



EDITION 2 - 2024

THUTO-SEATLENG

EDUCATION IN YOUR HAND

IN THIS EDITION

- CEO Message
- Accountancy Education Summit
- RBI Arts Festival
- Focused Education in the Arts
- Launch of Rapid Response Unit
- Collaboration on Waste Management
- Early Childhood Development (ECD)
- RBI Maths Olympiad
- Women in Mining Career Fair held

CEO Message

Dear RBI Community

As we reflect on our recent initiatives and ongoing commitments, I want to emphasise the critical importance of early intervention and comprehensive approaches in education. As RBI, our belief is unwavering: that we must intervene early and consistently, to shape the future of our children. And our strategy as RBI remains firmly rooted in this belief.

The FIRST 1000 DAYS which is the time from conception of a child to the child's second birthday - are proven to be a foundational period of a child's cognitive development. To highlight this crucial period, the Royal Bafokeng Institute, in collaboration with key stakeholders who play a role in the FIRST 1000 DAYS, is planning an awareness campaign to educate communities on the significance of these early days.

In line with our commitment to early intervention, RBI is making significant progress in realising its vision of providing technical and vocational training to learners as early as Grade 4. We are excited to announce plans for technical and vocational workshops at various schools, including Bonwakgogo Primary School and Charora Secondary School. In partnership with RBA, we will first construct a boundary wall to enhance security at these schools. Once the wall is completed, we will implement necessary improvements at the schools, followed by the establishment of technical and vocational workshops that will benefit both primary and high school learners.

Our recent Arts Festival, held from September 20-22, showcased how early incubation in technical, vocational and experiential education can unlock creativity and talent as we pursue the ideal of productive and entrepreneurial individuals.

Additionally, we must not underestimate the value of early exposure to mother tongue education. Teaching in Setswana enhances comprehension and strengthens cultural identity and RBI plans to continue to pursue programmes that promote the use of the mother tongue language in schools.



Together, let us commit to a future where every Mofokeng child has the opportunity to succeed from the very beginning. By prioritising early intervention and comprehensive education, we can make a lasting impact on our community.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to this vital mission.

Warm regards,
 Rre Enki Pitsoe
Chief executive officer
Royal Bafokeng Institute

The Accountancy Education Summit



RBI hosted its very first Accountancy Education Summit on 5 September 2024 with the aim to explore the current landscape of Accountancy Education in South Africa and address pressing challenges faced by schools, universities and broader industry.

Research indicates a significant decline in the number of students enrolling in accountancy courses across South Africa. Mr Panyza Lesufi, past Minister of Education noted that “Accounting as a subject may come to an end. In 2008 there was 35 139 learners taking accounting as a subject but by the year 2019 this number has dropped drastically to 14 768. Almost half of the learners are not willing to pursue accounting, we have a serious problem here.”

Speakers shared evidence-based opinions from the sectors they represented:

Honourable MEC of the Department of Basic Education, Mrs Viola Ntsatsao Motsumi, provided the keynote address during which she expressed her gratitude to RBI for hosting such an important event and bringing together different stakeholders within the accountancy continuum. She reiterated the importance of the accountancy debate as it will have a bearing on South Africa’s economy in the future.

RBI CEO, Rre Enkie Pitsoe emphasised the importance of the FIRST 1000 DAYS – which is the time from conception of a child to their second birthday. “If we as a community continue to miss this most important part of a child’s development, it will continue to be difficult for us to fix and positively impact children for success in any field they choose to pursue.”

Other accountancy industry role players including SAICA, the Department of Education, Pfizer, Royal Bafokeng Holdings and Accountancy Teachers and Learners – shared their experiences through presentations and panel discussions. They helped give input into collaborative means of solving for Accountancy Education challenges.

The way forward:

- The need for focussed education is more evident than ever.
- RBI to continue spearheading collaboration among role players to achieve the above.

As RBI, the first Accountancy Education Summit is the first step in creating dialogue about challenges that face education. We look forward to hosting more of such summits and conversations working towards breaking current accountancy barriers.



The 2nd annual RBI Arts Festival

A Resounding Success

The annual RBI arts festival held from 20 to 22 September 2024 was a resounding success, bringing young artists in Grades 8 – 11, art lovers and local community members together for a weekend filled with inspiring fine art, theatrical performances and film.

