

# NOTHING WILL STOP HER

**“I am so excited about the things that are starting to come together for me and for Kolomela’s drawing office,”** said Angela van der Merwe, a “draught woman” who joined the Kolomela family five months ago.

In this short time she managed to set up a proposed Kolomela drawing office with great enthusiasm and professionalism. “Everything is not completed yet, and all the equipment required is not in place yet, but slowly we are getting there!” she continued. It is very clear that nothing will stop this young dedicated lady to do her job with pride and to fulfill her dream to become a drawing office manager for Kolomela Mine – not even the fact that she is deaf.

Angela was born and raised in Cape Town. She attended Dominican Grimley School where she was taught to speak and lip-read. Angela is married to Kobus who will follow his wife to the moon and back if necessary... “He really loves me that much!” she laughed. “I am blessed with two girls – my youngest is almost 3 years old and my eldest daughter from my previous marriage, will turn sweet sixteen in August.”

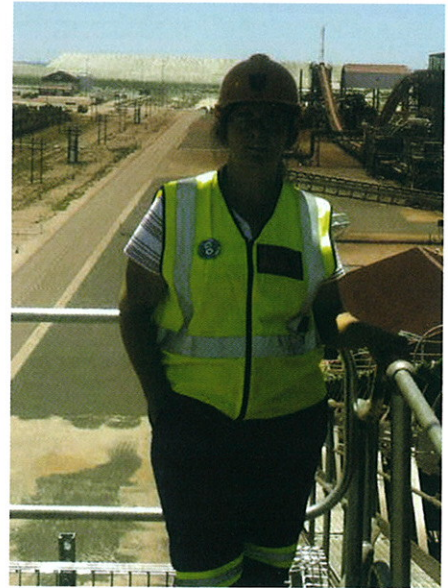
“I am aware that many of my colleagues are wondering about my deafness. People have many misconceptions about disabled people in general and hearing impaired people specifically. . The only way we can get rid of those misconceptions, is to show that we are competent and by being open about it.”

The exact cause of her deafness is not clear. It is assumed that Angela was born deaf. There are possibilities that her mother might have caught mild degree of German measles during her pregnancy or that her ability to hear was damaged during birth.. “My own theory is that I probably hurt myself while falling out of my cot which I always climbed out of. However, it is clear that her limitation is not holding her back “I accepted my deafness long ago as it is one of those things in life which I have to deal with. My father taught me Churchill’s motto: “Never give up, never, never, never.” That is also my motto in life.”

Angela started her career at the Cape Town City Council as a learner draughts person. From there she moved up to senior positions in various companies where she gained experience in various draughting fields - waterworks, electrical, mechanical, civil, structural, railway etc. including obtaining the data for records. Angela is more than willing to share her knowledge and experience with her colleagues in the draughts office.

“I was delighted when I got the job with Anglo American and at Kolomela in particular. Every day, Angela is learning more about mining.

She speaks highly of her managers Anesan Naidoo and Simon Darko, Engineering Manager and Senior Engineer respectively at Kolomela Mine. “I appreciate the many opportunities and challenges they are giving me, and I know there is still more to come!”



**Angela at the Loud Out Station. She is very proud to be associated with Kolomela and its people.**

Her wish for her colleagues at Kolomela and the rest of Kumba is simple... “Do your best for yourself, your colleagues and your company. Let us all be a Zola Budd – she is my hero and proved that you can reach the finish line (your goal), even if a person or situation tried to catch you off guard or lead off track”.

A final remark from Angela: “GO PROUDLY KOLOMELA GO! If you take pride in your work and we are proud of one another, we will be able to do so much more.”