

# R20.5-Million Northern Cape Teachers Development Partnership

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The Sishen Iron Ore Company Community Development Trust (SIOCcdt) is pleased to announce that it launched a Northern Cape Teacher Development Partnership project in conjunction with Rhodes University. The launch event was held on Friday 23 September 2011 at the Kalahari Country Club in Kathu Northern Cape. The project has been devised by the partnership between SIOC-cdt and Rhodes University. With education at the core of the Super Trusts initiatives and public benefit activities, SIOC-cdt is excited at the prospects of this new partnership. The partnership between SIOC-cdt and Rhodes University came about through a consortium of three teacher education centres based at the university's faculty of Education, namely ISEA, RUMEP and CSD. All three of these centres underpin teacher development through university-based teaching sessions and district level workshops. SIOC-cdt has committed just over R20.5-million to the project, which will support the professional development of teachers from the John Taolo Gaetsewe, Frances Baard and Siyanda districts in the Northern Cape, over a four year cycle. The project is multi-pronged and will be undertaken through teaching sessions at Rhodes University, and through district-level workshops and in-service training in the province. Teachers have been selected from high schools based on Mathematics and English matric results, and feeder primary schools. A total of 36 teachers from the three districts will be enrolled on each of the three BEd streams which will bring the total number of teachers receiving their degrees to 108. Subject Advisors, who are interested in foundation phase Mathematics or English Language Teaching (ELT), will be encouraged to forge links between the teachers and the education district, with a maximum of two Subject Advisors per district per course. Teachers will be enrolled full-time at Rhodes, with scheduled in-service training taking place at originating schools in the Northern Cape. Dr Monica Hendricks from the Institute for the Study of English in Africa at Rhodes University says the benefits of the programme are many. She goes on to say that "once the degree is completed, teachers will have acquired a specialised skill and increased knowledge in their chosen specialisation and the degree syllabi will be tailored keeping in mind the environment from which the teachers come and the practical conditions under which they practise". Emphasis will be placed on collaboration between the provincial Department of Education and Rhodes, thereby ensuring that the material covered remains relevant to conditions on the ground" Ms Hendricks concludes. Acting CEO of SIOC-cdt, Ms Shiphra Chisha highlighted that the traditional approach of prioritising intellectual development in education has enjoyed limited success in disadvantaged schools and pre-schools, "thus it is our responsibility as the Super Trust to try and bridge the gap, empower and uplift the communities we operate in, as part of our long term strategy of creating sustainable host communities long after the life of mine. We believe that education is key in empowering the communities we operate in". A valuable innovation to the programme is the post-graduation requirements which have been introduced as part of the initial bursary conditions. This will work to ensure the bedding-in of improved practice in the schools, with Rhodes university implementing a programme of continued in-school monitoring and support for an agreed period. Dr Sizwe Mabizela, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Rhodes university believes that this will fulfill two needs. Firstly, the need to support newly graduated teachers and secondly, to generate valuable data for the funder, and provide a basis for any further initiatives. "In addition, the three Rhodes university consortium members (ISEA, RUMEP and CSD) could engage the Northern Cape Department of Basic Education to plan on-going support initiatives in the schools, including specific training in how to monitor and support teachers in their classrooms as this could have a knock-on positive effect across the Northern Cape education system" Dr Mabizela concludes. SIOC-cdt, also known as the "Super Trust" is the sole beneficiary of 3% of the ordinary shares of the Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd (SIOC) through a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established to hold the shares on its behalf. Historically disadvantaged South African communities around the Sishen, Sishen South and Thabazimbi mines in the Northern Cape and Limpopo Provinces, through

their nominated beneficiary trusts, are the eligible beneficiaries for support from the Super Trust, with emphasis on welfare and humanitarian, healthcare, land and housing, education and development, conservation and enterprise development. SIOC-cdt was established in 2006 as a broad based socio-economic empowerment ownership initiative. SIOC-cdt holds a 3% shareholding in the Sishen Iron Ore Company (Pty) Ltd ("SIOC") from the unbundling of JSE listed Kumba Resources. Kumba Iron Ore Limited operates the Sishen iron ore mines in the Northern Cape and Thabazimbi and they are the largest single iron ore open-pit mines in the world. SIOC-cdt Communication