

Afrisam and SAMF team up to boost mathematics graduates

Leading black-controlled construction materials group AfriSam, in partnership with the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF), has produced a DVD aimed at encouraging learners to pursue careers in the field of mathematics. The driver of this initiative is to address the issue of skills shortage in South Africa.

The DVD, titled 'Careers in Mathematics', was launched at a function held in Midrand in July.

"The shortage of skills in professions that require mathematics as a core subject is a countrywide problem," Tsholo Diale, corporate social responsibility manager at AfriSam, says. "As a leading player in the building materials industry, we are constantly faced with the challenge of finding suitable candidates for positions such as engineers, draughtsmen and other similar roles."

The DVD is a 20 minute production highlighting a wide variety of career options within the field of mathematics. It features interviews with high calibre individuals who are leaders in their chosen mathematics-based or related professions.

Ten thousand copies of the DVD will be distributed to over 5 700 schools nationwide for teachers to use as a tool in guiding learners who wish to pursue careers in this area. Copies will also be sent to tertiary institutions for use during their open days.

AfriSam has an intensive CSR programme with a focus on education and conservation. The company is involved in various educational projects nationwide, with the objective of empowering and equipping communities with the knowledge and skills, as well as providing them with the



From left to right: Tsholo Diale, corporate social responsibility manager at AfriSam; Professor Mamokgethi Setati from the SAMF and Stephan Olivier, acting CEO at AfriSam

tools and facilities to become self-reliant and sustainable. The company's overall community involvement mission is to understand the needs of society and communities in areas where it does business to make meaningful and sustainable contributions to their upliftment.

About SAMF

The South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) is a Section 21 company registered to advance the mathematics development and education of South African children and young people through improved quality teaching and learning of mathematics as well as through public awareness activities. ■