



The Africanbank Go-Getters Skills Bootcamp

Last week, from 2 – 6 September Africanbank hosted an intensive five-day bootcamp for entrepreneurs at the Emalaheni Local Municipality at the SEDA Witbank Office.

The Africanbank Go-Getters Skills Bootcamp was targeted at SMMEs from impoverished communities and forms part of the bank's commitment to support and empower township and rural entrepreneurs.

The plight of under-serviced entrepreneurs is an issue that resonates strongly within Africanbank. The vision of a bank for the people, by the people, serving the people arose from the obstacles black entrepreneurs had to overcome to realise their business dreams.

Currently, South Africa's unemployment rate sits at 32,9%. During the Global Entrepreneurship Congress, GEC+Africa, co-hosted by Africanbank earlier this year, Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams reiterated that, on average, small, micro and medium enterprises create about 3.7 jobs each.

"Entrepreneurs are the heartbeat of our economy," says Edna Sathekga-Montse, Group Chief Transformation & Sustainability Officer at Africanbank.

"By empowering them with essential skills, we can better equip them to grow and scale their businesses. This, in turn, can have a very positive impact on the communities in which they operate."

Africanbank has curated the Go-Getters Skills Bootcamp that seeks to equip micro business owners with skills such as financial management, leveraging digital tools, business growth, pitching, and marketing.

This bootcamp forms part of a series of Enterprise & Supplier Development (ESD) programmes created by Africanbank. Last month, Africanbank successfully presented a bootcamp in Diepsloot for survivalist entrepreneurs such as car wash owners, hairdressers, small-scale farmers, and vegetable vendors.

Every year the bank rolls out their flagship 12-month Enterprise Supplier Development Capacity Building programme, which backs SMMEs by developing them on aspects such as business readiness, investor readiness, technical assistance support, access to market, and customised business mentorship. In August this year, six of the small businesses who graduated received a discretionary grant valued at R200 000 each to help further grow their respective businesses.

"Our ESD initiatives are underpinned by Africanbank's sustainability lever of inclusivity. We believe that our sustainability is inextricably linked to the sustainability of the communities we serve. We have therefore been intentional in ensuring that the youth, women, and people with disabilities are also included in our initiatives." says Montse-Sathekga.

"Africanbank is committed to advancing the lives of our people by actively investing skills and resources in empowerment initiatives. SMMEs have an important role to play in breathing life back into our national economy, and we have taken it upon ourselves to create a positive impact in the communities we serve. We are a bank that backs entrepreneurs and their audacity to believe."

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