

PRESS RELEASE



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PREPARING THE BANKING SECTOR FOR FUTURE CHALLENGES

The BANKSETA's Women's Development Programme will host a full-day conference entitled: "*Banking, are we stretching ourselves enough?*" at the Southern Sun, Grayston, in Sandton, Johannesburg, on 12 March 2008. Representatives from all tiers of management within the banking and microfinance industry are expected to attend.

"Conferences are very important for knowledge dissemination. South Africans want to increase the body of knowledge in areas such as management and management development. By running conferences such as these, the BANKSETA together with the sector, is able to put knowledge into the public domain for the benefit of the entire sector and the wider corporate community," says BANKSETA CEO, Max Makhubalo.

This is the second conference that women on the 2007 BANKSETA Women's Development Programme have hosted. Following their return from their international study tour to China, candidates hosted a very successful, "*Leading for Change*," Conference in November last year.

"The theme of the conference is highly relevant. Embracing continuous improvement as a mantra, we have to be dissatisfied with the status quo. The world around us continues to develop at a technology and a knowledge level. For organisations to maintain their position, they need to change at the same pace as their operating environment. In order to improve, organisations need to outpace the external rate of change," Makhubalo explains.

The conference will provide an opportunity for candidates on the academic programme to showcase the learning that has taken place over the past year. Candidates will present papers in three areas of strategic importance to the sector: SMMEs opportunities and challenges, leadership: a 2008 perspective, and the

unbanked myth or reality? The papers are based on research that was conducted in China and South Africa as part of the action-learning component.

“I have never been disappointed by the creative ability of our team to put on world-class conferences. This conference will follow that tradition. The BANKSETA’s Women’s Development Conference will anticipate change and prepare our sector to meet both current and future challenges,” Makhubalo informs.

The keynote address will be presented by South African Reserve Bank Deputy Governor, Dr Renosi Mokate. The 2008 Women’s Development Programme will be launched at the conference.

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