



88BCAFRICA
FEMALE FOUNDER
ACCELERATOR



**ACCELERATING WORLD-CLASS
AFRICAN BUSINESSES**

The 88BCAfrica Female Founder Accelerator

Launching a powerful movement

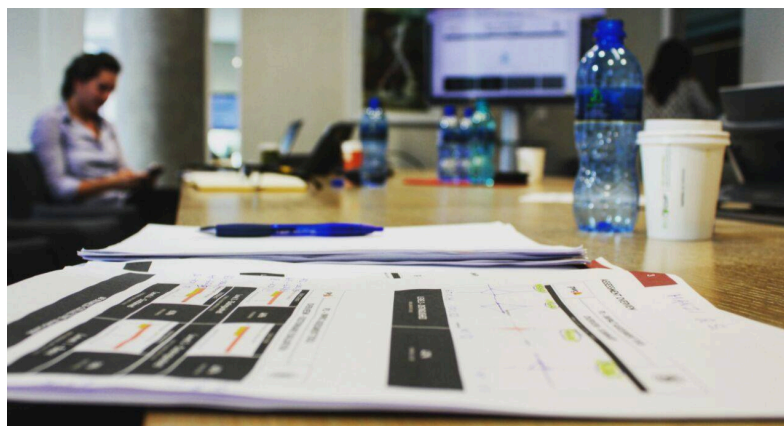
On 28 October 2016, we launched our 18-month programme to a room of over 100 Female Founders from all parts of the Western Cape. We hosted another application event in partnership with the BMF and Webber Wentzel that attracted over 60 Female Founders in March 2017. The overwhelming response from Female Founders in various stages in their businesses solidified the fact that the time was right to host an accelerator programme focused on Female Founders and a programme that would pay close attention to the wellness of the Founder. This is most certainly what sets the 88 Business Collective apart from the many programmes in the accelerator space.

We opened applications for the 18-month Accelerator in April and had an overwhelming response from Female Founders in various industries and stages in their businesses. We engaged PwC to host our first pitch days at their prestigious PwC offices in May and selected the 12 Female Founders who would be on the 18-month Accelerator. Our partnership with PwC started early on in our journey and it's a highly valued collaboration as it assisted us to grow in leaps and bounds. The invaluable offer by Sheldon Goncalves and his team to host our quarterly Advisory Board meetings from October 2017 – October 2018 meant we could roll-out a seamless Advisory process. The high impact Finance Bootcamp held from February – May 2018 and facilitated by the dynamic Clyde Ruiters and Sandra Langeveld left a lasting impression on our first cohort and we have seen many make better financial decisions.

Monitoring and evaluation is an important deliverable for any Programme Manager, working closely with the PwC team to develop a bespoke Impact Assessment Tool armed us with the ability to measure our impact. Clyde Ruiters and Sheldon Goncalves played a crucial role in developing and streamlining the data analytics tool.

We launched our 12-week Winter Bootcamp on 6 June 2018 and weekly we witnessed how the programme impacted the women and their businesses, as they were able to use the content real time. On Friday, 1 September 2017, we hosted our first funding pitch at Rise Cape Town as we wrapped up the bootcamp. Investors from ABSA, Edge Growth, Uprise Africa and Social Investment Africa pledged funding support amounting to over R2million. They met their Board of Advisors at PwC on Friday, 6 October and this serves as the main measure for accountability until October 2018.

The Founders and Finance Series as well as the monthly First Thursday Workshops held at the Absa Innovation Lab in Woodstock formed part of the programmatic interventions post-bootcamp. We ensured continued support by connecting Founders to corporates and through networking events with our partners like Future Females and Start-up Grind.



2018-Q1 Advisory Board Meetings

We are on a mission to change the dismal state of affairs when it comes to Tech Female Founders by ensuring we play a crucial role in plugging the leaky tech pipeline for black Female Founders especially but we cannot do this alone. Over the past two-years since launching the 88 Business Collective and rolling out our first two accelerator programmes, we have gained significant insight into the interventions needed to create a robust pipeline for the tech ecosystem. In collaboration with our strategic partners, we want to build on our successes and achievements to date.



The Accelerator Programme

We have created a programme that guarantees accelerated growth for Emerging Female Founders and by working with them closely we create world-class African businesses. Over the past 24-months, we have proven that our intense yet holistic model works. Here is an overview of the core pillars that drive the accelerator programme.

