

ORBIT COLLEGE & PLATINUM INCUBATOR 'GEMS' DAZZLE AT THE 2018 PLAT AFRICA COMPETITION

By Tshegofatso Rapoo



Siyabonga Mtshukuma, Olebogeng Mushiane, Koketso Lenyatsa, Mable Moruwakgomo took part in the 19th annual PlatAfrica Competition on 24 October 2018 in Kyalami, Midrand

Four ORBIT College 'jewels' were selected to take part in the 19th annual PlatAfrica Competition, which took place on 24 October 2018 at the Theatre on the Track in Kyalami, Midrand. *PlatAfrica* is a high-profile initiative that promotes innovation and nurtures new talent in Platinum Jewellery Design and Manufacturing.

Themed, 'Blessings of Love', this year's competition looked to celebrate the important milestones in the lives of young women. Siyabonga Mtshukuma, Olebogeng Mushiane, Koketso Lenyatsa, Mable Moruwakgomo from ORBIT College, as well as other professional, apprentice and student designers were tasked with submitting designs that would commemorate these milestones across three broad categories: *Nature's Spirit, Modern Feminine and Cultural Confluence*. Their final jewellery pieces had to emphasise the rarity and strength of both platinum and the women who wear it through modern, timeless design.

It was the first time that the Rustenburg Campus Jewellery Design and Manufacture graduates, and now incubatees of The Platinum Incubator situated at Rustenburg Campus, entered this sought-after competition. Even though none of them won, Mr Mtshukuma said that having been selected to compete was an achievement on its own. “The entire experience was totally amazing, and went beyond my expectations! Being in the presence of some of SA’s renowned and rising jewellery designers and manufacturers, was an eye opener and a motivation to do much better next year,” Mr Mtshukuma said. He added that he is grateful to the Platinum Incubator Management Team, especially the Production Manager, Mr Tebogo Nkesi who continues to mentor and inspire them.

The Platinum Incubator did however produce two winners at the event! A Motheo TVET College student, Mr Mandlenkosi Moses won 3rd position in the ‘Professional Category’, while Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) student, Mr Matete Seliane of *Seliane Jewels* scooped the ‘2018 People’s Choice Award’.

TPI CEO, Ms Sibongile Shongwe says she is very proud of all the candidates for doing so well. “We are extremely proud of them for having gone as far as they did in the competition, considering that they were all first-time entrants. This was definitely a confidence booster, and I have no doubt that they will do even better next year. It is pleasing to see our young people at the fore front of the beneficiation chain of Platinum minerals”, Ms Shongwe said. “I am also very excited that the collaboration between the TPI and the College is finally bearing fruits. So far, we have prepared and developed more than 70 graduates (NQF Level 5-7), from all over South Africa, as well as 140 NQF Level 3 & 4 candidates from ORBIT TVET College Jewellery Manufacture & Design Programme,” she concluded.

The winners will be travelling to India as part of the collaboration between Anglo American Platinum and PGI India, to participate in PGI India’s design outsourcing process for the prestigious Evara brand.

The PlatAfrica Competition is a partnership between Anglo American Platinum, Platinum Guild International (PGI) India and Metal Concentrators