

Securing local employment

Yohana Mapumba provides security for REDAVIA's solar farm in Isenzanya, ensuring the safe and effective operation of the facility

Yohana was born and raised in Isenzanya, a rural village in south-west Tanzania. He was educated at Isenzanya Primary School which now overlooks REDAVIA's solar farm. He has a small farm however his income is often unpredictable and fluctuates throughout the year.

Yohana began working for REDAVIA in July 2017 and is employed to patrol the Isenzanya site every evening from 6pm to 6am, preventing the theft or damage of equipment and keeping residents safe by ensuring that the site's health and safety protocols are observed. He also cuts the grass and assists with cleaning the solar panels which is crucial to the effective operation of the solar farm.

This is Yohana's first job with a power company and he discusses the new skills he has acquired: "most people do not think of security guards needing communication skills, but this is something I have proven to be incorrect."

I have to listen and understand the health and safety guidelines and report any incidents in a clear and detailed manner. I feel that I am continuously improving my communication skills as I work with REDAVIA. The role also demands quick thinking and problem solving, skills which Yohana feels help him in his other role as a member of the village committee: "I can think of solutions quickly, which is important."

Being a guard gives Yohana a steady income and he is proud to work for REDAVIA, protecting the solar farm which he views as a valuable community asset that delivers reliable power to his friends and neighbours. He feels more relaxed in this role than in previous security positions as he believes the community are supportive of the solar farm: "this was everyone's dream, we as a community all want to do our best to protect it from any harm."

