

PMC taking the lead

Mine Metallurgical Managers Association in South Africa (MMMA) for the Northern District held its regional meeting on July 28 at Polokwane Royal Hotel in Polokwane.

The meeting which was chaired by Palabora Mining Company (PMC), Vermiculite Business Manager, John Makgatho, was attended by metallurgists from the Limpopo Northern District, including the association's former national Senior Vice President, Tumi Molapo.

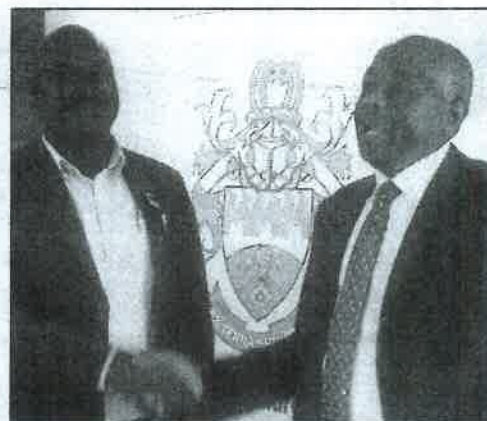
In his opening address, Makgatho said that mines in the northern district of Limpopo are faced with economic difficulties and that metallurgists can assist in ensuring that mines are sustainable. "Metallurgists have a critical role to play in ensuring that mines come up with sustainable projects that can save costs and ensure that the industry sustains jobs," Makgatho said. Simson Tekane from PMC shared a presentation on energy savings at PMC's Vermiculite Plant.

Tekane indicated that the PMC energy saving project is one of the sustainable energy saving projects in the industry. Tekane indicated that the PMC energy saving project was initiated in 2014 in partnership with Ensign Solutions with the ultimate aim to optimize the vermiculite plant to save energy and ultimately, costs. "Since the project was initiated in 2014, PMC has managed to save up to R11, 5

million and up to 2, 6663 tons of coal through this project," said Tekane. The former Senior Vice President of the MMMA, Tumi Molapo, who is currently the Director of Marketing and Sales at Afrinet Technologies, indicated that for the association to continue adding value to the mining industry in South Africa, it is critical to work harder in increasing its membership to ensure that metallurgists meet regularly to talk about problems and devise solutions for mines.

"Due to fluctuations in commodity prices, mines can no longer rely on surviving on their products and commodities but need to focus on processes to save costs and prevent job losses," Molapo stressed. In his closing remarks, John Makgatho encouraged young metallurgists to join MMMA so that they can share their experiences and learn from the old metallurgists who are about to retire to ensure continuity of knowledge base in the mining industry. "The critical thing that can also help this process is for older metallurgists to continue documenting their work and research to ensure that future metallurgists have a reference point to improve on issues facing the industry," concluded Makgatho.

When asked about the value of PMC belonging to professional organisations like MMMA, the External Affairs and Communications Manager for PMC indicated that professional organisations allow for a group



GOLDEN HANDSHAKE: Former chairperson for the Northern District Region, Tumi Molapo, and Palabora Mining Company (PMC), Vermiculite Business Manager, John Makgatho.

of like-minded professionals that are immersed in the inner workings of their industry to share ideas and opinions that help industries to come up with solutions for its problems.

Interaction with like-minded professionals from other organisations that face similar challenges and who may be able to provide insights into solutions that have worked for them.

Grand-Dame of f

This women's month, Caroline van Zyl, who resides in Phalaborwa, proves to us that growing older makes you happier and content with yourself. Her birthday was celebrated recently, where her family and friends came together to appreciate her being and her greatness. In 1937, a remarkable woman was born in Benoni. At the age of two, her family moved to Northern Rhodesia, where she grew up and got married. Caroline gave birth to two sons, Trevor (55) and Craig (50) van Zyl. She has been married to Johannes van Zyl for 58 years and their love grows stronger as they grow older. In 1967, she and her husband moved back to South Africa, Phalaborwa, where they've