

# VB Resin Tapping SA



**“At the end of the day it comes down to the fine art of tapping trees” – Brent von Benecke**

Brent von Benecke is a second-generation resin tapping specialist. His father, Giel, had a resin tapping operation in the Zululand area in the 80s, but the industry closed down in South Africa due to a change in timber variety and a strengthening Rand.

Now, more than 20 years later, the resin tapping business in South Africa has been reborn thanks to a revival in the international market and timely intervention by Mondi Zimele.

## **International interest**

The ball started rolling when businessman Paulo Maulo of Dercol, came to South Africa looking for crude resin. Dercol is a Portugal-based business processing crude resin into a variety of products. Paulo made contact with the Mondi Zimele team, who realised the potential and went in search of the Von Benecke family. Brent was keen to get involved and grabbed the opportunity.

With business support and a start-up loan from the Mondi Zimela Jobs Fund, VB Resin Tapping was born in 2014. MZ has been a partner and coach in the venture from the start.

VB Resin Tapping has a supply agreement with Dercol, which purchases 99% of the crude resin produced. Starting with 30 people, the company now employs 75 people during winter and over 100 in summer.

Thelo Ventures, a 100% black-owned business, has bought a 51% equity share in VB Resin Tapping SA, elevating it to a Level 2 BEE status.



**“We build partnerships for life.”**

Brent von Benecke says that the partnership with Mondi Zimele has played an integral part in getting the business established.

Explaining their reasons for getting involved with VB Resin Tapping, Mondi Zimele’s Laird Mitchell said that MZ seeks partners that are true entrepreneurs with viable business ideas in order to create sustainable jobs.



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