

Chrome Dinner Awards 2026 Nomination

Service Provider Collaboration and Recognition Award

# Empowering Academic Success and Sustainable Learning at Marikana North High School through the Tharisa Minerals and Engen Partnership

## Nominee

Engen Petroleum, nominated by Tharisa Minerals

### Award Category

Service Provider Collaboration and Recognition Award

### Executive Summary

Tharisa Minerals proudly nominates Engen Petroleum for the Service Provider Collaboration and Recognition Award in recognition of a partnership that has delivered meaningful social impact at Marikana North High School. The collaboration combines two complementary interventions: the Matric Bootcamp Programme, which supports Grade 12 examination readiness, and a 15kW portable solar-powered energy system, which strengthens learning continuity in the school's mathematics and science laboratories. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how industry partners can advance education, youth development, sustainable infrastructure and community resilience through practical, shared investment.

In 2025, Tharisa Minerals and Engen jointly invested R86,800 in the Matric Bootcamp Programme to provide Grade 12 learners with academic support, study resources and an environment focused on final examination preparation. This educational investment was strengthened by the installation of a 15kW portable solar-powered energy system with advanced battery backup, ensuring that mathematics and science teaching could continue during power outages.

By combining targeted academic support with reliable renewable energy infrastructure, the partnership moved beyond a once-off contribution to provide a more holistic and sustainable response to learner needs. It built on the success of previous collaboration while demonstrating a strengthened commitment to educational upliftment, innovation, and long-term community development within Tharisa's host communities.

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## The Power of Strategic Partnership

Meaningful community development is rarely achieved in isolation. The combined success of the Marikana North High School Matric Bootcamp Programme and 15kW portable solar-powered energy system is the direct result of a collaborative partnership between Tharisa Minerals and Engen, built on shared values and a common vision for community advancement.

Engen's identification of Marikana North High School as a beneficiary created an opportunity to support learners in two practical ways. The Matric Bootcamp Programme strengthened Grade 12 preparation for the National Senior Certificate examinations, while the 15kW portable solar-powered energy system provided stable power for mathematics and science laboratories, helping teaching and practical learning continue during electricity disruptions.

The partnership demonstrates how service providers and mining companies can move beyond traditional business relationships to become agents of positive social change. Through joint planning, funding, innovation, and implementation, both organisations leveraged their strengths to deliver an integrated intervention that supports examination readiness, learning continuity, energy resilience, and long-term socio-economic development.

## Supporting Education, Youth Development and Learning Continuity

Education remains one of the most powerful tools for breaking cycles of poverty and creating opportunities for long-term socio-economic development. The partnership supported learners at Marikana North High School through direct academic intervention and by strengthening the school's learning infrastructure.

Together, the initiatives provided learners and educators with:

- Additional academic support and revision opportunities for Grade 12 learners.
- Structured learning environments conducive to examination preparation.
- Access to educational resources and study materials.
- Reliable, sustainable energy for mathematics and science laboratories.
- Advanced battery backup to support uninterrupted learning during power outages.
- Continuous teaching and practical learning experiences despite external electricity disruptions.

- A supportive environment that encouraged academic excellence, confidence, and personal growth.

By combining concentrated learning support with renewable infrastructure, the partnership helped equip learners with the tools and conditions necessary to approach their final examinations with greater confidence, while also strengthening the school's ability to deliver science and mathematics education consistently.

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## Delivering Sustainable Community Impact

The impact of the partnership extends beyond examination preparation. By investing in both academic readiness and renewable learning infrastructure, the partnership contributes to broader community development objectives, including:

- Improved educational outcomes for local learners.
- Increased opportunities for tertiary education and employment.
- Greater youth empowerment and personal development.
- Reliable teaching and practical learning in mathematics and science laboratories.
  - Reduced disruption caused by power outages and energy instability.
  - Reduced pressure on electricity costs through sustainable energy use.
- Enhanced community confidence in Corporate Social Investment initiatives.
- Long-term socio-economic upliftment through skills, knowledge development, and resilient infrastructure.

The programme aligns with sustainable development priorities by investing in learners, strengthening school infrastructure and improving the conditions needed for consistent teaching and practical learning. Its benefits extend beyond the classroom by supporting families, building community confidence and contributing to long-term youth development in Marikana.

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## A Partnership Built on Shared Values

What sets this collaboration apart is the alignment of purpose between Tharisa Minerals and Engen. Both organisations recognise that responsible corporate citizenship requires active participation in the development of the communities in which they operate.

The combined support for the Matric Bootcamp Programme and 15kW portable solar-powered energy system demonstrates:

- Long-term commitment rather than once-off intervention.
- Shared accountability for community development outcomes.
- Effective collaboration between corporate partners.
- A focus on sustainable and measurable social impact.
- Innovation through renewable energy and resilient learning infrastructure.
- Genuine investment in the success of local youth.

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Through this partnership, Engen has demonstrated that service providers can play a vital role in expanding the reach and effectiveness of Corporate Social Investment initiatives by combining educational support with practical, future-focused infrastructure solutions.

