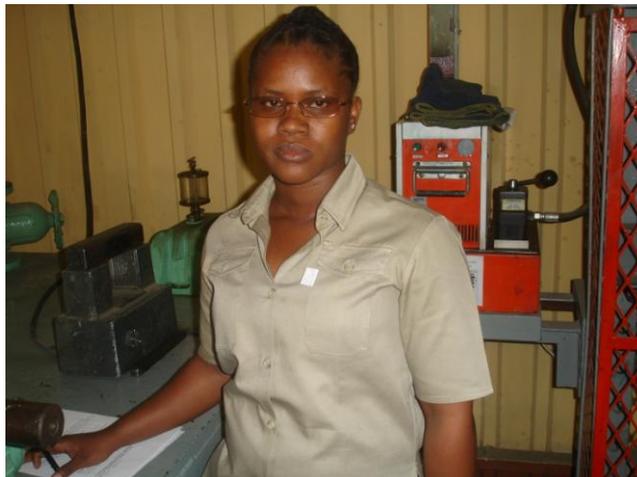


## ***Mining Qualifications Authority – Placing Skills in the Hands of Our Artisans***



***Ms Phuti Selepe, MQA sponsored artisan learner***

Artisan development is one of the key learning areas supported by the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA) through its artisan learnership programmes. This is to ensure artisans in the mining and minerals sector are equipped with the right qualifications to become productive, skilled and contribute to the transformation of the sector. The MQA is also committed to support women in mining and Phuti Selepe is one example of how the MQA supports female artisans through its artisan learnership programmes.

Phuti completed grade 12 with maths and science being her core subjects. During a career guidance event, she learned about the industry which encouraged her to consider a career in the sector. She applied for an MQA learnership to study boiler making through Palabora Copper (Pty) Ltd in Phalaborwa. She was eventually shortlisted and the MQA provided funding for her training.

She pursued an N2 qualification at an FET college and studied subjects that included maths, engineering science and platers theory. An N2 qualification is a prerequisite to enrol in a learnership and ultimately write a trade test. Phuti then participated in work based training as well as with an accredited training provider over a period of two years. She completed her practical training by applying theoretical learning in her work. She is currently employed by Palabora Copper (Pty) Ltd as a Boilermaker.

Phuti enjoys working as a boilermaker. Her responsibilities include the creation of structures, pipes, chutes and cones using tools such as welding machines, cutting torches and griding machines. A typical day for her involves fixing machinery and ensuring her work area in the plant is running smoothly. The working conditions can prove challenging at times, but it is these challenges that Phuti embraces and sees as opportunities. Her goal is to one day qualify as a mechanical engineer.

A learnership is one of the avenues a learner or employee can participate in to eventually gain a qualification. The structured learning component and practical work experience component can only be undertaken with a training provider accredited by the MQA.

As the Mining Qualifications Authority we are proud to support artisans such as Phuti through our learnerships. Her story is one of many examples of how the MQA is committed to developing skills and empowering the mining and minerals sector workforce.

For more information on MQA artisan and non-artisan learnerships, please contact the Mining Qualifications Authority on [www.mqa.org.za](http://www.mqa.org.za) or 011 547 2600.