This initiative dedicated to exposing Bafokeng high school learners to the arts, aligns with the National Development Plan's (NDP) vision of nurturing entrepreneurial and productive young people through innovative educational interventions. Creative arts being one of them, was unveiled as a Learning Area by RBI in 2023, initially benefiting 60 learners and culminating in a three-day festival. Having proven concept, the 2024 RBI Arts Festival programme was expanded to include 12 high schools throughout the Royal Bafokeng Nation villages, with over 250 learner beneficiaries.

Creative arts are an approved learning area for grades 8 and 9, and RBI's efforts are bridging a critical gap in experiential learning for Bafokeng learners. The festival also created employment for 17 experienced art mentors who showed dedication in uncovering and nurturing the raw talent of participating learners, while inspiring them to realise their full potential.



On stage performances





The 3 - day Festival

The 3-day festival showcased eight theatre productions, over 50 fine art pieces and 2 short films which presented conversations with Setswana language and culture as well as portrayed artistic expressions of Royal Bafokeng Nation histories as follows:

NAME OF PRODUCTION	CREATIVE DIRECTOR	PARTICIPATING SCHOOL/ REGION
RE TLHAGO KA BO RONA	EDWARD MAKGALE	CAPITAL REGION SECONDARY SCHOOLS
LERATO NTWENG	ONKARABETSE MOTSEPE	CAPITAL REGION SECONDARY SCHOOLS
DISHARMONY	THATANA MOGOEBI	MATLHWARE PRIMARY SCHOOL
PEOPLE OF THE DEW	STANLEY LETEBELE	MMANAPE PRIMARY SCHOOL
LEITLHO LA SETSHABA	ANDREW RAPOO	THETHE AND MOLOTLEGI SECONDARY SCHOOLS
GAABO MOTHO	IRISH DINOKANA	CAPITAL REGION SECONDARY SCHOOLS
FORESIGHTED	DINEO KATANE	THETHE AND MOLOTLEGI SECONDARY SCHOOLS
KWENA YA MADIBA	KGOSANA LEGARI	EDWARD MAKGALE AND NTEFO DIALE
BETRAYAL (SHORT FILM)	ORATILE MAKGALA	THETHE AND MOLOTLEGI SECONDARY SCHOOLS
KEDIBONE (SHORT FILM)	ANDREW RAPOO	THETHE AND MOLOTLEGI SECONDARY SCHOOLS
CURATORS OF ARTS EXHIBITIONS	COLLET MAISE	CHARORA SECONDARY SCHOOL
	KAMOGELO MOLOKOANE	THETHE AND MOLOTLEGI SECONDARY SCHOOLS
	PAUL MBUQA	TSHUKUDU SECONDARY SCHOOL
	TSHEPANG MAELANGWE	CAPITAL REGION SECONDARY SCHOOLS

RBI is grateful to Fraser Alexander for providing much needed food and refreshments for learners during the RBI Arts Festival Rehearsals.

RBI also thanks the participating learners and Morafe at large for their unwavering support.

Looking ahead, RBI is excited to announce that our new arts programme will kick off in 2025 and encourages everyone to stay tuned for updates!

Let's continue to build and nurture creativity in our community together!

In the meantime, visit our festival pages for updates:

<https://rbi-artsfestival.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/RBI.ArtsFestival>

Focused Education in the Arts

Is Focused Education in the Arts Possible? A Look into the Journey of a Grade 11 Learner.

Focused education in the creative arts is not only possible but increasingly essential for learners who show an affinity for creative disciplines. This type of education involves a specialised curriculum that emphasises subjects, such as visual arts, music, dance, drama, and design, alongside general education subjects like mathematics, science and languages. By concentrating on artistic development from an early age, learners can harness their creative potential while acquiring skills that can lead to diverse career paths in the creative industries.

The Creative Arts Education Stream

Art-focused education moves beyond the basic exposure to arts commonly offered in conventional schools. It allows learners to find themselves in a range of disciplines.

Arts Education Teaching Strategy

Arts education teaching strategies are introduced to learners in the form of life skills in the foundation phase. These skills enable learners to engage meaningfully with complex concepts.

Take the case of Kaboentle Dikane, a Grade 11 learner at Pretoria based, ProArte which offers an arts-centered curriculum. Kaboentle has grown up with a passion for drawing and art, and her mother's guidance led her to enrol her talent at this art focussed school.

