Ayanda C Mhlanga

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96 on Fourth Street Parkmore Sandton 2196

## Dr Mr/Mss/Mrs

My name is Ayanda Charmaine Mhlanga, I am accomplishing my 3<sup>rd</sup> year in Construction Studies at Witwatersrand University. This is my first year with the organization 18twenty8 and I have nothing but great things to say about it.

I commenced my degree in 2015 and throughout my studies I struggled to get sponsors/ bursaries to fund me. In my first year I was lucky to be funded by NSFAS but the consecutive years it rejected me. My single mother had to take multiple loans to pay for my studies. This year I didn't think I would be studying and finishing my last year of my degree, luckily my friend worked with a colleague that knew about the organization and she told me about it. I applied for it and here I am today one of the student who received the funding.

18twenty8 lifted the burden of having to constantly worry about finances as I embarked the year. I believed I also proved myself to them that the opportunity offered to me I did not take it for granted. I am proud to say I managed to achieve straight A's in all my courses I was taking this year, and I believe I wouldn't have achieved this without the help of 18twenty8 and for that I am grateful.

I went to one of the empowering meetings called big sister/little sister were I was assigned a mentor to talk to me about my career and what I actually inspire in life. It was mind opening I learnt a lot about the corporate world, how to navigate through it and also I was taught the importance of personal branding and knowing yourself. That meeting changed my perspective about the working environment in a positive way.

I appreciate 18twenty8 for giving me this opportunity to flourish in my profession without having to worry about my fees.

Sincerely

Ayanda C. Mhlanga