The Board

The Advisory Board ensures Founders have a platform for continued accountability and feedback. We approach the process similar to a Board of Directors for corporate companies. During the meeting the board members interact with the individual Founder and offer their assessments based on their areas of expertise. Board members offer advice and targets to be achieved by the Founder for the next meeting.

The Coach

The Founders are supported by a Business Coach in order to take their acute self-awareness both personally and professionally to new levels. Personal growth and development is about authenticity that is grounded in acute self-awareness, confidence and creativity and how this plays a role in aligning with WHY the business exists. Yes, healthy Founders create healthy businesses.

The Bootcamp

The bootcamp forms the primary basis for development and changed behaviour by the Female Founders. Our belief is that business owner development equals business development. To assist the Female Founders to grow and scale their business requires shifting and changing mindsets and adopting new competencies to ensure business growth and expansion.

The Workshops

We host monthly First Thursday Workshops aimed at motivating the Female Founders to share challenges and to simply connect in real time as we close the trust deficit that naturally exists when a diverse group of individuals come together. We feature inspirational Female Founders as speakers with dedicated time for networking. A key aspect of these events is to activate business linkages as a new way to jointly tackle bigger contracts and opportunities.



The Finance

Most Female Founders have an unhealthy relationship with their finances and we aim to fix this through the Founders and Finance Series launched in August 2018. The series came as a result of successfully hosting our Financial Wellness Brunches featuring Dr. Aisha R. Pandor and Carol Bouwer, who authentically shared their financial wellness journeys. The new series takes the conversation to a much deeper level and is more practical as we support Founders to fix their relationship with money.

The Village

We know that it takes a village to grow a business and we have successfully proven our Growth Through Collaboration methodology works over the past two years. In 2019, we will develop a blockchain powered app that will make our digital village a reality. We will utilise the tech space to ensure continued support for the village by incorporating machine learning. This 88BCAfrica App will enhance the Founders' work habits, the management of their daily goals and the way they accomplish tasks. In addition we will share industry specific best practice and schedule events.



The Village at our First Thursday Workshop



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The 2018 Scalerator

Fixing the leaky tech pipeline

We know the market is changing rapidly with exponential technologies such as 3D printing are becoming available to everyone, with prices dropping around 400 times over the course of seven years and, as a result, democratizing manufacturing. The Internet of Things is moving into our lives with connected devices increasing from 10 billion in 2010 to a forecasted 70 billion by 2020. While large organizations struggle to keep up with the pace, startups out-grow their competition by leveraging exponential technologies and reinventing the market over and over again. Many successful startups act as “exponential organizations”, meaning that their out-put is at least 10 times higher than that of their peers.

We cannot accelerate world-class businesses in isolation, we believe collaboration is the future and what corporates need is a way to connect their strengths and resources with external innovation in order to drive exponential growth and prevent themselves from becoming victims of digital darwinism. Notably, established corporates own valuable resources such as a global infrastructure, strong brand reputation, business relationships, experience with regulators, scientific knowledge, process excellence and access to data. Startups and exponential organizations on the other hand, can offer corporations a flow of ideas, organizational agility, the willingness to take risk and the drive to scale rapidly. It is this symbiotic relationship that will drive this African Century and we have experienced the power of collaborating with corporates through our partnership with Absa and PwC.

We want a huge percentage of black Female Founders from Cape to Cairo to participate in the Industrial Revolution 4.0. Yes, be active participants. We co-created the Rise Scalerator with Absa earlier this year and this symbiotic relationship ensured accelerated growth for five Emerging Female Founders. The 6-month programme was powered by our high impact methodology. There are various organizations focused on Founders but what sets us apart is that the 88BCAfrica Accelerator Programme supports Female Founders holistically by providing:



