

**Press release**

**16 July 2012**

## **Pan African's Barberton Mines primary school project officially opens bringing new opportunities for local learners**

Pan African's subsidiary, Barberton Mines in partnership with Adopt-a-School Foundation today officially opened the doors to the Barberton Mines School project. This marks the official hand over of phases one and two of the school to the Department of Education as well as the transferral of learners from local schools, the Dixie and Fairview Primary schools.

Located in the Sinqobile Township, which surrounds the Barberton Mines, the primary school will provide education facilities to 950 learners from the Sinqobile community and surrounding areas including learners from two existing schools, the Dixie Primary School, which is in a poor condition and the Fairview Primary school, which is currently overcrowded.

The Barberton School project started in 2006, under Barberton Mines Socio- Economic Development Plan, when the Fairview Primary School Governing body in consultation with the recently formalized Sinqobile Community identified the need for additional education facilities for the community. Through the municipal township establishment process, Umjindi Local Municipality donated 2000 x 2200 square meters of land for a primary school in Sinqobile Township. The completed phase's one and two of the project include 16 classrooms, a kitchen facility, a sports field, 2 ablution blocks and school furniture. Over the next two years, the third and last phase of the project will be completed which will include a further 8 classrooms, a science and library block, a sports and combi block, admin block, a sick bay and a parking facility.

Jan Nelson CEO of Pan African Resources commented: *"This school is the result of a successful collaboration between Barberton Mines, Pan African Resources, the Sinqobile community, Fairview & Dixie Primary School Governing Bodies, Adopt-a-School Foundation and the Umjindi Local Municipality. We are delighted that our local children will benefit from these great facilities at the new school"*.

Speaking at the ceremony today was Shanduka executive chairman, Cyril Ramaphosa, who noted: *"The Department of Basic Education launched the "94+ Projects for Madiba" to celebrate Nelson Mandela's 94th birthday on the 18th July. Adopt-a-School Foundation is proud to show their support for this fantastic initiative through the unveiling of this beautiful new school"*.

Casper Strydom, Mine manager of Barberton Mines, short speech reiterated the on-going commitment that Barberton mines has to meeting and exceeding Governments' set targets for social development and community upliftment.

The project, funded by Barberton Mines to the tune of R12 million, currently employs 60 local community members and is driven by local community leadership, the Department of Education and a School Governing Body. The maintenance of the school will become the responsibility of the Department of Education but Barberton Mines will continue to be involved.

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Contacts

Pan African Resources Jan Nelson, Chief Executive Officer +27 (0) 11 243 2900  
Vestor, Louise Brugman, 011 787 3015, 083 504 1186