

Nonku Ntshona & Associates Quantity Surveyors

Paving a bright future

Nonku Ntshona, managing director of Nonku Ntshona & Associates Quantity Surveyors, and winner of the Metropolitan Oliver Top Young Black Entrepreneur of the Year 2010, oozes enthusiasm as she describes her life journey. This professional knows what she wants, and says, "Perseverance is essential when one finds oneself in a difficult situation. Nothing is ever handed to you on a golden platter and things are not always easy. You need to buckle down and get the job done and be prepared to dedicate yourself fully to the cause."

Based in Johannesburg, the black woman-owned company offers a broad spectrum of quantity surveying services ranging from mining engineering to commercial property.

Supporting the vision of sustainable growth of its portfolio in order to become one of the most sought-after and distinguished quantity surveying firms, is Ntshona's wealth of experience and ability to effectively exceed client expectations.

As a catalyst for change, she is adamant about finding the right solution for every project upon which she embarks.

Due to its profound knowledge of the industry, Nonku Ntshona & Associates has gained recognition and continues to provide world-class quantity surveying services within a range of disciplines. This successful organisation prides itself on delivering an end-to-end service to its client base.

In order to engage all perspective stakeholders and to understand the changing environment from which it works, Ntshona says: "You continuously need to build your competencies and skills, and as a team you need to create synergy. You need to add value, remain flexible and continue on-time delivery of the highest quality within budget to your perspective clients."

After completing her school career, Ntshona enrolled to study Dentistry, but the friendly city of Port Elizabeth beckoned. In 1995 she eventually spent a year studying Accountancy.

As a people-orientated person – and someone who not only wanted to leave her mark but make a difference in society – Ntshona entered the male-dominated world of quantity surveying. The quantity surveying bug took hold of her as she embarked on a career with Rousseau Probert Elliot Quantity Surveyors in Port Elizabeth.

The distinguished graduate continued to soak up the knowledge and expertise presented to her and decided early on that she would like to see more women taking a leading role in the construction industry.

After relocating to Johannesburg, Ntshona joined Turner and Townsend and success knocked at her door. This was just the beginning of an exciting life adventure.

The successful mother of two knew that she wanted more from life and set about starting her own company in 2007. "As I look back, not only was this a challenge but a major achievement. I set up an office in a wendy house in my back garden and was presented with my first client in October 2007," recalls Ntshona. The growth was exponential as the company gained momentum and recognition within the industry.

As a member of the Association of South African Quantity Surveyors, South African Property Owners Association and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Ntshona's vast experience in projects spans infrastructure developments in the mining industry, rolling out of projects in the automotive sector, retail developments, office developments, housing developments and commercial mixed use developments.

Not only is she proudly South African, but she has crossed borders and entered the African continent.

In this ever changing global environment, her international expertise has allowed her not only to manage but to lead office and mixed use development projects in Zambia and Tanzania.

By continuing to provide the necessary cost construction planning and cost advice, Nonku Ntshona & Associates is at the cutting edge of producing streamlined project execution plans with effective and efficient cost estimation and financial feasibility studies to ensure that costs are controlled – not only at inception but at pre-contract stages as well.

Ntshona adds, "You need to be determined, ambitious and you need to remain focused. As an individual and as a company, you need to go the extra mile and put 150% effort into anything and everything that you do. By continuously assessing the needs of your clients, you are able to provide them with the necessary solutions to make informed decisions.

"The business landscape and industry is changing and as a company, you need to remain relevant and competitive."

Some of Nonku Ntshona & Associates' specialised services include:

- Auditing construction projects;
- Expert witness;
- Arbitration;
- Project co-ordination;
- Project management;
- Value engineering; and
- Life-cycle costing.

The company has recently received ISO 9000 accreditation by the South African Bureau of Standards. Quality is at the cornerstone of this organisation. Its quality statement encapsulates the delivery associated with Ntshona and her team: "We want to reduce internal and non-conformance by 5%."

Ntshona is adamant that quality is essential and a prerequisite – definitely a non-negotiable. As she explains, "By living and practising this

statement on a daily basis, we are able to reduce errors that might be encountered, ensure that mistakes are not repeated and dedicate the necessary resources to excel and journey beyond what is expected.”

As a company and as individuals, Nonku Ntshona & Associates have established sound and solid client relationships and have had the privilege of working with not only large and medium companies but also small companies, by providing them with the necessary guidance and expertise required.

Projects are part and parcel of everyday life for Ntshona. One of the commercial projects in which her company has been involved has been the extension and upgrading of the Eastgate Shopping Centre in Johannesburg.

As a joint venture, this flagship project – valued at R600 million – has yielded great success.

As the project is currently nearing completion, Ntshona and her team are excited about the possibility of embarking upon phase two of this project.

Projects recently completed by the company include the Airports Company South Africa 2010 Fifa project that encompassed the erection and construction of a temporary terminal at the airport.

Being at the helm of the largest commercial project currently under way in Zambia, with a construction value of R1.5 billion, fills Ntshona with pride.

“We are carving our name into the African continent. It is a difficult space to play in; you need to know the business and the country. You need to be hands-on and involved.”

Africa is the land of milk and honey. Opportunities are vast, and Ntshona and her team are expanding their footprint into Africa. This is only the start of a successful partnership.

“As a continent, the time has come to stand together and rebuild to make us a force to be reckoned with. Opportunities are plentiful and if one looks at Zimbabwe, we need to assess the damages and rebuild and refurbish the country,” says Ntshona.

“Although the world and Africa are still in the process of recovering from the economic turmoil experienced not so long ago, we need to win back the confidence of the financial institutions and the companies around us. We need to be creative and construct our own solutions and opportunities.”

As a company comprising a team of professionals, of which 90% are women, Nonku Ntshona & Associates has entrenched values of integrity, professionalism, respect and passion. It has voiced its opinions, provided its expertise and has set sail to reach the pinnacles of success. It has taken a stand and has gained the necessary respect from industry. The name Nonku Ntshona & Associates will continue to gain momentum. ▲

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