The 88BCAfrica Accelerator Programme

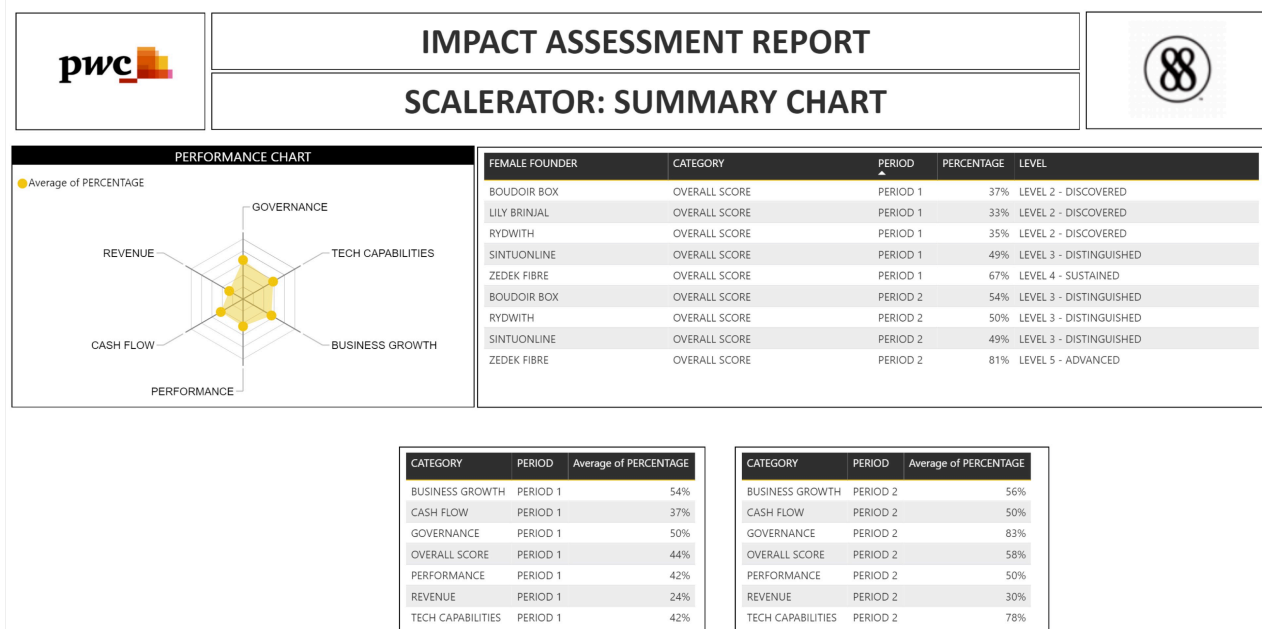
We opened applications for the Tech Female Founder Accelerator in March 2018 and shortlisted five dynamic Founders in the fibre, e-Commerce and secureTech space. We kicked-off the 12-week bootcamp on 1 June and supported by the broader Cape Town tech ecosystem players, we believe the training will have a lasting impact on these start-ups. The Female Founders were also offered the Founder Basket, which included free office space at the Absa Innovation Lab and a full service accounting package by SMTAX. The basket is a value-added service that ensures the Founders are supported holistically.

The 12-week bootcamp culminated in a pitch day at the Absa Innovation Lab on 28 August and was a resounding success as the Female Founders displayed to a full house that they were funding ready. The pitch day was followed up with office hours, this gave the Founders the opportunity to interact with funders one-on-one and have a deeper investment discussion.

The post-bootcamp programmatic maintenance included one-on-one sessions with a Business Coach and monthly meetings with an Advisory Board. The Advisory Board ensures entrepreneurs have a platform for continued accountability and feedback. We approach the process similar to a Board of Directors for corporate companies. This sounding board and accountability mechanism drives founders to better decision-making, which positively influences the growth of start-ups.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Impact Assessment Report compiled and verified by PwC specifically for our accelerator programme quantifies the impact of the programme but also gives the Female Founder an overview of their overall performance month-on-month. The data analytics provided by the PwC Impact Assessment Tool is extremely important for us as it also guides us to implement data driven interventions.



We have created a programme that guarantees accelerated growth for Emerging Female Founders and by working with them closely we create world-class African businesses. In 2019, we aim to build on a solid foundation by creating a robust tech pipeline that includes female students studying Computer Science at university and Tech Female Founders.

