

December 2021

News Release

African Bank gets small businesses mobile

This month five small business owners, SOS Construction and Projects; 24 Propellers; Raphela K Construction; Abo Choma and Dipalopalo received an early Christmas present, courtesy of African Bank.

Edna Montse, African Bank's new Chief of Staff and Head: Transformation and Sustainability explains the vehicle donations form part of the Bank's transformation and sustainability strategy. "We believe we have a responsibility to engage with businesses in the communities in which we live and work and each of the five small businesses selected already interface with our branch network by providing services such as electrical, plumbing construction and general maintenance."

She says the bank had five vehicles that they normally would have sold on, but instead of selling them this seemed like such an ideal opportunity to donate them to help empower these small business owners. "We really understand how much courage and capital is needed to stay in business these days and what better way to empower the businesses than through the donation of a vehicle which will make them more agile and help them to grow and expand their own small footprint."

Montse is adamant that the group's evolving Enterprise and Supplier Development Strategy needs to be more than just a tick box. "We have to move purposefully towards a more inclusive and empowered market place to scale and sustain entrepreneurs and small business suppliers with whom we partner. That necessitates our vision of enhancing lives extends beyond just our customers and staff, but also to our supplier network as well."

One of the recipients, Limpopo-based SOS Construction, a small business employing six people, says the donation of the van will make things so much easier to expand into Mpumalanga instead of having to incur costly rental costs. The business only has one vehicle at present and this is used to drop employees at various sites which is often challenging and inhibits growth and efficiency.

Ronald Chabalala, who heads 24 Propellers and employs 14 staff agrees that the addition of an extra vehicle will really help the business respond and perform better in its service delivery. “We are involved with air conditioning and refrigeration and maintenance and just the addition of one extra vehicle will make the world of difference,” he says.

Abo Choma, a small electrical and general maintenance company, also battles with reliable transport and the vehicle will assist the team to expand their footprint into Mpumalanga.

Lack of transport for staff and the mobility needed to facilitate growth appear to be general challenges for many small businesses. A similar constraint was expressed by Rhapela K Construction who do general building maintenance, deep cleaning and mechanical air conditioning repair. “We employ a total of 4 people and one of our challenges has always been transport. The vehicle/ transport will help our business grow and the money we save from usually having to hire, can be used to buy equipment rather,” say owners Kgopotso Raphela and Thomas Ramakgoakgoa.

“We appreciate that SMME’s are really the driving force of the South African economy and any small actions to stimulate growth and sustainability in this sector will have multiple positive spinoffs for our economy. We feel very fortunate that we were in a position to make a meaningful difference in the lives of these enterprising small businesses,” concludes Montse.

CAPTIONS:

Caption 1: Proud recipients of a vehicle to help grow their business are 24 Propellers – Ronald Chabalala and Sarah Mabapa; SOS Construction & Projects - Bethwell Ndebele and Itumeleng Kekana; Raphela K Construction – Kgopotso Raphela and Thomas Ramakgoakgoa and from Abo Choma, Nokuthula Choma and Sello Mafaralala pictured here with African Bank Executives Edna Montse, African Bank Chief of Staff and Head: Transformation & Sustainability, Kennedy Bungane, African Bank CEO and Sbusiso Kumalo, African Bank Chief Marketing Officer.

Caption2: Dipalopalo were not able to send a representative at the handover so Sbusiso Kumalo, African Bank Chief Marketing Officer received the donation on their behalf from Edna Montse and Kennedy Bungane.

Ends

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

PREPARED ON BEHALF OF AFRICAN BANK BY CATHY FINDLEY PR.
CONTACT JACQUI MOLOI ON JACQUI@FINDLEYPR.CO.ZA OR 071 764 8233
WITH ANY CONSUMER PR QUERIES.