She explains that her studies at ProArte, has nurtured her passion, providing access to specialised teachers and resources that are not available in a regular school. Kaboentle dreams of owning a Solo Gallery upon finalising her studies.

Why Is It Important to Support Learners in Such Environments?

Allowing learners to pursue focused education in the arts creates an environment where their talents and passions are prioritised and cultivated. Learners like Kaboentle benefit from being in a space designed to foster creativity and artistic growth, rather than having their artistic interests sidelined. Such environments nurture self-discipline, emotional intelligence, and confidence, as students are encouraged to express themselves freely while working toward mastery in their chosen fields.

Moreover, focused art education plays a crucial role in fostering innovation and cultural diversity. By investing in young artists, societies ensure the continued development of the creative industries, which contribute to cultural enrichment and economic growth. Supporting learners in specialised arts environments allows them to thrive and paves the way for the next generation of creative professionals.

In conclusion, focused education in the arts is not only possible but necessary for students who are passionate about their craft. Specialising at Grade 8 or 9 allows learners to fully engage in the arts while still receiving a comprehensive education, helping them to pursue fulfilling creative careers.

Please click [here](#) to view a short interview with Kaboentle.



Dipholo tsa kgaisano ya dikwalo tsa Setswana ya RBI e nnile tse dikgatlisang

E rile fa ngwaga wa 2024 o simolola RBI e ne ya thankgolola kgaisano ya dikwalo tsa puo ya Setswana. Maitlhommo magolo a kgaisano eno, ke go rotlwetsa le go godisa puo ya Setswana.

Kgaisano eno, e ne e phasaladitswe mo kgaolong ya Rustenburg-Bojanala, ga mmogo le dikgaolo tse dingwe tse di mo porofenseng ya Bokone Bophirima. RBI e amogetse dikopo di ka feta 300 – go tswa mo bakwading ba dibuka tsa bana, maboko, dikgankhutswe le terama. Baatlhodi ba ba ikemetseng ba ile ba leba kopo ngwe le ngwe e e amogetsweng ka kelotlhoko, mme jaanong RBI e motlotlo go itsese bafenyi ba bararo ba kwa godimo.

RBI e leboga bakwadi botlhe ba ba tsenetseng kgaisano eno ebile re rotloetsa bakwadi botlhe go tswetsa puo ya Setswana, gore le yone e tlotlomadiwe mo Aferika.



Maemo a bobedi – Tumisang Ephraim Moje



Maemo a ntlha – Gopolang Ramokga



Maemo a boraro – Khumoyame Monnahela

Launch of the Schools Rapid Response Unit

Mission and objectives

The primary mission of the Rapid Response Unit is to resolve all reported maintenance issues within a week. This swift response is aimed at preventing minor problems from escalating into major disruptions, thereby ensuring that our schools remain safe, functional, and conducive to learning.

Skilled team for comprehensive maintenance

The unit is staffed with a team of highly skilled professionals, including:

- 4 Plumbers: Ensuring a consistent water supply and proper sanitation.
- 2 Electrical Engineers: Maintaining safety and efficiency in all electrical systems.
- 2 Carpenters: Constructing and repairing wooden structures and furnishings.
- 2 Bricklayers: Building and repairing brick structures to ensure structural integrity.

Special projects for high-priority schools

In addition to routine maintenance, significant projects are planned to enhance the security and educational facilities at these critical schools:

- Tshukudu secondary: A 3km wall will be constructed around the school to safeguard the property and ensure the safety of students and staff.
- Bonwakgogo primary and Charora secondary: These schools will be enclosed into a single school complex with one entry gate, enhancing security and operational efficiency.

Furthermore, technical and vocational workshops will be developed at these schools. These workshops aim to provide students with practical skills and hands-on experience in various trades, preparing them for successful careers in technical and vocational fields.

Moving Forward

The launch of the Schools Rapid Response Unit marks a significant step in RBI's commitment to providing a high-quality educational environment for all Royal Bafokeng learners. By addressing maintenance issues promptly and efficiently, we can create a safer, more supportive atmosphere that promotes learning and growth.

This initiative is a collaborative effort, and the cooperation and support of all stakeholders are crucial. Together, we can ensure that our schools remain places where students can thrive and achieve their full potential.