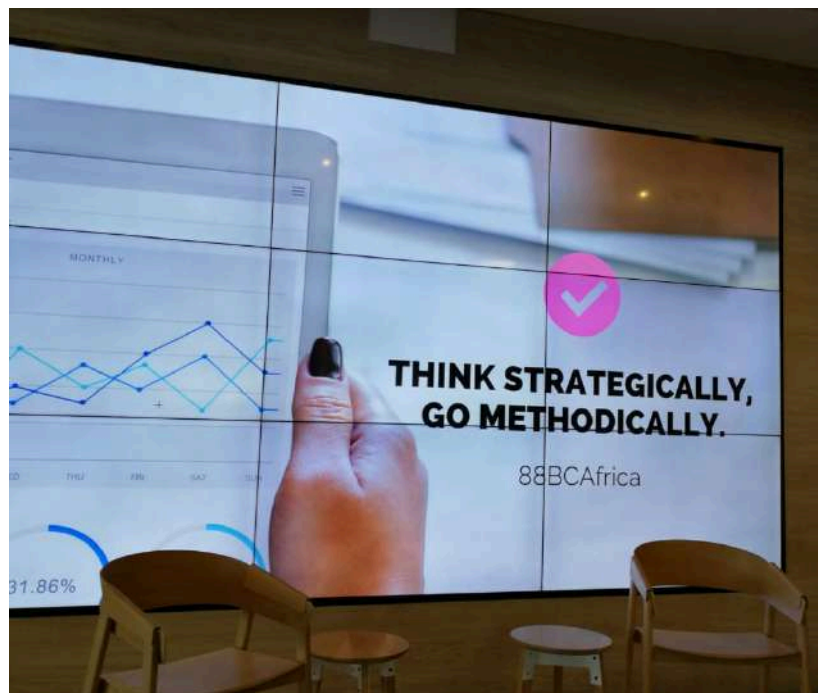


THE CONTACTS

The details

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AIMING HIGHER: Lizzy Mabena, Miriam Vallie, Mpho Sekwele, Tarryn Abrahams and Santina Iya have been selected to take part in Absa's Rise business programme.

PICTURES: YANN MACHEREZ

5 fast-tracked for success

Absa's Rise innovation hub names entrepreneurs to join intensive 12-week boot camp

Joseph Booysen

FIVE female tech entrepreneurs have been selected to participate in an entrepreneurship assistance programme, which is set to greatly boost their business and help close the gap in gender equality in the technology sector.

The five finalists, all based in the Western Cape, were selected by Absa's Rise innovation hub at its Cape Town facility.

Camilla Swart, an ecosystem manager at Rise Cape Town, said according to the most recent Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, South Africa, despite climbing up one spot to rank 22nd in terms of gender parity, still had a way to go in closing the entrepreneurial gender gap. Currently, only seven women are engaged in early stage entrepreneurship for every 10 male entrepreneurs.

Swart said some industries had more work to do than others when it came to levelling the playing field.



CLOSING GENDER GAP: Camilla Swart

She highlighted the technology sector as one such area that required additional support in terms of driving diversity and inclusion and local programmes.

Swart said the initiative aimed to plug the so-called "leaky tech pipeline" by actively focusing on black female business

***THESE FIVE WOMEN
ALL HAVE GREAT,
INNOVATIVE IDEAS
THAT HAVE REAL
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JOB CREATION AND
WE WISH THEM WELL'***

founders, and the five chosen participants had recently been announced.

"The chosen entrepreneurs will enter an intensive, 12-week boot camp that is set to culminate in a funding pitch to potential investors at Rise. Absa is thrilled to be able to support this programme, which will



RIPPLE EFFECT: Antoinette Propoy

essentially allow the chosen female tech founders access to a world-class network by being based at Rise Cape Town for the duration of the programme," said Swart.

Economic opportunities MEC Alan Winde said although youth unemployment was a major cause for concern in

South Africa, entrepreneurs had the ability to change the picture by creating jobs for themselves and others.

"We are particularly pleased when private sector players like Absa recognise the need to develop our young entrepreneurs and nurture their big ideas here in the Western Cape.

"These five women all have great, innovative ideas that have real potential to contribute to job creation and we wish them well," said Winde.

The five finalists are Miriam Vallie, founder of online store Lily Brinjal; Tarryn Abrahams, founder of online store Boudoir Box; Mpho Sekwele, founder of SinuOnline; Santina Iya, founder of Rydwith Holdings Security Tech; and Lizzy Mabena, founder of Zedek Fibre Telecomms, a fibre infrastructure provider.

Antoinette Propoy, the co-creator of Rise Scalerator, said, "Being part of the extensive Rise community will no doubt have a ripple effect and benefit the entrepreneurs well beyond the funding pitches."

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Startup news /

88 Business Collective honours Locumbase, SweepSouth founders

By [Staff Reporter](#) on 3 December, 2018

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Two SA female tech founders — [Locumbase](#) founder Zulé Vuuren and [SweepSouth](#) co-founder Aisha Pandor — have been honoured by Cape Town accelerator [88 Business Collective](#) and Absa bank.

