

NEWS RELEASE

Implats opens R65 million Sulfacid plant

Expenditure part of Impala's long-term air quality management programme

Implats subsidiary Impala Platinum today announced the official opening of a R65 million Sulfacid plant at its Rustenburg smelter operations. The plant, which will significantly reduce the levels of sulphur dioxide in smelter gas, is an important aspect of Impala's air quality management programme in North West Province.

The Lurgi Metallurgie Sulfacid technology on which the plant is based, collects up to 80% of the sulphur dioxide in the electric smelter gas and converts it to sulphuric acid, which in turn can be used productively by other industries.

Extensive research was conducted into sulphur removal processes before the project was implemented in South Africa. The technology selected is based on that used by the European paint pigment industry.

Speaking at the plant opening, Keith Rumble, CEO of Implats said: "Breathing clean air is the right of every human and it is vital that Impala Platinum does everything possible to ensure that air around our operations is as clean and healthy as it can be. This plant has an important part to play in our programme to minimize the effects of our operations on the quality of the air and is in line with our commitment to being a responsible corporate citizen in the region in which we operate."

The plant, which has been operational since October 2002, has already reduced sulphur dioxide atmospheric pollutants by over 50%.

North West Premier, Dr Popo Molefe said: "While companies such as Impala Platinum make a valuable contribution to the economy of North West Province, it is also important that they do not lose sight of their responsibilities to the communities and the environment in the region and so we acknowledge what the company is doing by implementing new technology to help improve air quality."

Also officiating at the opening of the plant, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Ms Rejoice Mabudafhasi said: "Economic development is a cornerstone of growth, but should not come with an environmental cost. It is important that companies take steps to counter the negative consequences of their operations and Impala Platinum is to be commended for having taken an important step in the right direction."