

Silby Construction



“When you own your own business you are able to grow, learn and overcome challenges” – Silby Khumalo

Silby and Sweleni Khumalo are partners in business ... and in life. They own a land management business, Silby Construction, which has secured a breakthrough land management contract with Tronox (mining) at the Obanjeni Reserve near Mtunzini.

Silby is an experienced forester having worked for Mondi, and later Nyathi Forestry, a Mondi contractor.

Sweleni also worked at Nyathi, and in 2014 the couple took the plunge and started their own business.

The Tronox contract includes weed management, fire protection and conservation. The scope of work has since expanded to include planting and land rehabilitation and the workforce has grown to 34 people.

Mondi Zimele played a key role in helping Sweleni and Silby get their business established.

“I had practical experience ... but I did not know how to run a business” – Silby Khumalo



Working capital

Mondi Zimele provided a low interest loan for working capital in the start-up phase, as well as further loans for purchasing much-needed equipment as the business grew. The MZ team provides on-going business support and has identified areas of personal development for key staff as the business grows into the future.

Silby says the support and mentorship provided by the Mondi Zimele team has been crucial to the success of the business.



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