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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **LOCAL YOUNGSTERS SET FOR STARDOM**

Dipaleseng Local Municipality is exploding with pure and natural talent; this was reflected on Saturday, 08<sup>th</sup> October 2016 four youngsters from the municipality were chosen to be part of the Orlando Pirates Soccer Academy's development team. They were chosen at a trial session held at the Arthur Bloch Park in Mayfair, Johannesburg.

Nervousness did not subdue their flair on the ground as the foursome blew away the talent scouts with their magnificent ball skill on the day. They were accompanied by their local coach, Mr. Thokozane Mokoena who cannot contain his excitement over the boys' achievement.

Mzwakhe Miya from Isifisosethu Secondary School, Keletso Nyamathe and Mafa Mokoena both from IM Manchu Secondary School as well as Tshepo Mokoena from Holmdene Secondary School all have the potential of being great soccer stars of tomorrow through this programme.

The Orlando Pirates' Youth Development which is spearheaded by Augusto Palacios is regarded as one of the powerhouses of football development in this country and Pirates' youth structures have produced great talents over the years.

The boys are set to start their journey with the club in January 2017, after they have concluded all required processes, including the payment of registration fee to the value of R1 500.00 each.

They were congratulated by the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mafunda L Makhubu and the Member of Mayoral Committee responsible for Community Services & Public Safety, Cllr. Zanele Ngwenya on this incredible accomplishment which is definitely going to turn their lives around for the better.

The Executive Mayor, further committed to pay for all their registration fees amounting to R6 000.00, the boys' transportation costs would be carried by Mr. Zakhele Maya, a local entrepreneur and one of the chairpersons of Local Economic Development Forum (LEDF)

while on behalf of the municipality, the MMC promised that sporting gear including track suits, soccer boots and a bag would be provided to the four.

“This goes to show that, your background really is immaterial, but through dedication and hard work absolutely anything is possible,” said the Executive Mayor as he was encouraging the boys who hail from the dusty streets of Siyathemba. He pleaded with them to continue to work hard and never lose focus of their dreams.

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