

# Education injection into schools in Thabazimbi area

**Marlene Vermaak**

The National Education Collaboration Trust partnered with South Africa's largest iron ore mining company, Sishen Iron Ore Company (SIOC) a subsidiary of Kumba Iron Ore to improve the performance of schools in the Thabazimbi area.

The collaboration is planning to deliver benefits to 21 schools in the area.

The project was launched on Friday, 5 February in Thabazimbi, and includes a teacher and school management capacity development programme in the Thabazimbi circuit of the Waterberg district, Limpopo province.

"The NECT is already operational in parts of the Limpopo province, including the greater Vhembe District and other parts of the Waterberg District, reaching over 1365 schools. This launch is an augmentation of the District Intervention Programme, funded by SIOC-CDT in the Thabazimbi circuit, covering 21 schools. This collaboration will deliver educational benefits focusing on developing and empowering teachers and school principals," said spokesperson Kibi Magome.

"The teacher development element of the programme includes interventions focused on improving content knowledge, curriculum coverage and classroom coverage for mathematics, science and languages for teachers in both primary and secondary schools. Teachers and the department heads will receive curriculum trackers and lesson plans which will help them plan, monitor and track their curriculum coverage over the year," Magome explained.

The SMTs (Schools Management Teams) interventions include improving the effectiveness of school managers through leadership training and coaching programmes. They will also receive leadership and management training through specific modules.

"This is indeed an important occasion in education for our district, and I hope that the custodians of the programme will use this opportunity to benefit our children. By the end



**Ms. Patricia Moshito (Mayor of Thabazimbi); Mr Deva Govender (Programme Manager - National Education Collaboration Trust). Photo supplied**

of this year we will be proud of ourselves for committing to this intervention, with a positive outcome", said Patricia Moshito, Mayor of Thabazimbi.

"We are happy to be part of this programme, and we are interested in seeing change in educational outcomes. We fully support the NECT systematic programmes because we understand and believe that they will bring about sustainable improvement in the Waterberg District", said Anthea Muofhe, Programme Manager SIOC-CDT.

"SIOC-CDT is mainly focussed on three main pillars in development: education, healthcare and enterprise development. The trust has so far spent over R600 million in educational development programmes in communities where their mines operate. Education is their biggest spend," Magome said.

"Let us pull together to ensure that we build a nation that reads, writes and counts," added Anthea.

"We fully support this collaboration and are happy to be part of this programme, as it will benefit our children," said Ally Pole, the chairperson SADTU in the Waterberg District. "If we all pull together, there is nothing that can successfully stop us from achieving positive educational outcomes. Let us all work together to improve education", concluded John Dombo, chairperson of the NECT district steering committee in the Waterberg district.