for all South Africans - it is a time to give back to those less fortunate, to dedicate time and energy to the community and those in need. In the words of the great Madiba himself: “It is in your hands to make the world a better place.”

> ***We are very grateful to SiyaQhubeka. This not only a gift for us, but it is also for the wider community of Ntuze.***
> ***– Gugu Khumalo***



A new perimeter fence ensures safety and security.


The upgraded ablution block.


SQF team members, local izinduna and the school staff celebrate the occasion.


Learners were given meals and treats to make this a memorable Mandela Day.



SQF staff gathered at Mbonambi Primary School to donate much-needed furniture and educational material.

Planting Seeds of Knowledge and Hope in KwaMbonambi

SQF Forestry operates across a diverse mosaic of regions within Zululand, each with its own ecological character and community dynamic.

SQF plantations stretch from Port Durnford in the south to KwaMbonambi, and all the way to Nyalazi and Dukuduku in the north — where commercial forestry intersects with conservation zones and community landholdings. This regional spread allows SQF to tailor its silviculture practices to local conditions while supporting inclusive growth across northern KwaZulu-Natal.

A number of community development projects were initiated in the KwaMbonambi region in September, as spring arrived with early rainfall and the promise of warm, sunny days ahead.

On a bright morning, the SQF team gathered at the KwaMbonambi office, loaded up their bakkies with donations, and struck out for Mbonambi Primary School, which is nestled between sandy villages and towering forestry plantations just north of Richards Bay.

The school is hailed as a cornerstone of the community, educating 1,250 local children and preparing them for their journeys ahead. Sadly, the school infrastructure was lacking,



and the teachers reached out to local traditional leaders for assistance.

School Principal Jabulani Sibanyoni explained the situation: “Our Grade Rs were sitting and studying on the floor. This is not an ideal way for our young kids to learn, and it hinders their development,” he said.

Nkosi Mbuyazi's tribal authority brought the issue to the attention of SQF. SiyaQhubeka responded by donating tables, chairs, books, and educational toys to the school. The handover event was attended by SQF staff, traditional leaders, learners, and community members.

Local induna Abteon Mbuyazi offered his words of support at the ceremony:

"We traditional leaders are here to give a voice to community issues, and SQF has come to our assistance many times. These children were suffering in the winter when they had to work on the cold floor. Thank you so much, SiyaQhubeka. You have assisted us before — renovating our crèche and providing seedlings so we can grow our own food. SQF is contributing to many communities across Mbonambi."



Educational posters and toys aim to inspire the young learners and create a more vibrant learning environment.



School Principal, Mr Sibanyoni said that the school is a cornerstone of the community.

Principal Sibanyoni offered some perspective on the good standing of the school, reporting that there is high enrolment and the school has a strong reputation in the community. "The school is running well. Our kids are respectful, and our parents are cooperative," he said. "The donations will really improve the quality of education here. The younger students perform best when they are learning through play and practical education. The posters are great because the lessons and ideas are presented visually."

SQF Manager Mr. Bonginkosi Kunene spoke on behalf of the company, highlighting the value of books and reading as the foundation of learning: "One chair and one book can be used by many generations of children," he said. "The information that is held in a book can also be passed on between kids... In this way, knowledge is shared, traveling beyond the walls of the school."

Kunene went on to urge the community to take care of the assets: "We hope that this furniture and learning material will be treated with care and managed well," he encouraged.

Mr Sibanyoni said in closing: "I would like to thank SiyaQhubeka for helping us. These children have great potential — they are capable, and they deserve equal opportunities to any other children in South Africa."





SQF donated two skip bins to the Sabokwe community in an effort to tackle illegal dumping in the area.

Sabokwe Community Cleanup

SiyaQhubeka Forests, community and government work together to create a cleaner, healthier environment for all ...

SiyaQhubeka Forests (SQF), in collaboration with uMfolozi Local Municipality and the KZN Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA), recently donated two large waste skip bins to the Sabokwe community to directly address the issue of increasing illegal waste dumping in this area.

