

AGBIZ PUBLIC POLICY INTERN JOINS THE SUMMER GLOBAL YOUTH FORUM 2021

Throughout August, Agbiz's public policy Intern, Ms Thapelo Machaba, is taking part in the SUMMER GLOBAL YOUTH FORUM facilitated by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Agbiz nominated Thapelo for this opportunity through the BUSA platform and will hence represent not only South African agribusiness, but South African Business as a whole. The online summer programme welcomed undergraduates, graduate students and young professionals interested in pursuing an international career to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

Throughout the three weeks the Global Youth Forum will focus on:

- ✚ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDG synergies.
- ✚ Context and prospects of global youth employment in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ✚ Youth leadership, engagement, and empowerment to accelerate SDG achievement.
- ✚ Diversity and inclusion for equality in international development.
- ✚ Leadership and soft skills for the design, planning, and pursuit of an international career.
- ✚ Fundamentals of project design and implementation for SDG impact.

The programme is designed to help young individuals change their ways of thinking, for youth to move away from seeking employment to being entrepreneurs and moreover how youth employment can globally be achieved. The programme so far has been very insightful, it allows for individuals to strategically place themselves in the workplace.

“As a public policy intern who is fascinated about economic development, this has been a wonderful platform to acquire additional skills in my field as the programme is sharpening my line of thinking when it comes to career-changing decisions and the policy-making environment.”

According to Thapelo, the first week was exciting and challenging at the same time. The first challenge was getting the different time zones right as group members are from different parts of the world. The second challenge was the internet connections for group members more specifically in Africa. The internet connection issues were discussed indirectly when the class focused on platform economy, in that class, it showcased that Africa is lagging behind and we need policies to address such issues.

“I believe that if it was not for Agbiz granting me this opportunity I would not have enrolled for the programme and therefore missed such an enriching experience. I would like to again thank Agbiz for the nomination, the ILO for funding me and the BUSA team for providing the platform.”

Agbiz is proud to be represented on an international platform of this nature and we look forward to integrating the knowledge gained through this platform into our advocacy work.