

African Bank Limited press release

10 February 2017

Facilities at Bhekithemba primary school get a New Year facelift

The year started on a high note for children at the Bhekithemba primary school in Umlazi as well as many community members in the area who use the school's sports facilities during the weekend.

Resources at this non fee paying school have been very scarce over the last couple of years and unfortunately a number of the basic facilities had become run down and in urgent need of attention. The project caught the eye of African Bank branch manager in Umlazi, Themba Sibanyoni.

As part of African Bank's Community Champion Awards programme, a programme which speaks directly to the bank's value of empathy and encourages staff to look for initiatives that really show the bank's commitment to changing the communities around it, Sibanyoni managed to arrange for the school sports soccer field to be upgraded as well as the playing area for the children. The team also managed to revamp a Grade R classroom and install a jungle gym for the school.

Speaking at the handover ceremony on Friday 10 February, Bhekithemba School Head of Department, Ms Maphanga, said, "Firstly I would like to thank African Bank for what they have done for the school. I have been at the school for 33 years and most of our kids are from an informal settlement in the area so the upgrade provided a drastic change for the learners. Previously the Grade R's could not play outside because there was nowhere for them to play. They used to stay inside the classroom all the time. Now that they have playground with jungle gym and a soccer field and they are very happy. We have also noticed that more boys have shown an interest in playing soccer now that the fields have goals and are properly marked. The environment in the classroom is also much more conducive for learning - thank you for helping make our day so much better and for these small changes which have made such a big difference in the lives of the children."

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