The causes of illegal dumping in this community are both a lack of awareness about the health and environmental risks of dumping and the fact that the community did not have a municipal waste management site or service. In response to this, the municipality has committed to servicing the skips, which have been permanently placed at strategic locations in the community.

The skips will provide a legal and safe solution to the problem, but education and awareness are also key to the success of this initiative.

Ms. Similo Magwaza, SQF Community Development Facilitator, said: “Illegal dumping can have adverse effects on the residents, the environment and livestock. Cattle graze in the open areas and children roam and play freely on the edge of our plantation. Illegal waste poses a risk to the livestock when ingested and a health risk to the children who are exposed to it. Toxic waste also creates air pollution, which poses an additional threat to the environment, including birds, wildlife, and water sources.”

By addressing challenges faced by neighbouring communities, SQF aims to build healthy communities, strengthen community relations and create an environment where people and businesses can thrive.

Stakeholders gather and take action.

A ‘Cleanup Day’ was held in June to celebrate the handover of the skips to the community, collect waste in the area and help create awareness about the dangers of illegal dumping, encouraging the proper disposal of various types of waste.

The activation was attended by Mondi and SQF staff, uMfolozi Local Municipality Ward Councillor Mr. Amos Mtshali and EXCO Councillor and chairperson of the portfolio committee, Mr.

Norman Ngubane, EDTEA and community representatives. The collaborative effort to clean up the environment and improve the community proved that great things can be achieved when the private sector, government and the community work together for a common cause.

EDTEA, which is mandated to oversee socio-economic transformation in the province, provided catering for the handover event and Ms. Nosipho Mkhwanazi (Control Environmental Officer) spoke about the business opportunities around recycling and the idea of the 'circular economy', which entails the elimination of waste and promotion of sustainability by reusing, refurbishing and recycling refuse to lessen the impact on the environment and create job opportunities.

Councillor Mtshali explained that the community reached out to SQF seeking solutions to the problem of illegal dumping. He said, "SiyaQhubeka works a lot with the local government leadership, so we are happy to be a part of this day. It is important to clean up the forests, to protect the environment and prevent wildfires that can be caused by flammable refuse, which could destroy forests as well as nearby houses and infrastructure."

EXCO Counsellor Ngubane spoke about the opportunities that can be found when addressing the problem of waste disposal and the advantages of a clean environment: "We are educating the community on how jobs can be created through recycling initiatives," he said optimistically.

"A clean environment will improve the health of our people. If the air and the soil in our communities are clean, health risks that come from hazardous waste and pollution can be prevented," he added.

SQF Area Manager, Mr. Bonginkosi Kunene, reflected on the overall achievements of the day: "Today was a huge success, the residents came out in numbers and received the skips with gratitude and appreciation. This shows that they are passionate about making their community a safer and cleaner place.

"These forests are important to the community because they are a source of jobs, they provide excellent grazing for livestock, and the plantations should be a beautiful environment for all to enjoy."





SQF's Ms. Similo Magwaza and Councillor NS Ngubane cut the ribbon at the handover of the skips.



Dignitaries spoke about the dangers of illegal dumping, the benefits of maintaining a clean environment and the opportunities around recycling.



The newly purchased skip bins for Sabokwe community.



Stakeholders and community members worked together to clean up the community.

The Power of Play: SQF & Zesilo Logistics Upgrade Benzokuhle School Playground



The Benzokuhle Feeding and Remedial Centre received an impressive new jungle gym and rock-climbing wall from SQF and local contractor, Zesilo Logistics.

SiyaQhubeka Forests (SQF) once again demonstrated its deep commitment to community wellbeing and education with a donation of two jungle gyms, 15 school desks, 30 chairs, toys, and educational materials to the Benzokuhle Feeding and Remedial Centre in Zwenelisha Reserve, Dukuduku.

The initiative was supported by Zesilo Logistics, SQF's timber transport contractor in the region, which sponsored one of the jungle gyms.

A handover event was held to celebrate this generous donation, attended by SQF staff, community leaders, school staff, and learners.

