

# Matric top achievers rewarded with laptops

## THOBILE HANS

NDLAMBE Municipality mayor Siphon Tandani presented four first-year university students with much needed laptops last Friday.

The four recipients were last year's high achievers in maths and science from Ndlambe's formerly underprivileged schools.

Tandani presented Noluvo Mbabela, Thulethu Dyala and Thulani Hoboshe with laptops at a special occasion in the council chamber. The fourth top achiever – Babalwa Sneyi of Kenton-on-Sea – was awarded a laptop in absentia. They are all under 20 years.

The three students are halfway through their first year. Dyala matriculated from Ukhanyo Senior Secondary (Alexandria) and Hoboshe from Kuyasa. They are studying electrical engineering and chemical processing technology at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) respectively.

Former Nomzamo High School pupil Mbabela is studying towards a journalism qualification at Rhodes University. Her studies are being funded by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.



**BRIGHT MINDS: Ndlambe Municipality mayor Siphon Tandani handed over laptops to first-year university students who excelled in matric last year. From left are: Thulethu Dyala, Noluvo Mbabela and Thulani Hoboshe**

Picture: THOBILE HANS

None of the students had personal computers before, thus the donation will help ease life at university.

Hoboshe, who is on a PetroSA bursary, wants to contribute in environmental science because people have a "misconstrued notion about scientists". He was "grateful for the recognition, I did not see it coming".

Dyala has been bestowed with a merit award at NMMU and is on a Merseta bursary.

She said: "No matter what, our underprivileged back-

grounds should not be holding us back from achieving excellent academic results."

The students' names were forwarded by their principals following a Ndlambe request to put forward students who had excelled in these crucial subjects.

Tandani said this was the first round of computer donations under the mayor's bursary for high academic achievers in matric.

Council resolved to upgrade 11 disused laptops and donate them to matric high achievers who were furthering their studies. The surplus will be given to this year's achievers.

Tandani said Ndlambe planned to partner with businesses in its commitment to promote skills development in the area. He said discussions were under way with the Coega Development Corporation and other organisations to partner in skills development. Ndlambe has a computer literacy programme for the underprivileged done through Stenden South Africa.

Apart from the laptops, Tandani said desktop computers and printers would be donated to rural schools.