



Efeng Bacha 2021 - 2022

Nthabiseng Mabetlela



What are you studying?

Bachelor of Science in
Computer Science



Where are you studying?

University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg



How do you want the Efeng Bacha Initiative to assist your entrepreneurship journey?

Given my background in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, my focus will be on building an innovation-driven social enterprise that addresses the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. As an MIT Global Startup Labs alumna, I have learnt that to create such a project one would need to do extensive research on market segmentation to select a beachhead group. Doing this would be costly and time-consuming but it is vital to any entrepreneurship journey. Thus, I kindly request resources and correct skills as well as connections to conduct such a task.

Secondly, I wish to create a physical minimal viable product that is based on Internet of Things. To do so, access to a place such as the makerspace at Tshimologong Precinct would be of great assistance.

Lastly, because nothing exists in isolation, I wish to learn how to advocate. Having being part of the Wits WCCO-ASRI programme 2021, I found the experience insightful and rewarding however it was rather too short hence much of the topics were not covered in-depth. Being aware that many of the social problems cannot be eradicated using only technology, advocacy would help me amplify my voice and use it to elevate my impact.



How do you #ServeLikeMadiba?

To rephrase what Nelson Mandela once said, we should bring back the culture of caring. I believe volunteering is the epitome of this statement and this is the reason why I lend a hand at quite a few organisations. On campus, I volunteer at the Wits Citizenship and Community Outreach programme where we pack and distribute food parcels which are then handed out to students on a weekly basis. Outside of campus, I am a volunteer under UNICEF South Africa as well as CANSA, with the latter being very close to my heart. At Youth@SAIIA, I serve on the Youth Policy Committee where we recently issued out the South African Youth Climate Action Plan to target goal number 13 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Climate Action. I was recently picked as a member for the invitation-only programme at the Millennium Campus Network where we build capacity, expand our network, and learn how to create meaningful projects that push any of the UN SDGs. Lastly, I am the incoming Deputy Chairperson for the School of Computer Science and Applied Mathematics Council 2021/2022 at Wits University and serve as the Women in Tech Lead on campus under our newly established Google Developer's Student Club. These latter two roles bound me to my duty and responsibility as a young woman in technology to help booster the numbers of girls in my degree and ensure they access many opportunities in computing. young confident beings that will be able to voice out their issues concerning the status quo. I do this through mentoring and coaching in public speaking and debate. I strongly believe that every child has a potential they need to unleash.



As a #legacyleader, what is your advice to the children and youth of our nation?

Never exclude yourself from any opportunity because you think you are unworthy of it or not good enough. Go for it! Even when you think you only have half as much of potential, just go for it. Be brave – trying is the first step.



What is the legacy you hope to leave one day?

My life's purpose is to bring dignity to the African child by changing their trajectory. The work that I have done so far allowed me to serve like Madiba and make a difference. It has given me hope that in our lifetime, we too, as an African nation can shine as bright or even brighter than countries in the higher-income range by empowering our youth and giving them everything they need to compete on an international level. Ndaba Mandela mentioned in his book "11 Lessons from Nelson Mandela" that Tata Madiba saw children as a priority, from both a humanitarian and strategic perspective and given that our country as a very youthful demographic, we should put a lot of effort and care into the futures of children and youth people. Serious effort, time and money.



What is your favourite Nelson Mandela quote?

"It's time for the new hands to lift the burdens. It's in your hands now."

