

# Getting to the copper



## Solomon Mafabatho

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Solomon Mafabatho focuses on collecting metal at the Northern Landfill Site in Mangaung. He collects metal sheets and poles and objects as well as cables. He cuts the plastic covering off cables or burns them to extract the metal and especially copper wire. On days when there is little metal at the site, he also collects cardboard. He works in the Imzamayethu cooperative which has 15 members. He says they operate according to a set of rules. And they commit to each other to work hard and to share whatever income is made from everyone's work. 'Too many people are unemployed,' he says, 'But this work and this cooperative give you steady income.' His dream is to go to school and to teach youth the value of recycling and of reusing things rather than throwing them away. He says the worst part of working on the landfill site is the incredible heat in summer.

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