



NEDBANK INVESTS OVER R3.6 MILLION TO PROVIDE MOBILE LABORATORIES AND LIBRARIES TO DISADVANTAGED LEARNERS ACROSS SOUTH AFRICA

15 August 2012 – Nedbank is once again demonstrating its unwavering commitment to enhancing access to quality education through the latest investment of more than R3.6 million to provide innovative mobile laboratories and libraries to 63 disadvantaged schools across South Africa.

Over R2.5 million will go towards the provision of mobile laboratories for 51 schools, more than double the number of schools supported in 2011. The remaining investment of over R1.1 million will contribute towards the procurement of mobile libraries for 12 disadvantaged schools in Limpopo, Northern Cape, Mpumalanga, the Western Cape, Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal.

"Education is one of our key focus areas, because we believe that the creation of a knowledge-based economy is critical to the future growth of our country. Our approach is that meaningful and practical interventions are necessary in addressing some of the challenges, which hinder the progress of disadvantaged learners," said Kone Gugushe, Nedbank's Divisional Executive for Corporate Social Responsibility.

As part of the mobile laboratories project, 50 science teachers will be trained to ensure continuity in instructional techniques while reinforcing learning through enquiry-based investigations. Schools will also receive kits for life sciences, chemistry and physics, including videos of how practical experiments should be carried out.

Furthermore, Nedbank will continue to train and develop grade eight and nine school learners adopted last year. Training phases are segmented according to induction, review and final consolidation training.

The Nedbank Mobile Library project was launched in 2009 due to persisting challenges faced by some of the country's disadvantaged schools in accessing basic facilities, including reference material. Over the past three years, Nedbank has invested in excess of R2 million, benefitting no less than 30 schools. The bank has invested in excess of R4 million towards the Mobile Laboratories project in less than two years.

The mobile laboratories and library investments are part of Nedbank's Integrated Fundisa Schools programme, which aims to provide holistic support to its education initiatives. This year alone, Nedbank has invested in excess of R15 million towards uplifting the standard of education in South Africa. The Fundisa programme follows a two-pillar education intervention model, where the first pillar focuses on education across an individual's life stages, starting from early childhood development right through to tertiary education.

The second pillar enables holistic support for beneficiary schools, resulting in a more effective school system. The programme aims to build effective schools through infrastructure development, teacher training, building leadership capacity and providing classroom-based support.