Proactive maintenance management

To maintain the highest standards of school infrastructure, RBI, in collaboration with school management, will conduct monthly inventories. This proactive approach will help identify and address maintenance issues before they become significant problems.

Prioritisation of schools

Schools have been categorised based on their maintenance needs, with twelve schools identified as high-priority. Among these, Bonwakgogo Primary, Charora Secondary, and Tshukudu Secondary have been deemed critical and will receive immediate attention.



RBI's Rapid Response Unit members:

(front L-R) - Ofentse Mokgatlle, Solomon Rampete, obvious Ndou, Judge Chauke, Letlhogonolo Mautle, courage Chauke, Sphiwe Moela
 (Back L-R) - James Matabane, Obakeng Molouane and Tobias Modise

To report any incidents, please contact the Schools Rapid Response Unit on 014 566 1400 / 076 570 9281

RBI e thankgola Letsholo la Phepafatsa Bafokeng

Royal Bafokeng Institute (RBI) e motlotlo go itsise baagi ka thankgololo ya letsholo la Phepafatsa Bafokeng. Letsholo leno, le simolotswe ka letsatsi la Nelson Mandela (18 Phukwi), kwa motseng wa Kgale, le ikaeletse go totobatsa setso sa go phepafatsa le go tlhokomela metse ya rona.

Letsholo la Phepafatsa Bafokeng ke tirisanommogo magareng ga maphata a a farologaneng a baagi a eteletse pele ke RBI. Letsholo le ineetse go netefatsa gore mafelo a RBI e a direlang, gammogo le mafelo a a gaufi le dikolo tsa RBN, a itekanetse e bile a phepa, go supa boineelo jwa rona mo go tokafatseng boleng jwa botshelo mo Setshabeng sa Bafokeng.

Mo pelong ya letsholo leno, RBI e ineetse go rarabolola dikgoreletsi tsa tlhokomelo mo dikolong tsa Setshaba sa Bafokeng. Ditshebeletso Ditirelo di akaretsa thulaganyo ya metswedi ya metsi, motlakase, kago, ditsela le tirelo ya tiriso ya magong go netefatsa fa thebolelo ya diterelo kwa dikolong tsa rona a le e e potlakileng. Go ya ka moo, RBI e kopantse School Rapid Response Unit (SRRU), e e nang le badiri ba 10 halofo ya bona e alogile dikwalo tsa dithuto kwa Sekolong sa dikago sa RBI – seno ke go supa boineelo jwa RBI go tlhokomela tikologo e e bolokegileng le e e dirang sentle ya thuto.

CEO ya RBI, Rre Enki Pitsoe o gatelela botlhokwa jwa polokego le bophepa: "Mo RBI, re dumela gore tikologo ya sekolo e e boloketshegileng le e e tlhokometsweng sentle e botlhokwa mo katlegong le kagisong ya barutwana ba rona. SRRU e itebagantse go rarabolola dikgoreletsi tsa tlhokomelo ka bonako, go netefatsa gore dikolo tsa rona di nna di bolokegile ebile di itekanetse go ka rutela. Letsholo leno le supa boineelo jwa rona ka bophara go gatelela setso sa go phepafatsa le poloketshego mo loagong la rona.

Thankgolo e: e tshwaya tshimologo ya projeke e e tsweleng pele, fa RBI le SRRU ba tla tswelela pele ka maiteko a bone mo metseng yotlhe ya Setshaba sa Bafokeng. RBI e ikaeletse go tshwara letsatsi la go phepafatsa kgwedi le kgwedi go fitlha metsana yotlhe e fitlhelwa. RBI e rotlwetsa setshaba le dikolo go tsaya karolo ka matlhagathaga go tshegetsisa letsholo leno ka go bega dikotsi ka bonako fa di tlhaga.

Go bega dikotsi kwa dikolong kgotsa go tsaya karolo mo letsholong la Phepafatsa Bafokeng, setshaba le dikolo ba ikgolaganya le School Rapid Response Unit (SRRU) ka go leletsa 014 566 1400 / 076 570 9281.

A re yeng, a re phepafatseng Sefokeng mmogo!



Photo 2: RBI Staff members participating on the day.



Photo 3: Cleaning included clearing grass and long vegetation in spots identified as being prone to petty crime.

