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BAKGATLA-BA-KGAFELA PARTNERS WITH RAND MUTUAL ASSURANCE AND SIYANDA BAKGATLA PLATINUM MINE TO ADVANCE COMMUNITY WELL-BEING AND SUSTAINABILITY

This partnership will drive economic empowerment, sustainable agriculture, and health and safety initiatives for mineworkers and local communities.

Bakgatla-ba-Kgafela Investment Holdings (BBKIH) has entered into a strategic partnership with Rand Mutual Assurance (RMA) and Siyanda Bakgatla Platinum Mine (SBPM). This collaboration aims to drive sustainable economic growth, improve the well-being of mineworkers, and uplift surrounding communities.

The partnership brings together key stakeholders committed to long-term social impact, with a focus on responsible business practices, community health, and economic empowerment. Together, the organisations aim to create value beyond the mining sector by fostering innovation, sustainability, and resilience.

"The leadership of Bakgatla-ba-Kgafela is committed to leveraging its networks and resources to enhance the quality of life for our communities," says Morena Kagiso Pilane, CEO of BBKIH. "This partnership expands our economic reach and reflects our broader vision—to build a resilient and sustainable Morafe (Community) that prioritises both economic progress and holistic well-being."

As part of the launch, stakeholders visited the Temo Tlhago Hydroponic Farm, a revitalised project at SBPM that symbolises the renewal of community-driven development. This farm embodies sustainable innovation and is dedicated to vocational rehabilitation and skills development for former mineworkers and community members.

"This collaboration represents a shared commitment to creating sustainable initiatives that empower employees, strengthen local economies, and elevate health and financial security within mining communities," says Freedom Buthelezi, Executive: Partnership Development at RMA.

Hydroponic farming, which uses nutrient-rich water solutions instead of soil, is gaining popularity in South Africa due to its resource efficiency and environmental benefits. This model promotes renewable energy use, sustainable agriculture, and practical reskilling, generating long-term value for the Bakgatla-ba-Kgafela community.

One of the key initiatives highlighted on the day was a dedicated social impact drive aimed at improving the quality of life for people living with disabilities. As part of this effort, over 400 assistive devices—including prosthetic limbs, hearing aids, and specially designed wheelchairs—were distributed to community members following professional assessments to ensure suitability and need.

The partnership will continue to focus on key initiatives including enhanced worker protection programmes, local enterprise development, and community upliftment. Through these collaborative efforts, BBKIH, RMA and SBPM are setting a new standard for socially responsible partnerships in the mining sector.

"We are proud to drive change that goes beyond operations. By integrating financial security, economic empowerment, and social well-being into our strategy, we are creating a lasting legacy for mineworkers and the communities they support," concludes Buthelezi.

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