Ms. Sanelisiwe Mbense, Senior Silviculture Forester at SQF, opened the event. She spoke on behalf of the forestry business and gave the school community some insight into the forestry sector and its valuable contribution to the local economy.

The new jungle gyms include two swings and a rock-climbing wall and were built from strong gum poles for durability. SQF also donated 25 litres of paint and paintbrushes. The school can now paint the jungle gym, helping it stay in good condition for future generations to enjoy it.

The learning materials donated included educational charts to give new life to daily lessons, art materials and board games such as chess, to help stimulate strategic thinking.

"I became emotional as I watched the learners playing on the new jungle gym – they were so happy. We believe that happy children are more productive and more focused in class. We are grateful to SQF and Zesilo Logistics for these practical, stimulating and engaging resources. It's not the first time SQF has assisted us, we really appreciate the ongoing support. Blessed are the ones who give," said the school HOD, Ms. Sebenzile Makhunga.

The Benzokuhle Feeding and Remedial Centre was founded in 2015 by local educator, Ms Gugu Shandu. She recognised the

need for such a facility in the remote rural area of Zwenelisha when she became aware of the number of children living with physical and mental disabilities, and other barriers to learning.

The school is growing and currently has 52 learners, offering a primary school curriculum.

Zwenelisha community Induna, Mr. Sipho Dube, gave thanks on behalf of the local traditional leaders and explained his role as the voice of the community and representative of their best interests. Dube revealed that the school is the only one of its kind in the region and that the learners who attend this school travel from far and wide.

“These learners are provided with daily meals and given individual attention according to their needs. The teachers must be very specialized to give them the attention and education they require. We are so grateful for this donation and seeing the children excited and happy makes me happy too,” he said.

SQF’s Silviculture Forester for the Dukuduku area, Ms. Zama Mzelemu, had some heartfelt words to share on the occasion: “It’s very rewarding to see how we can make a difference in the lives of these learners. Children with special needs are often excluded from the mainstream school system, despite having potential and their own unique journeys to lead. It is important that we give them the opportunity and space to grow and learn skills that will help them thrive, especially in rural areas where this type of educational centre is hard to find.

“We can clearly see the impact this school is making, the learners are full of joy and life. We recognize the teachers for their hard work,” she concluded.

> ***“It’s very rewarding to see how we can make a difference in the lives of these learners - Ms. Zama Mzelemu, SQF’s Silviculture Forester”***







Mr. Sipho Dube hailed the school for its important service to the community.





SQF staff with Induna Sipho Dube and Zwenelisha learners.

Ukwakha Ubumbano Ngezemidlalo

Umncintiswano Wezemidlalo Wezikole Zamabanga Aphezulu ulethe inhlansi yethemba nobumbano eMzingazi

UsiyaQhubeka Forests (SQF) usingathe Umncintiswano Wezemidlalo Wezikole Zamabanga Aphezulu KwaMbonambi kulo nyaka, owawubanjelwe enkundleni yezemidlalo eSiphumelele Secondary School ngoMgqibelo mhla zingu-6 kuJulayi. Lo mcimbi owawuhlanganise izikole ezimbalwa, wavuselela amandla, ukwesasa kanye nobumbambano kubafundi nabahlali. Lo mncintiswano ungaphezu kochungechunge lwemidlalo nje, ube yinhlansi yethemba nokuthula emphakathini ovame ukubuswa wudlame noqhekeko.

Akuyona imidlalo nje…

Emphakathini onezinkinga ezivame ukuvimba intuthuko yentsha, lo mncintiswano wezemidlalo ulethe ushintsho oluhle – usuku olugcwele uhleko, ukuziqhenya kanye nokusebenzisana. Injabulo yayibhalwe ebusweni kothisha, abazali kanye nomphakathi ngesikhathi bekhuzela izikole zidlala ezinkundleni.

