



Karabo Rathokolo
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Q&A

Q What is your favourite sector to do a deal in and why?

A My favourite sector is Logistics – it’s a critical blueprint of the supply chain and an essential aspect of business and trade. It keeps the economy moving by ensuring that the right products are shipped to the right destination, and it affects almost every other sector. I enjoy the learning opportunities that come from seeing the many roles it can play.

Q What, in your opinion, is the hardest part of a PE deal?

A To me, post-investment is the hardest part of a Private Equity deal. During the investment horizon, many factors have to be considered and managed in such a way that at exit, the desired outcome is achieved.

Factors such as dealing with industry fluctuations, making the necessary impact in the investee company within the investment horizon, and achieving the desired returns while managing investor expectations. In as much as I perceive post-investment to be the hardest part of a Private Equity deal, I also think it presents plenty of learning opportunities, as it forces you to have a better understanding and appreciation of the industry/sector that the investee company operates in.

Q If you could change one thing on your career path to date, what would it be and why?

A I’d say accepting a job in the role of a Financial Planner. Having seen, after the fact, that this decision didn’t add much value to my career path, it got me thinking that we tend to grab hold of any and all, or sometimes even the first of the opportunities that come our way. And often, this happens before we have a clear vision of what we want from our lives, careers and relationships.

I think that, had I known exactly where I wanted to take my career, or even where I would find the most fulfilment, it would be less likely that I’d have something I’d want to change about my career trajectory. I must, however, stress my gratitude and appreciation for the path I have ended up on, as it has had its own particular brand of challenges and rewards, some of which have shown me that I could rise to higher standards that I may not have naturally seen in myself. So, I guess, as much as I see another potential avenue for excellence in myself, that vision is only possible because I have already found its first catalyst in my current and previous roles.

Q What do you do to unwind | get away from the stress of work?

A I spend time with my nieces and nephews. Children have a way of reminding us about the simplicity of life, being unafraid and perceiving things in different and simpler ways. Their unique sense of exploration, staying consistently open to learning something new, finding a new skill in themselves and wonder in the world around

them. Their innate ability to take you at face value based on your actions with and toward them. The unfiltered and unconstrained way in which they love you for whatever it is that you are to them, all while balancing out the correction, punishment, protection and instruction that you rain down on them. It’s phenomenal to me that I can escape my learned habits and patterns of thinking by letting myself be inspired to “break the rules” of “normal,” allowing myself to discover newness in my everyday. I also enjoy comedic videos and stand-up shows, and I have learned to love laughing over the years; we get caught up too easily in the heaviness of life and the world we live in.

FUN FACTS

Favourite Colour: Black. The idea that it is the containment of all colours is grounding to me.

Dog or cat person: Cat person. They are very independent animals.

Unusual hobbies: Organising cupboard spaces. The pleasure of everything having its own place to be displayed and appreciated is a personal joy.

Item not yet completed on your bucket list: Vacation to Santorini, Greece.

Three words that your colleagues would use to describe you: Quiet, funny and resourceful. 🐾