Collaboration on waste management

RBI plans to collaborate on waste management in RBN schools

RBI is proud to announce a collaboration with Letlotlo Waste aiming to implement comprehensive environmental and waste management education programmes in RBN schools.

The collaboration is a testament of RBI's and Letlotlo Waste's commitment to fostering sustainable practices and environmental stewardship within our communities. Through this partnership, Letlotlo Waste will play a crucial role in implementing environmental and waste management education as well as steward the phased roll-out of recycling stations across the schools.

RBI announced this collaboration during the recent launch of Letlotlo Waste's Packa-Ching mobile recycling initiative aimed at revolutionising waste management in underserved communities. "As part of our commitment to promoting environmental sustainability, the Packa-Ching initiative brings the convenience of recycling directly to the doorstep of residents, empowering them to actively participate in waste reduction efforts."



The Packa-Ching mobile units are designed to collect recyclable materials, including plastic, paper, and cans, from households and businesses, making recycling accessible to everyone. By offering a user-friendly, incentivised system, Letlotlo Waste encourages individuals to trade in their recyclables for instant cash or rewards, helping to alleviate waste and promote a circular economy.

This project underscores Letlotlo Waste's dedication to creating jobs, reducing landfill waste, and contributing to cleaner, healthier environments across South Africa. Sponsored by Polyco and in collaboration with RBA, RBI and RLM, Letlotlo Waste aims to make recycling a mainstream practice, reducing the negative impacts of waste on our planet.

Letlotlo Waste invites the community to join this journey toward a greener future, where recycling is both easy and rewarding for all. Together, we can make a lasting environmental impact.

To find out more about recycling with Letlotlo Waste, contact Kitso Rakgong on 083 751 8518

RBI's Early Childhood Development (ECD)

RBI's Early Childhood Development (ECD) unit in partnership with Bauba Mine provided much needed educational resources to ECD Centres as part of Nelson Mandela Day Commemorations. BAUBA Mine was represented by Rre William Mokone while RBI was represented by Mme Mpho Lekalake and Rre Lebogang Matlhare during the handover events.

Some of the messages received from the beneficiaries were:

"On behalf of Leragane Early Learning Centre, I would like to thank you for donating educational toys to our Centre. We are very thankful to your company for providing us with toys which help us stimulate/develop our children, which is a must in present times."

"Thank you for your generous donation to Mphepele ELC your kind gesture is greatly appreciated"

"The management of Mmakgopola ELC values your support"

"Your donation will help children learn and gain more knowledge – Lwaleng ELC"

Conclusion

The partnership with BAUBA benefits different centres annually.



Mmakgopola ELC Maile



Lwaleng ELC Tlaseng



Mphepele ELC Lesung



St Anthony ELC Kanana



Leragane ELC
Luka Village



Joel Setshoane ELC
Chaneng Village



Elkiddos Day Care
Bobuampya

Literacy Programme for Grade 4: Enhancing Reading for Meaning

The Literacy Programme for Grade 4 is making significant strides in 37 primary schools, including **29 Royal Bafokeng Nation (RBN) schools** and **8 non-RBN schools**. Launched on May 6, 2024, and running until October 31, 2024, this initiative aimed at addressing the critical transition in literacy from Grade 3 to Grade 4.

This year, the programme benefitted 740 progressed Grade 4 learners. Pre-tests and baseline assessments were conducted and analysed across all participating schools, focusing on four key activities: Listening Comprehension, Oral Reading, Oral Reading Comprehension, and Vocabulary (Familiar Words).

The data reveals that **Activities 2 (Oral Reading)** and **4 (Vocabulary)** are foundational to mastering **Activities 1 (Listening Comprehension)** and **3 (Oral Reading Comprehension)**. Learners struggle with familiar words and vocabulary and significantly impact learners' ability to comprehend oral readings.

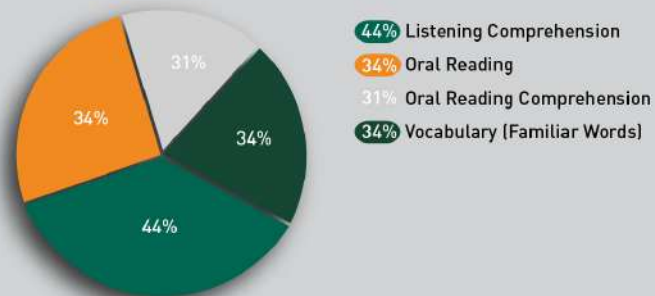
Post-test results were administered at the end of October and will be analysed in November 2024, to provide further insights into the programme's impact and effectiveness.