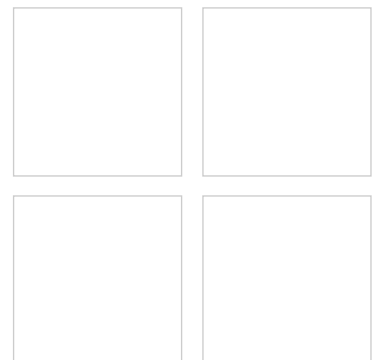
Vuuren's startup — which makes it easier for freelance medical professionals and practices to connect effectively (simplifying the locum booking process) — and Pandor, were presented with awards at a ceremony held at Absa's innovation lab in Cape Town last Tuesday (27 November).

Vuuren — whose startup earlier this year secured funding from a panel of investors, which included Michael Jordaan — took home the best tech newcomer of the year award, while Pandor was honoured with The Glass ceiling destroyer award.

Locumbase founder Zulé Vuuren and SweepSouth co-founder Aisha Pandor have been honoured by Cape Town accelerator 88 Business Collective and Absa bank

The two were honoured alongside five other female founders who took part in 88 Business Collective's latest 18-month acceleration programme (which is sponsored by Absa) aimed at female founders (not specifically tech startups).

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JOBS





Recipients of the Top Achiever Award with 88 Business Collective founder Antoinette Prophy (left), from left to right: Suraya Williams, Precious Kyriakides, Mampho Sotshongaye, Olivia Ngweni and Robyn Clay. At the back is Zandile Nyawo and Absa Innovation Lab manager Charmaine Lambert (Supplied).

The five top achiever awards went to **Golden Rewards** founder Mampho Sotshongaye, **Thembela Kuthi Staffing Services** founder Olivia Ngweni, **African Hair Kingdom** founder Precious Kyriakides, **Linktank** director Robyn Clay and **Design 26** founder Suraya Williams.

Commenting in a statement today 88 Business Collective founder Antoinette Prophy said” “It is tough being a women in South Africa and being a female founder compounds this struggle”.

Added Prophy: “We are passionate about harnessing our collective African power and the programme is driven by our Growth Through Collaboration methodology, it is truly exciting to acknowledge this journey through our awards as we aim to accelerate world-class African businesses”.

88BCAfrica Female Founder Friday Feature with Zulé Vuuren



Featured image: Locumbase founder Zulé Vuuren pictured at 88 Business Collective’s awards held on 27 November 2018 in Cape Town (Supplied)

- Head of Content and Social (Johannesburg)
- Senior User Experience Designer (Cape Town)
- User Experience Designer (Cape Town)
- User Experience Designer (Cape Town)
- User Interface Designer (Cape Town)
- Senior Designer (Cape Town)
- Head of Digital Design (Cape Town)
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Absa backs black female tech entrepreneurs



By **SIBAHLE MALINGA**, ITWeb journalist.
Johannesburg, 18 Apr 2018



Antoinette Prophy, project manager of the Rise Scalarator.

Absa bank's fintech innovation hub **Rise** has unveiled the Rise Scalarator, and is calling on female tech entrepreneurs to apply for the programme.

The Rise Scalarator is a global community which facilitates collaboration and fintech innovation in local SMEs. Through the programme, Absa says it will be providing five Cape-Town based women entrepreneurs



BANK



UC-Wireless is a solutions-based distributor for integrated wireless communications in healthcare, mining, education, hospitality and retail.

BUSINESS



Bytes Document Solutions suggests four ways



The programme aims to support South African black female entrepreneurs who have developed a tech solution to help boost and scale their start-up, while acquiring a range of new ICT skills training from business

coaches.

Antoinette Prophy, founder and MD at the 88 Business Collective, and project manager of the Rise Scalarator explains: "The programme is designed to focus on the female founder holistically, they will have access to an advisory board, a business coach, financial management and modelling tech tools as well as access to a world-class network by being based at Rise Cape Town for the duration of the programme."

The Rise Scalarator will start in June until November, kicking-off with a 12-week boot camp, and culminating in a funding pitch to be held at Rise offices in Cape Town that will assist participants in securing investment opportunities with the broader network.

The five selected female founders will receive support from a business coach to boost their personal growth and leadership skills in supporting the growth of their own employees, leadership team and company.

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R
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See also

Barclays's Rise innovation hub opened in Cape Town