

### ■ Environmental award for Tanga

Tanga Cement has been awarded the National Environmental Management Council (NEMC) Award for 2009 for mine rehabilitation. The latest award follows the 2006 Presidential Award for Environmental Management at the Tanga Cement operation.

The award, made in recognition of the successful rehabilitation of the Holili pozzolana quarry in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania, was handed over to Onesmo Kitomari, environmental manager at Tanga Cement on World Environment Day, June 5 2009, at a ceremony in Tabora in central Tanzania.

Hilda Ngoye and NEMC board chairperson says that the Holili rehabilitation will be used as "a showcase for the Tanzanian mining industry". This is a real tribute to the Tanga Cement team responsible for the rehabilitation programme: Kitomari, environmental manager, Gilbert Ngallo, special projects manager and the then Holili site manag-

er, Godwin Kamando. Discussions regarding rehabilitation started in May 2005 during a site visit to the Holili workings by Onesmo, Gilbert, Kamando and Alan Cluett from AfriSam Technical Services. During the visit, the mining method was discussed and changed to allow for improved product blending and the introduction of concurrent rehabilitation. In addition, a mine-rehabilitation proposal was submitted to Tanga Cement for the rehabilitation of an abandoned contractor's mine adjacent to the Tanga Cement workings. The abandoned mine was exploited by a contractor who supplied Tanga Cement with pozzolana.

Rehabilitation commenced on both sites in 2006 and was concluded in 2007 with landscaping, the replacement of soils and planting of around 15 000 trees, sisal and grass.

To support the young plant growth, a post rehabilitation maintenance

programme, including the laying of a water pipeline in the area and bi-weekly watering of trees and shrubs was financed wholly by Tanga Cement. The maintenance programme created some temporary job opportunities in the community and it was continued up to the point when the rehabilitation was considered self-sustaining. The rehabilitated mining sites were officially handed over to the Holili village government towards end of 2008.

Tanga Cement continues to have mining interests at Holili and recently sponsored a new classroom at the local primary school as part of the company's community-investment programme.

AfriSam's relationship with Tanga Cement goes back to 1989 when AfriSam was still Holcim. Today, AfriSam, through its holding company, has a 62,5% shareholding in Tanga Cement; making AfriSam the majority shareholder of the company.