



Mentorship Challenge Feedback

To: Tracy Pringle,

Who am I?

Nolan Pillay is the brilliant and dynamic founder of South Africa's first ever trademarked self-development programme: **Be the BEST Version of YOURSELF™** running under the company StraightTalkWithNolan. Rivalling the likes of similar international programs that have flooded the country, Nolan's life-altering system has more than just one homegrown advantage to offer, A born South African, Nolan has an almost instinctive knowledge of the diverse pulses that make up the heartbeat of the African continent; and most importantly, he's been there. He's the man that has seen the harsh side of poverty, who knows the pangs of hunger as a helpless child, who has never given up on his dreams and who is ready to share his success story with the world – if only for the purpose of empowering others to achieve the same.

Catch my Inspirational story <https://youtu.be/p62u3fP7QLc>

StraightTalkWithNolan is on a drive to build our nation and add value to people's lives. Living and Serving my Purpose is my number one priority and we do need YOU to work with us into building a brighter Africa!

How do we plan on doing this?

1. Engaging and connecting South Africans by giving them a platform to share their stories. Many African stories go un-noticed and sadly fade away with the person. Let's inspire each other with our stories!
2. A Self-development program which speaks specifically to the individual and allowing them to be "The BEST version of themselves".

Why is this important?

Our nation has lost its humanity, self-worth, respect and gratitude which are the Core values we need to build our people and country.



Why did I get involved in the Mentorship Challenge?

Most of my conversations with people were all about how one can do better in life and how to move forward. I always have this habit of turning the negatives into positives but didn't realise that I was touching people's lives in the same breath.

When I worked at SABMiller, there was an opportunity to start mentoring students, I immediately jumped at the opportunity. It was called "Be the Mentor 18+". I picked an area of my choice and was connected to Oliver's Village in Putfontein. I met Michelle Da Costa who introduced me to the village, the teachers and the students. Most of the students either stayed with their siblings, uncles, aunts or grandparents as their parents either abandoned them or passed on. I got the opportunity to meet them when we did a feeding day at Oliver's Village.

I worked with two mentees at the beginning, one suffered from Epilepsy. I started to work with him every week (WhatsApp/Phone communication) and face to face interaction every two weeks. As time went on, he started to come out of his shell and started to be more open with me. We connect and built a trustworthy relationship. His teachers started to recognise his progress and he started getting better marks than most of the other students to the point where he topped his class in one of the exams. I must admit, this was a proud moment for me as I appreciated the fact that I could install hope and good values into someone who was hungry to excel in life. We even went further and arranged a Gazebo for his mum to sell clothes from, to avoid the rain and sun.

Michelle says "He has shown great strength in his quiet reserved manner, expelling a positive influence which has had a ripple effect, he has also taken charge of his health and started a fitness program. I understand from his brother, that he has an exceptional creative and artistic talent that needs to be explored". (See letters attached)

The other mentee used to collect scrap plastics and recycle them. He did this after school hours and was a true business man. He had some difficulties with his workers and did not know how to best handle it. We sat together and put in policies, rules and procedures for his business. Within two weeks, things started to change, and he could now focus more on his studies.

Michelle says "Thanks to Nolan and your leadership and guidance, it has created an awareness in this lovely young man. He is confident, and his physical presence is felt, he wears a broad smile and is a spokesperson for his peers". (See letters attached)

At the end of July 2019, I was honoured and humbled to be part of the Mentorship Challenge working with Tracy Pringle who has been super amazing and passionate about her job. At first, I signed up for 10 mentees but as time went on, I ended up with 14 mentees.



Our group varies in skills, but the common factor is that everyone is so passionate about building a better country. In the WhatsApp group we have, I always ask the mentees to be honest and transparent, some of them have started separate discussions on helping each other with new and current ideas, future Mentors in my opinion. Nothing excites me more than to see these mentees take on social challenges because they care and believe it is our responsibility as citizens to step up. I post daily quotes in the group just to encourage them along the day because I believe its up to us to either make or break our day. The encouragement for me is for everyone to be grateful for whatever they are going through in life. This stands out very clearly in the self-development program that we will launch in January 2020.

Our Mission and Vision is to Change Lives in Africa and then Globally through Inspirational Stories, Self-Development, Education, Knowledge and Empowerment. The Mentorship Challenge, as I see it is well needed in South Africa, not often do we get Corporates stepping up to take social responsibility genuinely.

I AM thankful and grateful for the connection and to be part of the program.

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