



29<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2016

## MIEMBENI RESIDENTS VISIT TO THE KWALE MINERAL SANDS MINE

*Achieving our long-term goals is dependent on building relationships with the communities in which we operate and establishing a balanced flow of mutual benefits. We strive to build lasting and beneficial relationships with neighbouring communities. Our policy is based on working together in a way that allows broad participation of affected people through mutual respect and demonstrates that our long-term commitment is to deliver real, tangible and sustainable benefits.*

Base Titanium's ("Base") Environment & Community Affairs Department is responsible for delivering and managing the social components of the project. A great deal of time is devoted to linking the community to the activities of the company through awareness and sensitisation programmes and the weekly hosting of visits to Base's operations. School children, youth groups, women's groups and other stakeholders are given an opportunity to visit the Kwale Mine to see for themselves what Base does and to give them a better understanding of the operations.

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June, the Community Affairs Department were pleased to host 12 Miembeni residents, a community neighbouring the Mine, on a tour of the operations. Although it was surprising for them to see the changes brought about by large-scale mining to the area in which many of them had grown up, the group were very eager to understand the mining processes and other aspects of the operation.

Initially doubting that rehabilitation of the mined area could be successful, they were convinced by their visit to Base's Restoration Programme Indigenous Tree Nursery. Here they witnessed planting tests being carried out which demonstrate the capability to grow grass and other vegetation on tailings sand and top soil mixtures. They were also taken through the nursery where thousands of plants are being cultivated for present and future mine rehabilitation purposes.

As close neighbours of the mine site, Miembeni residents, including the visitors of the day, have inherent concerns about the health impacts of Base's mining operations. The common misconception that mining activities impact fertility and infant health was alleviated after meeting several happy expectant mothers working at Base, enjoying lunch at the mine canteen. These fears were further to put to rest on being informed that close to 150 children had been born to Base employees since mining began, all of whom are happy and healthy.

The group left the Mine feeling much better informed and many negative rumours and perceptions about Base and the effect of its operations were put to rest. They greatly appreciated the educational aspect of the site tour and the friendly and welcoming manner in which they were received.



*Left: The group at Base's Centre of Excellence Training Facility following their induction and distribution of PPE required for their site tour.*

*Right: Visiting the Restoration Programme Indigenous Tree Nursery.*



*Left: At the Tree Nursery having the tailings soil grass growing trials explained.*

*Right: Visiting the propagation nursery leaving a happy, better informed group of residents from Miembeni.*

