



# Bakgotsi Stokvel Account

The power of togetherness.

 **Postbank**



After trying to get into the habit of saving on their own, many have failed dismally because they would frequently dip into their savings more often than they should. But after joining a stokvel, they found that it was easier to resist the temptation to withdraw their savings unnecessarily, or to dip into their savings for all ad-hoc needs. Most people who save in groups, claim to have seen their savings working for them. Being accountable to a larger collective has instilled a saving culture and has helped them to make saving a lifestyle.



## What are some of the societal benefits of Stokvels?

According to most people who belong to stokvels, sharing an investment goal can make you a more disciplined saver. And many other studies have shown that one of the biggest advantages of belonging to a stokvel is that it makes you more disciplined because you don't want to let the other members down.

In addition to the above, it is clear that stokvels have more societal benefits than just the money itself such as:

- **Promoting unity among communities, pave networking avenues and serve as idea generation forums.** It is through this networking that members establish other innovative ideas to improve the quality of their lives.
- **Financial education.** Stokvels can teach customers how to manage money, how to share money, how to deal with unexpected financial events, and generally good money habits.
- **Promoting a generational lifestyle.** Group savings can be a great way to introduce our children to good financial habits. When children see how important saving is to their parents, they may be more likely to save for their financial goals, and may even decide to join the Stokvel or set up their own.
- **Empowerment.** They also contribute to the empowerment of members especially women. They play a role in promoting savings as being instrumental in the empowerment of women.
- **Networking platforms and opportunities.** Stokvels establish social networks and friendships, which provide a forum for discussing personal lives and other issues; members learn from each other's experiences.



## What is a Stokvel?

A stokvel is a savings group to which members regularly contribute an agreed amount. The group then decides on how that money is shared, whether it is a monthly pay-out or invested and shared at the end of the year.

South African stokvels have been around for over 100 years – and they are as widely used today as they were a century ago. Stokvels may have started out as informal savings clubs to assist with groceries and burial costs, but today they help members save for diverse needs from education, to family emergencies, to holidays.



## Why Postbank's Bakgotsi Stokvel Account?

The Bakgotsi Stokvel Account is a good vehicle for investing because many South Africans do not have formal jobs. For example, most informal traders do not have contractual savings. Therefore, stokvels allow such people to get together with their friends to put down a certain amount of money to invest.





## How do you open a Bakgotsi Stokvel Account?

Postbank has been a preferred savings bank by stokvels for decades purely because the bank has always made it quite easy to open a Bakgotsi Stokvel Account and easy to access the funds should a need arise.

To open a Bakgotsi Stokvel Account hassle-free, simply follow these three steps:

1. Visit a Post Office branch near you
2. The Bakgotsi Stokvel Account opening form completed and signed by 3 members (nominated by the group)
3. Attach the following supporting documents to the application form:
  - a. certified copies of South African ID books of the 3 representatives; and
  - b. proof of residence not older than 3 months.





## Why save with Postbank?

The number one challenge for many stokvel members is 'trust' - trusting each other and the financial system.

At Postbank we understand the importance of keeping your Stokvel's financial records in good shape as this allows all the members to know where the funds are, and what interest or investment returns they earn.

Therefore, the key advantages of the Postbank Bakgotsi Stokvel Account are that:

- **You have monthly statements showing all the money movement.** Therefore, there is a permanent record of transactions and you do not need to worry too much about keeping manual records and cash flow statements;
- **Also, like all bank accounts, the Bakgotsi Stokvel Account is formal and regulated.** This means that should there be a case of fraud, the regulator should be able to assist with the return of funds.



## Save with a bank that cares

Postbank is not only a bank but a bank with the heart of a social worker. Because the safety of our customers is paramount to us, we offer free financial education to them. While transacting, we want customers to always be cautious and keep these tips in mind:

- Do not make cash deposits of club members' contributions on high-risk days -for example on a Monday after month-end.
- Ensure those depositing club cash contributions or making withdrawals are accompanied by other club members.
- Arrange for members to deposit cash directly into the savings account instead of collecting cash contributions.
- Arrange for pay-outs to be electronically transferred into each member's personal account or accounts of their choice.

For more assistance, visit any Post Office near you.  
Visit [www.postoffice.co.za](http://www.postoffice.co.za) to locate a branch in your area.

**Customer Care:** 0800 53 54 55

**Fraud Hotline:** 0800 02 00 70

**[www.postbank.co.za](http://www.postbank.co.za)**

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