

MONDI ZIMELE PROJECT



Big Imminent cc

Making a BIG difference

Big Imminent cc is an emerging business providing a range of environmental services and creating jobs for local people in the Wakkerstroom-Piet Retief area of Mpumalanga. This is a region where jobs are scarce and local entrepreneurial initiatives are few and far between.

The business was started by Simon Mlambo in 2011. Simon had been working for contractors involved in wetland rehabilitation for many years, starting off as a general labourer and working his way up to health and safety officer and supervisor.

In 2011 he was encouraged to start his own business, thus fulfilling a lifelong dream, and secured a contract from Eastern Wetlands Rehabilitation. The current contract involves building gabion and concrete weirs that slow water flow and trap sediment during heavy rain events, thus protecting a downstream wetland.

Big Imminent works in remote rural areas which posed a problem for Simon who needed a reliable vehicle to transport workers and tools to the work sites. So he approached Mondzi Zimele and secured a low interest loan from the Mondzi Zimele Jobs Fund to purchase a bakkie.

This has made a big difference to his ability to fulfill his contract obligations.

The Mondzi Zimele team also provides Big Imminent with a range of business development support services. He also receives mentoring from Eastern Wetland Rehabilitation staff, and SEDA has assisted with the development of marketing materials.

Not only is Big Imminent providing employment for 13 people, but it is also making a positive contribution to the protection of the environment. Wetlands provide a wide range of crucial environmental services and are integral to the healthy functioning of ecosystems.

Mondzi Zimele's aim is to support business development and create jobs in areas where Mondzi operates, and they are doing both by supporting Big Imminent.



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