Evula lo mcimbi, Umdidiyeli Wezokuthuthukisa Umphakathi e-SQF, uNks Similo Magwaza, ucacise ngokubaluleka kobumbano, inhlonipho nezingxoxo ezakhayo. UMnuz Mthimkhulu, onguthisa eSiphumelele Secondary School, wamukele abadlali wabeka nemithetho ngaphambi kokuba imidlalo iqale.

Ibhola lezandla

Imidlalo yebhola lezandla phakathi kwezikole iSiphumelele Secondary, iNtongande kanye ne-Emkhayideni Technical iveze ikhono, ukuzimisela kanye nokudlala okuseqophelweni eliphezulu.

“Amathuba afana naleli awajwayelekile kanti ayinkundla enhle yokukhombisa ithalente lethu nokuba sigxile entweni eyakhayo singamantombazane asemancane,” kusho uThandolwethu Dlamini (14), Emkhayideni High School.

Ukapteni weSiphumelele Secondary, u-Owami Nene (18), uthe le midlalo iyindlela enhle yokuvuselela intshisekelo kwezemidlalo ezikoleni.

Emva kwemizuliswano embalwa, iNtongande High School iphume phambili, yahlomula ngomfaniswano webhola lezandla omusha, izindondo, indebe kanye nezikhwama zebhola lezandla.

“Sesiside isikhathi siboleka imifaniswano yokudlala kwezinye izikole kodwa ngenxa ye-SQF, sekuphelile lokho manje. Sizizwa siziqhenya futhi siphumelele. Singakwazi ukufeza noma yini!” kusho ukapteni waseNtongande High School, uLinda Mncube, ephakamisa indebe.





Abaphume indawo yesibili neyesithathu bahlomule ngezindondo namajezi.

Ibhola lezinyawo

Enkundleni yebhola lezinyawo bekubambene phezulu izikole iManqamu High, iSiphumelele Secondary kanye ne-Emikhayideni Technical. Umncintiswano ubuhamba ngohlelo lwamaphuzu emidlalweni eyisithupha, umdlalo uwodwa uthatha imizuzu engama-30. Emva kwemidlalo yonke, iManqamu High ithathe isicoco yahlomula ngomfaniswano webhola lezinyawo omusha, izindondo kanye nendebe.

“Sijabule kakhulu ngokudlala ngomfaniswano omusha okokuqala ngqa. Sike sabhekana nezingqinamba ngaphambilini kodwa u-SQF usinike amandla. Sesizohambela phezulu, ngokuzethemba nokuzeqhenya,” kusho ukapteni weManqamu High School, uSiyanda Dlamini (19).

Ukuvuselela umoya womphakathi

Ngaphezu kwezindebe nezindondo, ukunqoba kwangempela kwaba ukuvuseleleka komoya wobumbano nenjabulo kubafundi, othisha kanye nabahlali. Lo mcimbi uvulele abantu abasha inkundla ephephile yokuxhumana, ukwakha ubungane kanye nokubungaza ukuthula.

Ilunga lomphakathi uMnuz Musawenkosi Dlamini uluncomile lolu hlelo, wathi: “Le midlalo ivikela izingane zethu kwizidakamizwa nobugebengu. Thina sikhule sidlala ibhola lezinyawo futhi lisizile ukubumba izimpilo zethu. Sibafunela okufanayo nabo.” Umzali uNks Sizakele Mthembu uhambe



Abadlali base Ntongande High school abawine iscoco somdlalo wezandla.

emagameni kaDlamini, wabiza lo mncintiswano “ngethuluzi elinamandla lokuthuthukisa intsha”.

Umfundi uSimphiwe Mtshali uthe lo mncintiswano uwuphawu loxolo nokuthula emphakathini: “Sonke silapha siyajabulelana sibe siphuma zikoleni ezahlukene. Yilokhu esikudingayo, into eyakhayo ezosihlanganisa.”

