
PRESS STATEMENT

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PALABORA INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The University of Venda, Palabora Foundation, and the Centre for Supplier Development have been collaborating for the past year to develop and facilitate an entrepreneurship programme aimed at empowering the SMME's who are part of Palabora Copper's Supplier Development Programme. On 8 September, 2015 the University conferred certificates to about 27 members remaining in the programme at an official graduation ceremony.

The yearlong programme was aimed at enhancing the business knowledge, management and the financial aspects of operating entities. According Malesela Letsoalo, Director of the Palabora Foundation, "we collaborated with the university because we needed to ensure the quality of the programme is outstanding and tailor made to suite the calibre of our developing entrepreneurs who come from Ba-Phalaborwa.

Some of the candidates have never received an official qualification from a formal educational institution of higher learning which made it a special occasion. "It's quite an emotional occasion," says Samuel Ndhlovu, the owner of MJJ Radiators located in Majeje along the R71. "I have never thought this was possible that one day I will enter a university hall and walk past professors to receive a qualification," joyful Ndhlovu said.

Another graduate, Yolisa Mathebula, who co-owns Noyongo Bolts and Nuts of Ga-Maseke with her husband, the programme has assisted her business to become better in handling their administration and customer services. "There were so many things we were taking for granted because of lack of knowledge and this course has really empowered us," she said.

Concluding, Hulisani Nemaxwi of Palabora Copper said the company will remain committed to sustainable development of the host communities. He however cautioned against unrealistic expectation and said; "We are making some great step as a company, and the needs of the communities should not be viewed in isolation from our business. Instead we must see this as joint relationship which assists all of us to go forward and take cognizance that not everyone will benefit from the programme. We should celebrate this success of others more often."



Palabora Copper (Pty) Ltd, is a subsidiary of Palabora Mining Company, 1 Copper Road, Phalaborwa, 1389. Registration No 2007/033694/07

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