

Bell fleet keeps Tayanna on track at Tete

The atmosphere in and around the mining town of Tete in Northwestern Mozambique is generally hot – hot from the sun and hot from all the mining and construction activity – for it is here that coal mining and the development of related infrastructure, is forging ahead at a rapid pace.

And through the dust, a family-run civil contracting and mining company has through sheer tenacity, made its mark in this part of East Africa and now stands as a shining beacon in a very competitive market.

The ancient Aztec civilization in South America used the word “tayanna” when referring to a ray of sunshine. And so Tayanna Mozambique SARL, is shining bright for the Davis family. Born out of the parent company R. Davis & Co in Harare, Zimbabwe, Tayanna Mozambique SARL, stands on its own feet in Mozambique and has been doing so since 1994.

“When we first established ourselves here back in 1994, we worked in plant hire and civil construction for mainly infrastructure projects,” says Geoff Davis, who along with his brother Mike, are shareholders of the company. “As our reputation grew for bringing contracts in on time and on budget, so more work followed which took us into commercial projects as far away as Malawi and Zambia.”

Progressing from civil construction and plant hire to mining seemed a logical step forward for a company that had equipped itself with Bell Articulated Dump Trucks (ADTs) and the correct loading tools all along, and this it did in 2005.

“Our first venture into mining was material-handling of discard coal for the Minas Moatize mine,” says Matt Davis, Contracts Manager and also a

Director of Tayanna. “We used five Bell B25D ADTs that we loaded with a Bell HD2045 Excavator and these Bell ADTs gave us over 16 000 hours of service each without a rebuild in sight.”

In 2012, with Tayanna now well established in mining, the company saw the need to replace some equipment and this they did with three Bell B30D ADTs and a Bell B25D ADT. “We’ve only ever run Bell ADTs here in Mozambique and it goes back to our parent company in Zimbabwe where we first learnt about the benefits of running Bell ADTs that are designed and built in Africa, for African conditions,” Matt adds.

Again success bred success and by the end of 2012, Tayanna’s directors knew that they were being tasked with moving serious amounts of mining material. The size of their mining fleet took a big step upwards

when they bought four Bell B40D ADTs and a Liebherr R964C Excavator. These machines were complemented by a Bell 770G Grader and a Bell 315SK 4x4 Tractor Loader Backhoe (TLB), with the Bell Grader being used extensively to build platforms for the construction of Rio Tinto’s Benga mine coal handling processing plant (CHPP). Once these platforms were completed, Tayanna’s Bell Grader was used to create ‘earth bridges’, spanning rivers for abnormal loads on the road to the Cahorra Bassa hydro-electric scheme.

The new Bell 315SK 4x4 TLB was immediately put to good use by Rio Tinto’s exploration teams where it dug and backfilled the many sumps that are used in exploration drilling.

The Bell B40D ADTs and Liebherr Excavator unit were also deployed at the Benga mine and as a result of their successful operation, Tayanna was awarded a

subcontract to the main mining company to strip topsoil, subsoil and blasted waste.

“We certainly worked our equipment hard with our Bell B40D ADTs logging between 360 and 400 hours monthly and our Liebherr R964C Excavator, clocking 417 hours in the busiest month,” Matt says.

The new contract would set a challenging target of moving between 120 000 and 150 000 bank cubic metres of blasted material a month and demanded more equipment. The company again looked to Bell Equipment to fulfill their loading and haulage needs and in December 2013, took delivery of five Bell B40D ADTs and two Liebherr R974C Excavators. This equipment started work in mid-January 2014 and is running well, maintaining high mechanical availabilities during the continuous operations that are worked for six days a week.

The original four Bell B40D ADTs and one new Liebherr R974C Excavator, have subsequently been deployed on the Nacala Logistics Corridor rail project which will in time, see coal from the mines at Tete being transported, through Malawi, to the new coal export facility in the coastal town of Nacala. The fleet is used to load and haul fill material for the construction of the railway line.

“Being in a relatively remote part of the country, we’re pleased that Bell Equipment has a well-equipped Customer Service Centre in Tete and with our new fleet all boasting Groeneveld lubrication systems, extended warranties on the wet drive-trains and a Bell maintenance team on site, we’re confident of giving our clients maximum uptime on our contracts,” Matt says. “Having the full Fleetmatic package on all our Bell ADTs also helps us to keep control.”