Ezemidlalo ziletha ukuthula nenqubekela-phambili

UNks Nomusa Dlamini ongumholi womphakathi nomqeqeshi webhola lezinyawo eNtongande High School, wethemba ukuthi izinhlelo ezifana nalolu zizoqhubeka: “Imidlalo enje



ikhuthaza abafundi futhi ibagcine benogqozi. Uxhaso lwe-SQF lukhombisa ukuthi ezemidlalo zingahlanganisa umphakathi futhi zilethe ithemba lekusasa elingcono.”

Usuku luphethe ngenhlokomo, umculo kanye nomgubho lapho abafundi, abazali, othisha kanye nabasebenzi bakwa-SQF bethokozela ukunqoba nobumbano. Ekugcineni, Umncintiswano Wezemidlalo Wezikole Zamabanga Aphezulu KwaMbonambi ukhombise ukuthi uma abantu abasha bedlala ndawonye, imiphakathi iyelapheka.





NEW EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Andile Mbanjwa

Silviculture Forester, KwaMbonambi

SiyaQhubeka (SQF) is proud to announce the appointment of Mr. Andile Mbanjwa as the new Silviculture Forester for KwaMbonambi, as of May 2025.

Andile's forestry career began after he matriculated in 2018, when he was awarded a Mondi bursary to study Forestry at Nelson Mandela University (NMU). At the time he was attending PROTEC Academy, which supports high-potential learners from disadvantaged backgrounds with high-quality education and career programme development in the fields of Mathematics, Science, Technology and English.

Before enrolling at NMU, he completed a pre-university learnership at Mondi's Seele plantation in Greytown, an experience that piqued his curiosity.

"Forestry surrounded me growing up, but I didn't understand the business," he reflects. "I had so many questions — how do foresters know when to harvest, how do they fight fires?"

Despite COVID-19 disruptions while studying at university, he became a merit student, a Soil Science Supplementary Instructor (SI), a residence mentor at Oukraal, and a first-team soccer player.

Andile completed his Forester-in-Training (FIT) at SQF KwaMbonambi in 2023, where he was mentored by Muzothule Gcaleka.

"I fell in love with SiyaQhubeka instantly," he says. "I felt like part of the team. I had real responsibility and accountability. Mzo showed me the ropes and provided me with a practical understanding of a forester's duties — from works orders and audits to managing contractors and hosting field days. It was a lot of work and there was no room for failure."

He credits SQF with instilling in him a solutions-based mindset, to "make a plan" no matter the challenge. After completing his FIT programme, Andile worked as an Assistant Nursery Manager at the Mondi KwaMbonambi nursery, where he helped deliver a record 10.5 million seedlings in one year.

"I was proud of what we achieved," he says. "That experience made me a better forester. I understand seedlings very well and that knowledge helps me manage our holding nursery at SQF."



Mondi also helped him obtain his driver's licence, a milestone that marked a turning point for him, both personally and professionally.

"I developed a deep passion for forestry when I first drove around the forests in a bakkie, seeing the beautiful landscapes, plantations and dams.

"Coming from a disadvantaged background, I couldn't believe I was driving on my own. I was so proud to go home and tell my father. That's when I knew I was on the right path," he recalls.

Andile was born and raised in Emafakathini, a small village outside Pietermaritzburg. The only boy among three sisters, he grew up as a top achiever — a bookworm, soccer player, debater, and deputy head boy in matric.

SQF is proud to welcome Andile back to the team.

> ***"Forestry surrounded me growing up, but I didn't understand the business, I had so many questions — how do foresters know when to harvest, how do they fight fires?"***
> ***- Andile Mbanjwa***

Nqobile Khoza

Area Administrator

NgoMeyi wakulo nyaka, UNks Nqobile Khoza wamukelwe njengelunga elisha lakwaSiyaQhubeka Forests, lapho ebeqala umsebenzi wakhe omusha njenge-Area Administrator.



UNqobile uqale ukusebenza embonini kashukela njenge-Verification Officer e-South African Farmers Development Association (SAFDA). Ube esedlulela kuMnyango Wezolimo Nokuthuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya, naseMnyangweni Wezolimo, Ukubuyiswa Komhlaba kanye Nokuthuthukiswa Kwezindawo Zasemakhaya lapho abekwa khona eMondi e-Richards Bay, emnyangweni wezomphakathi, nokuyilapho aqala khona ukwazi ngezamahlathi.

