

African Bank Limited press release

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MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME GOING STRONG

The 12 Grade 11 learners that African Bank selected as part of its mentorship programme last year are now in Grade 12 and making great progress. African Bank's Hanri Nel and colleague Biby Tilly who have both been driving the project, say the mentees recently enjoyed meeting with experts based in fields that they are interested in. This included a trip to Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) for the accounting side; attorneys' offices and psychologists. Tilly and Nel continue to meet with the girls on a monthly basis to check on their progress.

African Bank arranged tutorial lessons for Math, Science and Accounting from November last year up until they wrote their finals and decided to continue with the lessons once a week, post their finals. "The learners also had career guidance assessments in December and were given feedback on their strengths and where they had potential. They also attended a study workshop and we are currently starting the process of assisting the girls with university and bursary applications," says Tilly.

The mentees are all female and were identified as the top achievers in the three schools the Bank selected as part of this programme. Schools include Umqhele Comprehensive in Ivory Park, and Ingqayizivele Secondary and Thuko Ke Maatla Secondary in Tembisa.

African Bank's Corporate Social Investment (CSI) activities are centred on education, including early childhood development, sports development, teacher development and entrepreneurship and the mentorship programme is the next logical step in terms of CSI.

"The programme is about 'life after Grade 12' and we aim to equip these learners with various skills to help them prepare for the challenges ahead. This will include assistance with choosing a higher education institution, entrance requirements, fees, bursaries, etc. but another component involves soft skills like managing your finances, public speaking, etc. Where necessary, we will offer financial assistance to enable these girls to attend university," concludes Nel.

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