



INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY CELEBRATION 10 SEPTEMBER 2011 IN WELKOM

From illiterate to literate – celebrating the successes of Adult Basic Education and Training in the mining and minerals sector

International Literacy Day is an annual event celebrated globally during the month of September. In the mining and minerals sector this event is celebrated annually during the second week of September. The initiative is collaboration between the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM), the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA) as well as mining houses. The aim of the event is to acknowledge ABET initiatives and the difference it has made to promoting literacy. It is also intended to encourage new entrants and learners who are currently on ABET programmes and to applaud those who have successfully completed their ABET training.

This year Harmony Gold Mining Company has agreed to host the event in Welkom. Other partners include GoldFields and the Free State Department of Basic Education.



Mr George Leyiri, from illiterate to literate through ABET

The celebration will take place on 10 September 2011 at the Ferdie Meyer Hall in Welkom. The theme for the 2011 event is **“Education is the answer to knowledge and skills”**. The theme will highlight the importance of literacy amongst communities, societies and individuals.

One of the individuals who have benefitted from learning through ABET is George Leyiri who is employed by AngloGoldAshanti’s Mponeng Mine in Carletonville. As a mature adult, Mr Leyiri enrolled for ABET in 1993. He was considered illiterate. He believes education changed his life. His dream from a very young age was to write a speech and present it to a large audience. He achieved this at an event celebrating the successes of ABET in 2010 where he presented to an attentive audience of 3 000 people.

Today he is empowering his children by encouraging them to be educated and by providing them with all the required tools to learn. He believes that those who train individuals like him are gifted people. Mr Leyiri is currently busy with his NQF level 3.

In South Africa, Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) is well recognised for the marked improvement and contribution that it has made to the country to improve literacy levels. ABET has contributed to the transformation and improvement of the quality of life of many learners in the mining and minerals sector.

The partners of this year’s International Literacy Day celebrations are committed to recognising the achievements of the Adult Basic Education and Training (ABET) learning programme.

For more information please contact the Mining Qualifications Authority on www.mqa.org.za or 011 547 2600.



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