Esasebenza eMondi, wazithela phezu kwesikhangiso somsebenzi we-Area Administrator eSiyaQhubeka Forests, walandela imigudu yokufaka isicelo somsebenzi, kwaphetha ngokuba aqashwe.

“Ngifunda okuningi ngezamahlathi njengoba ngiqhubeka nokusebenza. Umsebenzi wami omusha uhlanganisa izingxenye eziningi futhi ngiyawuthokozela kakhulu,” kusho yena ngokuzethemba.

Emsebenzini wakhe omusha, uNqobile ungumsizi Womphathi Wendawo kwa-SQF futhi wengamele nokuphathwa kwehhovisi. Uthi akuthanda kakhulu ngomsebenzi wakhe ukuxazulula isiphithiphithi, kusukela ekuhleleni amasheduli kuya ekuqondiseni izinhlelo kanye nokusiza abanye emsebenzini yabo.

“Ngiyakuthokozela ukuhlela izinto. Ngakho-ke ngathi uma ngiqala ukusebenza njenge-Administrator, ngazizwa ngisekhaya. Kuyangigculisa kakhulu ukubona izinto zihamba ngohlelo, nokwazi ukuthi imisebenzi yami iyasiza ukwenza imisebenzi yabanye abantu ibe lula,” kusho yena.

UNqobile ukhulele KwesakwaMthethwa-Mabhuyeni eMpangeni, ekhuliswa ugogo nomkhulu. Ufunde esikoleni samabanga aphezulu iKhombindlela, engumfundi othulayo okhonze ukufunda izincwadi. Izifundo ayezithanda kakhulu kwakuyi-Business Studies kanye ne-Agricultural Science kodwa kwaba ukubamba iqhaza kwizinkulumo-mpikiswano okwamenza waba nezwi, kwavundulula nekhono elalifihlekile lokukhuluma phambi kwabantu.

Emva kokuphothula umatikuletsheni ngonyaka ka-2014, uNqobile wenza izifundo ze-BSc Kwezolimo eNyuvesi yaKwaZulu-Natal eMgungundlovu. Ngonyaka wakhe wesine, wangena eqenjini lebhola lombhoxo enyuvesi, njengendlela yokuzama ukuthiba ingcindezi yezifundo.

Uma engekho emsebenzini, uNqobile ukhonze ukubuka imidlalo yamabonakude nokwenza imibhalo, izithombe namavidiyo ezinkundla zokuxhumana.

> ***Ngifunda okuningi ngezamahlathi njengoba ngiqhubeka nokusebenza. Umsebenzi wami omusha uhlanganisa izingxenye eziningi futhi ngiyawuthokozela kakhulu, kusho yena ngokuzethemba. - Nqobile Khoza***

Zama Mzelemu

Silviculture Forester, Dukuduku

Introducing Ms Zama Mzelemu, SiyaQhubeka Forests' (SQF) passionate new Silviculture Forester for the Dukuduku area. She started in her new role in July 2025 and has assimilated with ease and purpose.



Zama joins SQF from Sappi in Ixopo, where she completed her practicals, gaining experience in both harvesting and silviculture. At SQF, she now specialises in silviculture — including planting, maintenance, conservation, and firefighting.

She finds that the most rewarding part of her job is managing both people and natural resources.

"Every day is different, and I really enjoy that. Being a forester means you must always think on your feet. It's invaluable to be able to see the impact of your work, whether it's in the plantation or in the people you work with," she says.

Zama was first introduced to forestry when she attended a high school career day held near the Mondi Merebank Mill. Mondi's presentation piqued her interest, and her older sister encouraged her to apply to study forestry — a field with unique skills and strong employment potential.

She subsequently enrolled at Nelson Mandela University's (NMU) George Campus in 2017. She excelled in her first year, which earned her a bursary from Sappi. She graduated with a National Diploma in Forestry in 2020.

