



## Mmabatho Hantise

Associate Director in Transaction Diligence (SaT)



**Q** *Where did your journey begin and how did you end up where you are today?*

**A** My journey began at EY as an audit trainee but I didn't follow the traditional path to the transaction space. After I completed my articles and qualified, I did a secondment in the US. When I returned from the US, I decided to do my Master's in Development Finance. I joined the firm again in 2017 in the Financial Services sector. I received an opportunity to join Transaction Diligence in August last year - my desire and passion to join this team was cemented after I did my Master's in Development Finance. It's been exactly a year since I joined the TD family and its one of the best decisions I've ever made.

**Q** *What is the biggest / most complex transaction you have worked on so far in your career?*

**A** Given that I am still doing a lot of transactions and building up my portfolio, I would say the transaction I did at the beginning of the year and the one after that. I've learned a lot in the past year, and I have no doubt that I will be working on even more complex and bigger transactions in the future.

**Q** *What advice would you give to other women thinking of entering the M&A and Financial Markets industry?*

**A** It's a very interesting space to be in as no day is the same but with a positive attitude and energy you will get far in this space. Self-drive and motivation should come naturally. Always look at making yourself the best you can be and live with the attitude of helping those around you, and the people you work with, to be the best through coaching and mentoring.

Give everything you do your very best shot.

**Q** *What are three words you would use to describe yourself?*

**A** Motivated. Perseverance. Leader.

**Q** *What are three words your colleagues would use to describe you? Would you agree with them?*

**A** Considerate. Team player. Energetic. Yes, I would definitely agree with them.

**Q** *What qualities would you say are essential for a woman to thrive in the M&A industry?*

**A** Sometimes we believe we have no place in a particular space and we tend to doubt ourselves. If you have made it so far, note that you deserve to be there. Your voice also matters and there is a reason that you are there. Just make it count and don't sell yourself short and don't deny yourself amazing opportunities. Always speak up because your voice may be what is needed and may be what is different.

**Q** *What would you say to another woman who was thinking of changing fields because the industry is so male-dominated?*

**A** We should not allow any challenges, especially external ones, to dictate our future for us. We are called for different things in life, but I believe that we all have a purpose. Do not shy away from being where you are called to be or to serve your purpose because the odds do not look like they are in your favour. Anyone, woman or man, who wants to join the industry and believes this is their desire, I would advise them to pursue it and create a name for themselves in the industry

regardless of who is there.

**Q** *What is one goal you have set yourself for 2022 and are you on track to reach it?*

**A** Being intentional about creating the relationships that are meaningful in my life and my career. This is not a goal I plan on achieving in just one year but I believe I am on the right path so far.

**Q** *What is your go-to power song?*

**A** I don't have just one and it changes probably every month but right now it is "Fear is not my future" by Maverick City and Kirk Franklin.

**Q** *What is your favourite quote?*

**A** Keep Hope Alive! I live by this in my everyday life and I believe that is what gets me through some of the challenging days.

**Q** *What is your most effective time saving tip?*

**A** Waking up early and getting in everything you want to do before everyone wakes up usually gives you the time to get through the demands of the rest of the day.

**Q** *What is at the top of your bucket list?*

**A** To attend the Carnival in Rio one of these upcoming years.

**Q** *What is your favourite holiday destination?*

**A** Berlin but also throw me anywhere in Germany and I will have a blast.

**Q** *If you could invite any 3 women (past or present) to dinner, who would they be and why?*

**A** Michelle Obama, Mother Teresa and Billie Jean King. 