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To: Phalaborwa Herald Newspaper  
From: Palabora Mining Company (PMC): Manager: Transformation, Stakeholder Engagement and Communications, Mr. Abby Ledwaba

Ref: **PMC CONGRATULATES CLASS OF 2020**

### Immediate Release

Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> of March was a proud moment for many aspiring future leaders of our country emanating from Ba-Phalaborwa. PMC handed over dignity packs, 6400 face masks and 16 Acer laptops to top 16 performing learners. All the learners are from around Ba-Phalaborwa schools. The grade 11 learners were given the laptops as motivation to excel in their studies.

The class of 2020 faced a challenging academic year as a result of the COVID-19 which resulted in most schools gravitating towards online learning. Those who are fortunate enough could afford the demands that came with online learning while the less fortunate were left to fend for themselves against the harsh realities of the pandemic.

Valuable teaching time was cut off in many schools due to the hard lockdown faced by the country with the hope of mitigating the spread of the virus. Despite these challenges and the mental strain that it had on most learners, the academic year-end results are proof enough that nothing is impossible, if you put your heart to it.

Education, amongst many other things is top on our Socio-Economic Development agenda at Palabora Mining Company (PMC). We acknowledge the challenges that 2020 brought for most learners across the country and specifically for our town as they were equally hit hard by this pandemic.

“I am grateful that I was awarded with a laptop that will help me to further my studies. It is through the grace of God, hard work and dedication that I have made it this far. My plans for 2021 is to do late application to study towards Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) as I aspire to be a Life Sciences teacher,” said the confident Marvelous Ngobeni from Baranuka Secondary School, who obtained a Bachelor’s pass with an A symbol in Life Sciences and three (3) B’s in Xitsonga, History and Mathematical Literacy respectively.



Palabora Copper is a subsidiary of Palabora Mining Company (Pty) Ltd, 1 Copper Road, Phalaborwa, 1389  
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“We need to stand firm as educators and encourage our learners to never partake in burning schools, clinics and roads infrastructure that they will need tomorrow because by doing so we are destroying our value and own economy as Ba-Phalaborwa. Let us talk about these things and make our communities aware that if you are looking for a clinic you cannot burn a school because those are the resources you will need” exclaimed Abby Ledwaba, PMC Manager: Transformation, Stakeholder Engagement and Communication.

Tilly Baloyi, Ba-Phalaborwa Circuit Manager proudly stood up to give her words of appreciation to PMC. “On behalf of DoE, we appreciate your kind gesture of all donated items. The donation of dignity packs will go a long way in building our girls confidence. To our 16 laptops recipients, keep up the spirit of hard work and dedication where you are headed and thank you for setting a good example”.

End.