"George Campus is surrounded by forests, so you get a feel for the environment, however, it was when I started doing my practicals that I realised my deep passion for forestry," she explains.

Zama grew up in the small town of Adam's Mission, just south of Durban, alongside four siblings – two brothers and two sisters with whom she remains close. She describes herself as "a bit of an overachiever" who thrived at school. She was a prefect, active in her reading club and consistently earned top achiever awards.

Outside of work, Zama enjoys dining at interesting restaurants and spending time with her four-year-old son. She has recently taken up biking and is currently studying towards her B.Tech through NMU.

Her advice to young people is: "The sky is the limit but it's up to you to shape your destiny. Keep your head high. Things might fall apart sometimes but those are opportunities to learn and improve."

> ***I love that every day is different," she says. "Being a forester means you must always think on your feet. I love that you can see the impact of your work — whether it's in the plantation or in the people you work with.***
> ***- Zama Mzelemu***

Growing Food and Futures with Mananga Garden Cooperative

SiyaQhubeka Forests (SQF) recently visited the Mananga Youth Garden Cooperative in Nzalabantu to deliver bags of seedlings that will support the group's food production efforts — a timely boost as the planting season begins.

"These seedlings are so helpful — we really appreciate it," said co-op member Nothando Mkhize. "We usually have to buy seedlings from the local nursery, which is expensive for us. I'm lost for words. We thank you."

Mkhize explained that the cooperative is made up of nine young people who have joined forces to cultivate a range of crops on communal land allocated for agricultural development.

"Our group is made up of youth farmers, and we've planted about four hectares — though the farm itself is much larger," she added with pride. "We are growing spinach, onion, cabbage, spring onion, green pepper, and lettuce."

Beyond the cooperative members, an additional 64 community farmers also grow crops on the land. What began as a small project has grown into a thriving commercial operation that supplies fresh produce to local households and markets. This enables members to earn a stable income while also ensuring their own families have nutritious food. Established in 2021, the cooperative continues to strengthen both livelihoods and local food systems.

SQF Silviculture Forester Andile Mbanjwa, who assisted with the delivery of seedlings, shared his admiration for the youth-led initiative.

"As a young forester, I am proud to be part of SiyaQhubeka," he said. "Here, I see youth who aren't waiting for opportunities — they are creating them, taking initiative, and doing something that brings income. That is inspiring."

The symbolic handover brought together local foresters, co-op members, and community leaders in a show of support for the farmers' efforts.



SQF staff delivered a variety of seedlings to assist the youth farmers of the Mananga Garden Cooperative.

Nzalabantu Community leader and minister, Bonginkosi Mbuyazi emphasised the importance of food security in the area.

“People don’t have enough food. Growing our own food is very important in our communities. Fresh organic food is better than what we buy in stores, which is often full of chemicals,” he said.

He added that the sale of produce provides a vital income stream in a region where job opportunities are limited. “Our youth must stay active and productive so they can build a better life for themselves. We are very thankful to SiyaQhubeka!”

As the sun dipped behind the tall eucalyptus trees of KwaMbonambi, the handover symbolised more than just the delivery of seedlings. It reflected a shared commitment to strengthening food security, supporting local enterprise, and building resilient, united communities alongside SQF plantations — planting seeds of hope for a brighter tomorrow.



