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

**A** My journey began in 2006 joining EY's assurance team for the three years of articles. On completion, I had an interest to pursue Corporate Finance and was excited to be given the opportunity to join the small EY Corporate Finance team in Cape Town. The continued fast-paced, forward thinking nature of the work which never offers a dull moment, together with team/company support and the required training, assisted me to reach the level I am today.

**Q** *What is the biggest / most complex transaction you have worked on so far in your career? And what role did you play and key challenges?*

**A** Sanlam/ Saham deal

- Transaction advise given to Sanlam for their purchase of Saham s.a., an insurance business which operates in 26 countries across Africa.
- In this role I managed a team which included cross-border and cross-service line team members. The team involved staff at varying levels of experience which required guidance and coaching throughout the engagement, and a great deal of interaction with the various advisory teams working across Africa.
- Some challenges:

- 1) Dealing with a number of teams in various countries,
- 2) Significant size of the Transaction; and

3) Many of the documents were not presented in English.

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

**A** The Transaction Industry offers one so many opportunities and for a woman who needs to juggle a time-demanding job with home-life responsibilities, the right company will offer the required support for work/life balance.

**Q** *Did the COVID-19 pandemic with the various lockdowns, changes in working habits etc. bring about any major changes for you from a work / career perspective?*

**A** COVID-19 was a challenging time which required a change in the discipline of one's own work behaviours as well as the style of team management. This period also highlighted a need to focus on the softer issues such as overall emotional wellbeing, family circumstances and so on. This allowed for a fantastic perspective check which resulted in a more employee-focused, humane, well rounded and supportive management style – driving a more inclusive and more content team environment.

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

**A** Key qualities include:

- Confidence in one's own ability.
- A mindset that is open to continual learning and upskilling of oneself.

- Effective communication.

**Q** *Who is your female role model and why?*

**A** All my fellow female leaders (specifically in EY) who manage work/ home life responsibilities – both aspects require significant time and devotion.

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

**A** “Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others”

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

**A** Dedicated and Reliable.  
Adaptable. Driven.

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

**A** Be organised – have a list of items to prioritise and complete.

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

**A** To focus on strengthening our client relations by first strengthening our internal team relations – focus on fellow team members and their needs, for example offering flexibility and empathy where needed.

A continual work in progress is to adapt to the new way of working in an environment that includes a blend of the various generations. I would like to believe that I am moving forward to meet my goal. 🙌