

African Bank Limited press release

15 July 2016

12 learners can now bank on a brighter future

CAPTION: African Bank’s Hanri Nel, Bibi Tilly and Natasha Johnston with the 12 Grade 11 learners taking part in the mentorship programme with Kennedy Dembetembe and Sinnah Moleke

The “big wide world” will soon feel less daunting for 12 Grade 11 learners who have been taken under the wing of African Bank as part of a mentorship programme they hope will enable these youngsters to fulfil their dreams of higher University education.

African Bank’s Hanri Nel, together with two of her colleagues, Bibi Tilly and Natasha Johnston, who are driving the project explain that 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.

Nel explains that 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.”

Kennedy Dembetembe, who heads up the bank’s national CSI drive says, “As an organisation we have been concerned to see the high drop out rate amongst first year university students and a lot of this has to do with readiness. We are very involved in early learning and high school sport and academic development but were missing the bridge between school and university. This programme will start to address the shortfall. In addition to the work Hanri and her team will be doing with the girls my CSI team will also be visiting the schools during the month imparting skills and mentoring so that all the students in that grade can benefit from the programme as well.”

The 12 learners each submitted a short profile to African Bank, indicating their study interests and family circumstances. Many of the girls live with one unemployed parent and more than one sibling and all have aspirations of obtaining a degree after school to pursue

careers such as, amongst others, doctors, chartered accountants and psychologists.

The mentees visited the African Bank offices in Midrand on 14 July for a “meet and greet” with executives and other staff who explained the expectations and requirements of the mentorship, and shared some personal stories with the girls while allowing them a sneak peek into the corporate world.

“We’re very excited to kick this programme off and have a lot planned for the coming months. Our executives and staff are committed to paving the way to a brighter future for these learners and we’re confident they will exceed our expectations,” Nel concludes.

ENDS

Visit the African Bank [website](#) or like them on [Facebook](#)

PREPARED ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN BANK BY CATHY FINDLEY PR. CONTACT JACQUI RORKE ON JACQUI@FINDLEYPR.CO.ZA OR (011) 463-6372 WITH ANY CONSUMER PR QUERIES.