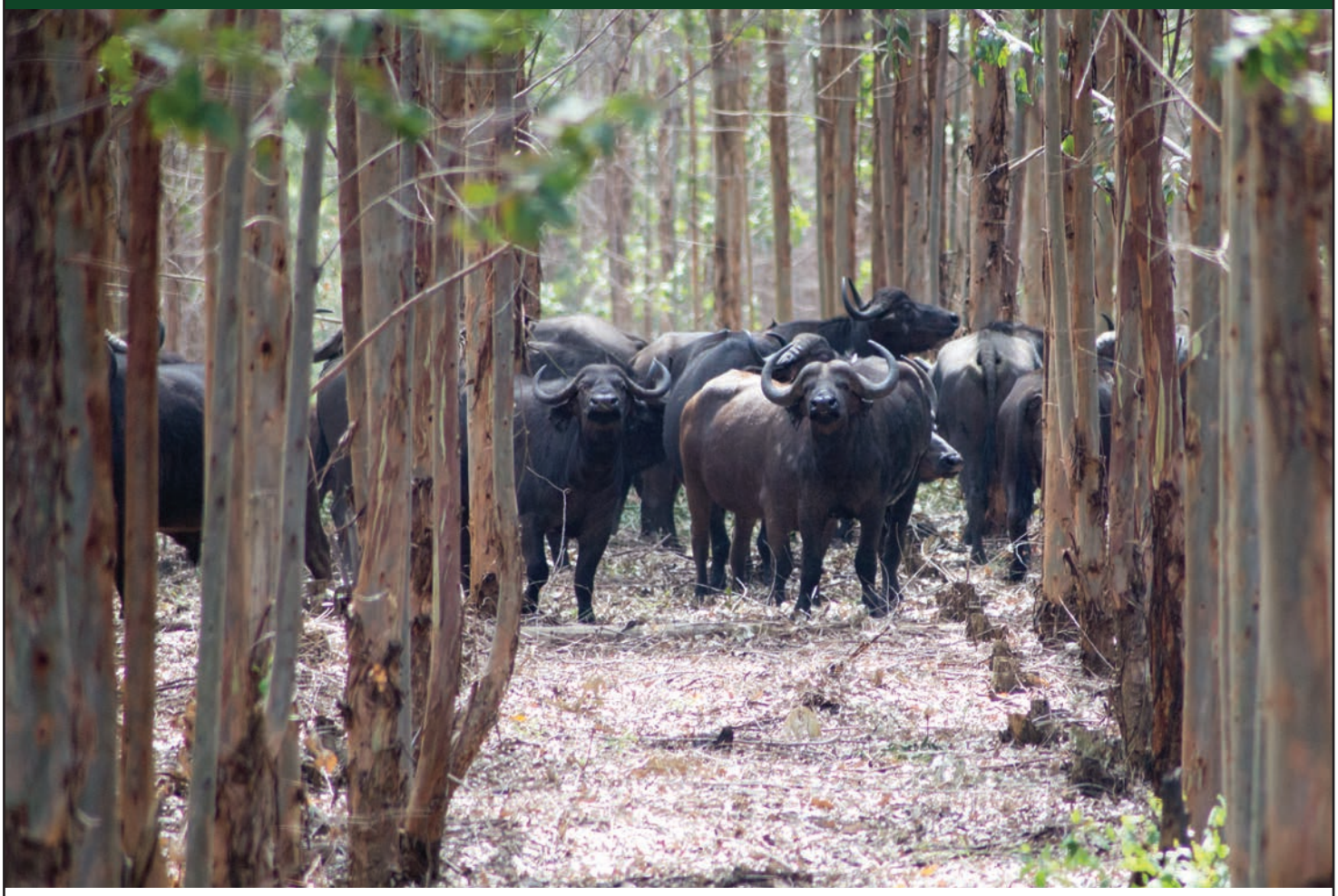
Nothando Mkhize is one of nine local youth growing vegetables for local markets on the community farm.

> ***As a young forester, I am proud to be part of SiyaQhubeka. Here, I see youth who aren’t waiting for opportunities — they are creating them, taking initiative, and doing something that brings income. That is inspiring.***
>
> ***– Andile Mbanjwa, SQF Silviculture Forester***



SQF Senior Silviculture Forester, Sanelisiwe Mbense takes a look at the seedlings to be donated to Mananga Farming Coop.

NEW GENERATION
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SIYAQHUBEKA FORESTS is a partnership between Mondi, its black economic empowerment (BEE) partners, government and local communities. The plantations are designed to grow timber efficiently and sustainably, providing benefits for stakeholders, while minimising environmental impacts and supporting conservation.









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