

Ten-year-old blogger wins national 2016 Ackermans Style Squad competition

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Ten-year-old Luzuko Banda (a.k.a. "Zuko") of Germiston had his creativity well rewarded when he was selected as the winner of the 2016 Ackermans Style Squad competition. He was chosen from 20 finalists from across South Africa who shared their love for fashion in the value retailer's annual competition for 9- to 14-year-olds.

The Style Squad participants received Ackermans vouchers to spend on creating outfits for the nine fashion related challenges they had to complete and share in their blog posts on the Ackermans website. They also received an iPad mini and data to use for their monthly blog posts that showed other kids and their parents how to be on-trend without breaking the bank.

"Zuko has such great confidence and style. He really impressed the judges in the Fashion DIY activity with how he transformed his merchandise into something extraordinary, trendy and unique. He could take items and make them his own through styling and accessorising. His blogs were well written, easy to relate to and fun to read. He put a great deal of effort into every activity," says Tanya Ruiters, Marketing Specialist of Ackermans and Project Manager for Style Squad.



Luyanda Banda (Zuko's Sister) Dineo Banda (Zuko's Mom) Zuko Banda (Style Squad 2016 Winner)

Zuko won R15,000 cash as well as a R15,000 educational policy to further his studies. Over the past 12 months, he has also been given R2,250 worth of Ackermans vouchers, an iPad mini and 24GB of data. His prize was handed over on Wednesday, 24 August, at Freeway Park Primary in Boksburg, where he goes to school.

"I am extremely proud of Luzuko. From the very beginning I have believed that he could win it and now it really is a dream which has been realised. At times I find myself looking back at all his activities to see how far he has come. I'm thrilled that part of the prize is towards his education and with the other part of the prize he can finally reward himself with things he has always wanted, which he deserves after all his hard work. In today's world an investment in a child's education and future can make all the difference and I believe that the money he has won for his education will make a difference in his life and serve as a reminder of the importance of education," said his mother, Dineo Banda.

Ackermans will once again give fashion savvy South African kids a chance to show their style and creativity with the 2017 Style Squad competition, where they can win their share of R250,000's worth of prizes and something which money cannot buy – to be revealed soon!

Read the Style Squad blogs on the Ackermans website, www.ackermans.co.za. The 2017 Style Squad entry details will be uploaded on 1 September 2016.

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