

# Construction at Impala Plats set to complete on time

*The concrete division of civil contractors, Ruthcon, is progressing well on the concrete work on the silos and conveyor trestles at Impala Platinum's number 20 shaft. The contract, valued at R13 million, is the largest sliding concrete operation yet for Ruthcon*

The two silos are 30 m high, 12 m internal diameter, with a wall thickness of 400 mm. Each has 9 m high internal columns supporting a 1,25 m thick diaphragm slab, while the six concrete trestles vary in height from 30 m to 9 m.

The work also includes the foundations and plinths for the take-up tower and transfer tower and other miscellaneous concrete work.

James Cane, Ruthcon concrete divisional head, and one of South Africa's industry stalwarts, says that it was a challenge to design and fabricate a new slipform system in time to undertake this project.

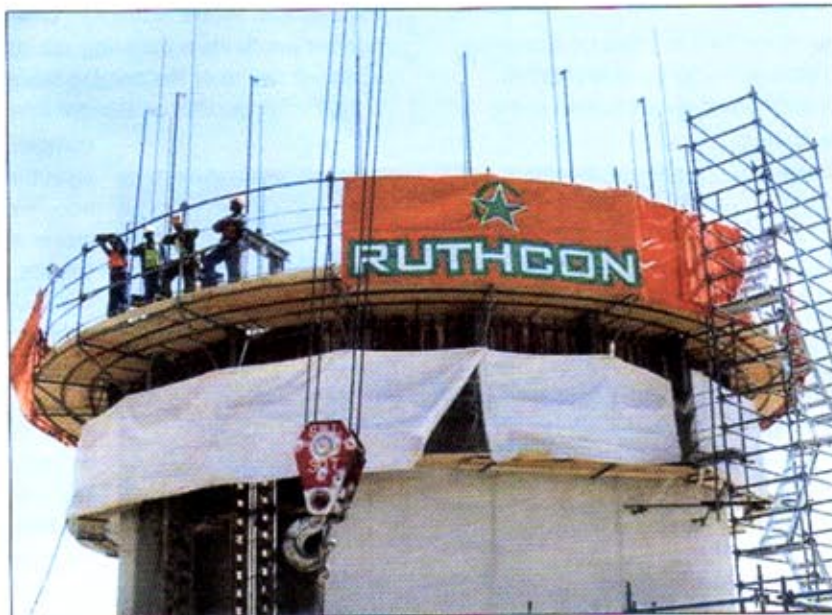
"The silos, including the internal columns, were constructed on a 24 hour basis using our own independently designed specialist slipform and hydraulic jacking system. Each silo consumed about 80 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete and nine tons of reinforcing a day and each was constructed in eight days. It was quite a logistical challenge, which I am pleased to say, we handled as planned," says Cane.

Cane adds that the conveyor trestles will also be constructed using the sliding procedure. The project was awarded in June 2006 and Cane says the company is well placed to complete it, to the client's required quality and safety standards, as planned.

Ruthcon is an all-encompassing civil engineering contracting company that has the expertise and experience to tackle any construction project. Established in 1994, Ruthcon is at the forefront of black economic empowerment with majority black ownership, bringing to market a civil contractor

committed to transformation and a new level of service excellence.

In 2005 Ruthcon won a national sustainable growth award, which recognises companies that show exceptional expansion and that make a significant contribution to the South African economy by demonstrating profitable and sustainable growth. Ruthcon was the first construction company to win this award. ■



*Silo 1 at Impala Platinum's number 20 shaft in progress*



*Slip form construction of columns*



*Silo 1 nears completion*