

# Njojo Construction



**“This job has improved my life, the lives of my 120 employees and their families”  
– Bhekinkosi Gumede**

Bhekinkosi Gumede began his career in the forestry industry 35 years ago as a general worker, and worked his way up to storeman and then supervisor. In 2001 he started his own company, Njojo Construction, now a leading silviculture contractor in Zululand.

Njojo’s first contract was with SiyaQhubeka Forests – with 15 employees and a basic set of tools.

In 2005 he entered the Mondi Fukamela Incubator Programme, learning key business skills. His contract with SQF was expanded, and his staff grew to 60 workers.

Njojo has now secured a full silviculture contract with Mondi in Nyalazi, and the workforce has expanded to 120.

The business has been awarded a four-star NOSA safety rating, and is poised for further growth.

**“I learned a lot about how large operations are managed – from steep-slope harvesting to nurseries, modernisation and safety” – Bheki Mbhele**



## **Loan and business support**

Mondi Zimele assisted Njojo to expand by providing a low interest loan for the purchase of two tractors and two pitting machines, as well as providing comprehensive business support.

Operations manager Bheki Mbhele attended MZ training in business management and a contractor development programme through Mondi Forestry Partners Programme and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Bheki recently undertook a benchmarking visit to Brazil, funded by the Mondi Forestry Partners Programme and DTI.



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