



African Bank Transforms Mpemvu Primary School with Focus on Holistic Education and Community Empowerment

African Bank firmly believes that quality education has a pivotal role to play in empowering sustainable communities. Led by Group Chief Transformation & Sustainability Officer Edna Sathekga-Montse, together with CEO: Personal Banking, Sibongiseni Ngundze and Group Executive: Business Development, David Polkinghorne, the bank hosted an impactful Back to School Initiative at Mpemvu Primary School in Empangeni on 29 January 2025.

Through this initiative, African Bank formally handed over three newly constructed classrooms, aimed at enhancing the learning environment, alongside the distribution of essential school supplies, ensuring that learners are fully equipped for success in the year ahead. It forms part of a nationwide Whole School Development model, which has benefitted six schools in Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape since March 2022.

The transformation at Mpemvu Primary School involved significant infrastructure upgrades, including the renovation of five classrooms and the construction of three new ones, all equipped with modern furniture and interactive digital boards that enhance teaching and engage students. A new ablution facility was also built to promote health and hygiene, ensuring safe sanitation for learners who were previously using pit toilets. Additionally, African Bank donated uniforms, stationery, and backpacks to 234 students, alleviating financial burdens on families. As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility initiatives, the bank has empowered local communities by creating economic opportunities, providing temporary employment for skilled and unskilled laborers, and supporting 20 Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) over the past three years. This initiative has not only benefitted the school but also stimulated the local economy, generating 51 temporary jobs for community members.

Innocentia Nkwanyana, Acting Principal of Mpemvu Primary School, expressed heartfelt gratitude: “We are truly thankful for everything African Bank has done for us and the future support they will provide. Thanks to African Bank, our school now mirrors both township and urban schools, with improved classroom facilities that promote a conducive learning environment. The training we received on using overhead projectors has made teaching easier and has introduced our learners to technology. African Bank has also made a significant impact by replacing pit toilets with modern ablution facilities and ensuring access to running water, improving hygiene and reducing the risk of disease in our rural area. Additionally, the support extended to the Mpemvu Primary School community, including uniforms, stationery, and school bags for learners, is deeply appreciated.

On hot days, when classrooms would be unbearable, the air conditioning provided by African Bank has allowed our learners to stay in class. We are immensely grateful and hope our partnership continues to grow.”

African Bank’s initiatives at Mpemvu Primary School reflect its broader vision of supporting education, empowering communities, and creating a sustainable future for South Africa’s youth. By investing in education and infrastructure, the bank is laying the foundation for a generation of learners who are prepared for success.

About African Bank



African Bank Limited is a Personal and Business & Commercial bank offering a range of financial products and services, serving both private and business customers. The bank has a countrywide branch distribution network and a full digital channel offering, as well as sales, collections, and customer service contact centres. African Bank is a scalable, diversified, and sustainable business focused on its heritage journey of being a bank for the people, by the people, serving the people - with a clear vision and strategy, strong leadership, and an audacious drive to deliver on the promise of its founders.

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