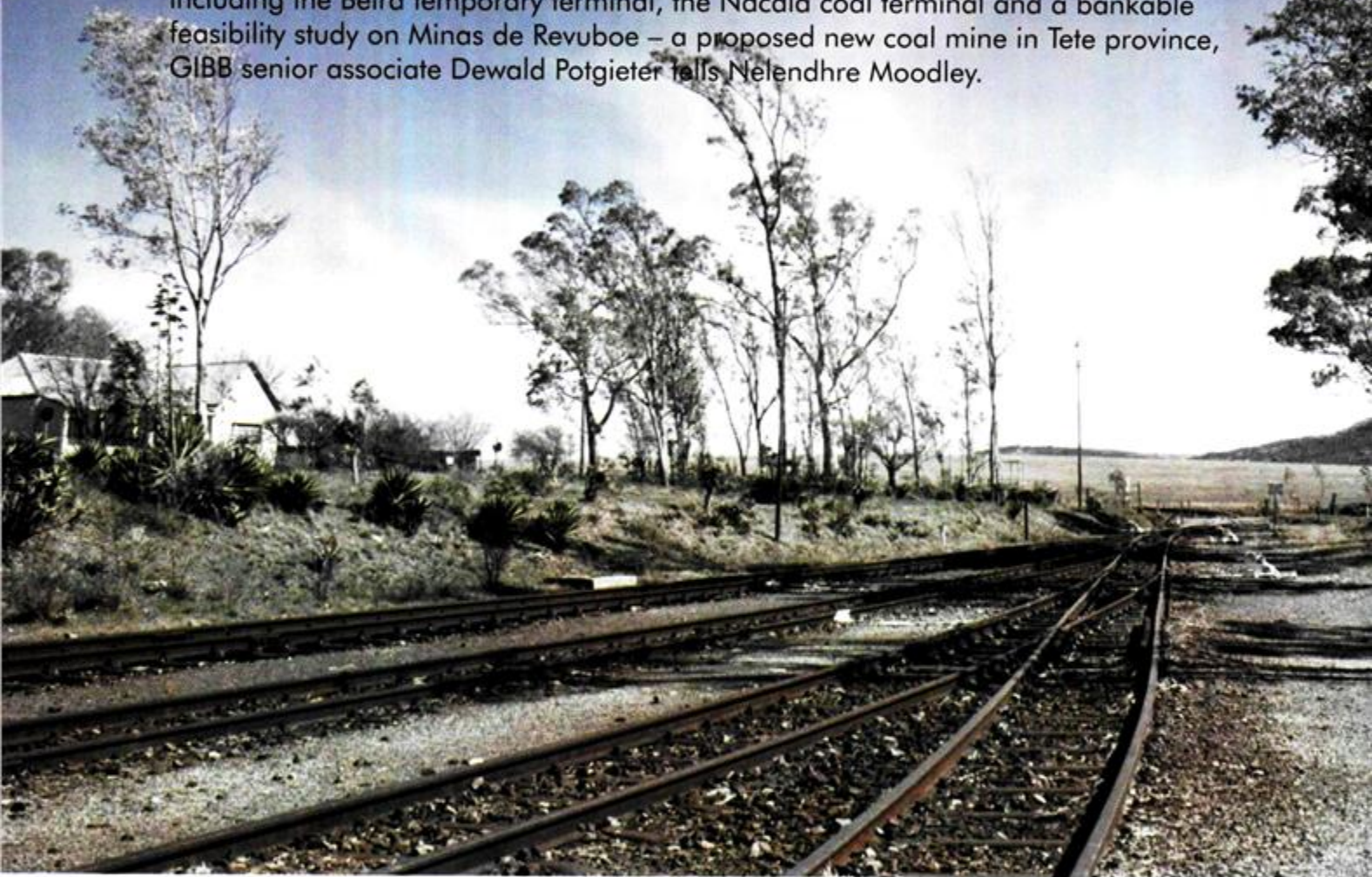


engineering and project management

Mozambique infrastructure make-over

Infrastructure in coal-rich Mozambique is being developed fast and furiously on the back of soaring coal demand from the Eastern countries. Project engineering house Gibb is currently involved in the design element on three projects in Mozambique, including the Beira temporary terminal, the Nacala coal terminal and a bankable feasibility study on Minas de Revuboe – a proposed new coal mine in Tete province, GIBB senior associate Dewald Potgieter tells Nelendhre Moodley.



Mozambique has extensive tracts of massive coal deposits – currently Brazilian mining company Vale and Rio Tinto, the world's second-largest mining company, are mining coal in the country.

Rio Tinto has the Benga coal project and Vale the \$1.7bn Moatize coal mine in northwest Mozambique.

However, the challenge for these and new coal entrants into Mozambique is the poor rail, road and port infrastructure. As such there have recently been a slew of infrastructure projects rolled out, like the Beira temporary terminal.

Highlighting some of the challenges of working in Mozambique, Potgieter notes that 'dealing with Mozambican exchange control regulations and delays getting equipment through customs for the geotechnical drilling have certainly been a difficulty'.

"However, the opportunities far outweigh the challenges. It is a great opportunity for us to be part of the economic awakening of the country."

BEIRA TEMPORARY TERMINAL

Recently engineering house Gibb was commissioned by Sandwell for Vale to tackle infrastructure development in Mozambique. The company recently completed the design of the temporary terminal at Beira coal terminal, which is nearing completion.

It is intended to be an interim solution to shipping coal from Tete, while a larger, permanent coal facility is planned elsewhere.

"The future demand for coal export capacity is far greater than the existing export capacity in Beira," explains Potgieter.