



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mafube Coal and Barloworld handover library to Beestepan school in Middelburg

Mafube Coal, as part of its corporate social investment (CSI), in partnership with Barloworld, handed over a newly constructed library to Beestepan Agricultural High School. The school is located on the Beestepan Broedery farm serving approximately 400 learners from Ward 7 and 9 of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality. This is a significant project providing a learning space with resources to support and enhance learning.

Mogodi Mahapa, mining manager at Mafube Coal said, "This library will play a crucial role in fostering informed learners and promoting access to information. Learners will now have access to resources to conduct research and engage in a variety of learning activities that were previously inaccessible due to the lack of facilities in the area. This initiative demonstrates our commitment to improving access to quality education and skills development in communities where we operate. We look forward to seeing the positive impact that the library will have on the learners and the broader community."

Lesego Ramathhabe, Head: Transformation, Diversity and Inclusion at Barloworld said: "We are proud to have partnered with Mafube Coal in developing this fully equipped facility that will help learners of this community with resources and provide study spaces, promoting literacy and a culture of social cohesion."

Ms Cathy Dlamini, MEC of the Mpumalanga Department of Education, expressed gratitude for the collaborative effort that marks the handover of the library. "Investing in education infrastructure in communities such as this one is highly crucial. The library will provide our learners with essential resources that will help them excel academically and enable them to achieve success and build a brighter future for themselves."

"Libraries remain essential in our schools and communities, even in the digital age. They provide crucial support for learning, and offer free educational resources, particularly for areas with network access challenges. This ensures every learner has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of the lack of access to Wi-Fi facilities or financial resources," she said.

Councillor Mhlonishwa Masilela, Executive Mayor of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, highlighted the importance of the new facility for the learners in the Beestepan Broedery farm community. "The library is a much-needed addition to our community. This project is an excellent example of how private sector and local government can work together to make a lasting impact in our communities, particularly in rural areas where resources are limited," he said.

Local company Rospa Trading was commissioned to execute the project, which created 25 jobs, including seven full-time positions, three of which were held by women.

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Editor's note:

Mafube Coal Mining (Pty) Ltd ("Mafube") is a 50/50 Joint Venture between South African Coal Operations (Pty) Ltd ("SACO"), a member of Thungela Resources Ltd, and Exxaro Coal Mpumalanga (Pty) Ltd. The Mafube mine is located approximately 160 km east of Johannesburg and 25 km east from the town of Middelburg, situated in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in the Mpumalanga Province.

The operation is an opencast coal mine, producing seaborne traded thermal coal, as well as coal for Arnot power station. The operation started out as a mini-pit operation in June 2004, to supply coal to Eskom's Arnot Power Station, however it has expanded to export grade thermal coal as well as a middling fraction, which is suitable for the export market or for power station consumption.

The mining process involves drilling, blasting, doze-over and truck and shovel operation. Coal extraction is undertaken utilising the mine's fleet. Extracted coal is crushed, screened and transported by overland conveyor belt to the Coal Handling and Preparation Plant ("CHPP"). The CHPP has the capacity to treat 6 MTPA to produce an export quality product, a middling's product, and discard material. This saleable middling product is transported from the CHPP to the rail load-out terminal via a 14km overland conveyor belt for rail transport to the Richards Bay Coal Terminal for the export market.