



African Leadership Academy

Developing the next generation of African leaders

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Internship Description: 16th June 2013- 4th August 2013

I interned as a reporter for Business Day newspaper in Rosebank, South Africa. When I first arrived I was paired with one of the editors at the news desk where I would work throughout my time at Business Day. My typical day would include reporting to the office of my editor who would assign me a story that he needed me to cover. Sometimes this entailed going out to various locations both in and outside of Johannesburg, which was a really great opportunity to visit some new places in Johannesburg, which I had not visited before. I would have to work fast because all the stories came with tight deadlines. Some days I would compile a story from the office by conducting phone interviews or having my sources email me information.

Business Day has a well-established internship program but they mostly take students from South African journalism schools. I was the only non-south African intern at Business Day this summer. My contribution in this regard is that the stories that I wrote often had a broader outlook on whatever issue was at hand. Of course, also having a broader outlook is the norm, I was able to write stories (especially for the African news section of the paper) that showed how issues that South Africa is facing are being tackled in other parts of the continent. For instance, in early July there were protests in the informal settlements in Cape Town because residents wanted the government to provide them with better sanitation facilities. The issue of poor sanitation in slums is a problem that affects many African countries, some worse than others. Coming from Kenya, I knew of a company called Sanergy that is proving that sanitation can be a viable business in Africa's informal settlements. I proposed to my editor that I do a feature story on Sanergy. I did the story for Business Day's weekly business Magazine, The Financial Mail.





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y internship at Business Day helped me apply all that I've learnt thus far in journalism school. I learnt how to ask questions, how to write different types of stories, how to angle a story so that it impacts your readers, how to discern what is newsworthy and how social media is impacting the nature of news, amongst many other things. Furthermore, working at Business Day was such a delight because I was able to learn from extremely accomplished business journalists, some of whom are South Africa's finest. They were always willing to help me when I was having difficulties with any of the stories that I was working on. I picked up various skills that one cannot truly learn in Journalism school. I was able to learn so much in such a short time. I covered a wide array of subjects, ranging from education, health care and even horseracing. This was great for me in helping create my portfolio that I can use in the future when looking for jobs and internships. Ultimately this internship made all that I have learnt in journalism school come alive in a very enriching way. My internship at Business Day re-assured me that I belong in the world of news. Going into the internship, I must admit that I was skeptical about whether this is what I really wanted to spend the rest of my life doing. But by the end of my internship, I was sure that being a journalist is what I was made for.