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This integrated approach also aligns strongly with global sustainable development priorities, as the partnership addresses educational access, clean energy, youth opportunity and collaborative implementation in one coordinated programme.

## Alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals

The Marikana North High School partnership directly supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by investing in education, strengthening partnerships, supporting renewable infrastructure, and creating opportunities for youth development within Tharisa's host communities.

- **SDG 4: Quality Education:** The Matric Bootcamp Programme provides Grade 12 learners with additional academic support, revision opportunities, study resources, and a structured environment to strengthen examination readiness, while the 15kW portable solar-powered energy system supports uninterrupted learning in the school's mathematics and science laboratories.
- **SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy:** The 15kW portable solar-powered energy system, supported by advanced battery backup, provides a reliable and sustainable energy source that reduces dependence on unstable electricity supply and supports practical learning during outages.
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth:** By supporting matric success, mathematics and science learning, and future skills development, the partnership contributes to improved access to tertiary education and future employment pathways for young people in the community.
- **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities:** The partnership helps reduce barriers faced by learners in host communities by improving access to educational support,

reliable learning infrastructure, and a more equitable opportunity for academic achievement.

- SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals: The collaboration between Tharisa Minerals and Engen demonstrates how strategic partnerships can pool resources, introduce innovative solutions, strengthen implementation, and amplify positive social impact.

## Why This Partnership Deserves Recognition

The Tharisa Minerals and Engen partnership exemplifies the spirit of the Service Provider Collaboration and Recognition Award by demonstrating how strategic collaboration can create meaningful and lasting social value.

The partnership is deserving of recognition because it:

- Demonstrates exceptional collaboration between a mining company and service provider.
  - Creates measurable social impact through investment in education and renewable infrastructure.
  - Supports youth development, academic excellence, and science and mathematics learning.
  - Strengthens learning continuity through reliable solar power and battery backup.
  - Builds on previous success through sustained commitment and practical innovation.
  - Contributes to the long-term development and resilience of host communities.
  - Showcases how partnerships can amplify the impact of Corporate Social Investment initiatives.
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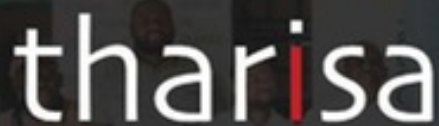
## Closing Statement

The Marikana North High School partnership stands as a powerful example of what can be achieved when organisations work together in pursuit of a shared purpose. Through the combined commitment of Tharisa Minerals and Engen, learners have received direct academic support through the Matric Bootcamp Programme and reliable renewable energy infrastructure through the 15kW portable solar-powered system.

This partnership goes beyond financial support—it represents a shared investment in education, empowerment, sustainability, and community resilience. By supporting examination readiness while also enabling uninterrupted learning in mathematics and science laboratories, Tharisa Minerals and Engen have demonstrated how corporate

partnerships can transform lives and help build a brighter, greener future for the youth of Marikana.

For these reasons, Tharisa Minerals proudly nominates Engen Petroleum for the Chrome Dinner Awards Service Provider Collaboration and Recognition Award.

The Tharisa logo is displayed in a large, white, sans-serif font. The letter 'i' is stylized with a red vertical bar as its dot. The logo is positioned on the left side of a dark, semi-transparent banner that features a background image of a group of people, including students and adults, smiling and holding a certificate.

## **THARISA MINERALS AND ENGEN PARTNER TO EMPOWER LEARNERS**



Tharisa Minerals and Engen recently partnered to sponsor Marikana North High School's Matric Bootcamp, designed to prepare learners for their final examinations.

This initiative, led by our Social Performance Department, forms part of our ongoing commitment to supporting meaningful CSI initiatives that positively impact our communities.



Tharisa Minerals and Engen committed to sponsoring the program for a third consecutive year, following the success of the 2023 camp. The bootcamps are also organized in close collaboration with the North West Department of Education.



The handover event was attended by key stakeholders including the School Governing Body, learners, and officials from the Bojanala District Department of Education. Learners expressed their gratitude for the support and requested that such initiatives continue in the future.



By investing in learners and equipping them with the right tools and resources, we are creating opportunities for academic success while building futures for the next generation.



## MARIKANA NORTH HIGH SCHOOL POWERED UP

Tharisa Minerals, in collaboration with Engen, has introduced a 15kW portable solar-powered energy system at Marikana High School — representing the latest evolution in Engen's renewable technology. The system includes an advanced battery backup, ensuring uninterrupted learning even during power outages.

This innovative installation provides a reliable and sustainable energy source for the school's Mathematics and Science laboratories, enabling continuous teaching and practical learning experiences regardless of external power disruptions.

In a country facing persistent energy challenges, this project stands as a model for sustainable solutions that not only reduce electricity costs but also contribute to a greener and more resilient future. Through this initiative, Tharisa reaffirms its commitment to empowering communities through innovation, collaboration, and responsible resource use.