New School Governing Bodies Elected

New School Governing Bodies (SGBs) have been successfully elected in all Bafokeng schools following a comprehensive advocacy campaign. The campaign, conducted in partnership with the Rustenburg Local Education Office's Institutional Governance Support Services took place earlier this year.

School SGBs are mandated with the South African Schools Act and are crucial for shaping the educational environment. They are responsible for making key decisions on school policies, managing finances, and ensuring that school infrastructure and resources meet the needs of learners. We look forward to seeing the positive impact and fresh perspectives the new SGB members will bring to our schools.

Pre-Test Results



Stay tuned for more updates on this vital initiative to enhance literacy and ensure a smoother transition for our young learners!

Young Yandelwa takes the top honours at the RBI Maths Olympiad



Tshandu Yandelwa
Boshoek Primary School

The top three learners were:



Yandelwa Tshandu from
Boshoek Primary School (95%)



Rapoo Phemelo of
Luka Primary school (94%)



Thantsha Bahumi of
Luka Primary School (92%)

The top three schools were:



Luka Primary
School (73,3%)



Bonwakgogo Primary
School (62,8%)



Rasimone Primary
School (61,5%)

The RBI Maths Olympiad was successfully concluded at Boshoek Primary School with 11-year-old Yandelwa Tshandu taking the top honours. The RBI Maths Olympiad, now in its 6th year, brought together bright minds from (12) participating schools. Following the six years in which only primary schools participated, the last three years included four secondary school learners, grade 8s and 9s.

This year's competition was fierce, with learners demonstrating remarkable passion and abilities for Mathematics, demonstrated by their prowess in the complex problem-solving skill which involves critical thinking, decision-making and, creativity and information processing and critical thinking.

Mme Gadifele Moremi, from RBI's School's Unit captured the essence and purpose of the Maths Olympias as follows; "This event is vital for our learners. It not only challenges them to achieve academically, but also builds their confidence and encourages a spirit of healthy competition, we are proud to provide our learners with a platform to showcase their talents and learn from one another" she concluded.

The RBI Maths Olympiad continues to inspire and empower both teachers and learners in the schools to continue pursue their dreams, hopes. The importance of Mathematics education and the potential of learners to excel in the field are tools that can and should be optimally utilised in the realisation of those dreams and hopes. As we look forward to next year's competition, which promises to be more robust and engaging, the excitement and dedication shown by the participants promise an even greater event and experience ahead.

Women in Mining Career Fair held

Women in Mining Career Fair held

On 5 October 2024, RBI, Alexander Fraser and Women In Mining South Africa (WIMSA) proudly hosted their second Women in the Mining Career Fair. The career fair aimed at bridging the gap between gender roles in the mining industry and empowering young girls to believe that the mining industry is not only for men but for women as well. The event was held at Bafokeng Secondary School, with over 290 young girls and 50 boys attending from 29 primary schools of Royal Bafokeng Nation, and over 50 influential experts and professional mentors from large mining companies like Anglo American, Sibanye Stillwater, and Impala Mining.

Highlights:

Keynote speakers shared their journeys, emphasising to learners that their backgrounds shouldn't be a barrier to their future aspirations and that they should be able to dream and know that anything they put their minds to is possible through hard work, dedication and perseverance.

Learners were then put into different groups where mentoring began, and conversations such as career development, skills needed, and opportunities for women in mining were had. This enabled learners to ask questions while encouraging them to make the best choices when choosing subjects and careers in their education journey. The mentoring was meant to not only inspire learners but to spark their interest in the mining industry.

Various mining organisations ran an exhibition alongside the above activities and showcased what their organisations had to offer, the diversity of job opportunities available, and how one would be successful in those jobs. RBI believes that events of this nature are both impactful and insightful, and looks forward to hosting many more in the future to ensure that learners are equipped to identify the correct subject choices for the careers they aspire to in the future.

In conclusion, learners were encouraged to embrace the STEM [SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS] subjects, to enable them to work in the mining sector in the future.

