

## Mapaseka Phala

Partner | Corporate



### WEBBER WENTZEL

in alliance with > Linklaters

**Q** *What is your experience/knowledge?*

**A** I specialise in M&A, as well as general corporate and commercial law. I have experience in acquisitions and disposals (in the private and public spheres), and corporate restructuring. I have worked on transactions in various sectors, including energy, mining, telecommunications, financial and insurance services. I have also worked extensively on cross-border transactions, involving Benin, Botswana, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Egypt, England, Eswatini, France, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Liberia, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.

**Q** *What was the toughest deal you have worked on, and why?*

**A** In 2021, I was part of the team advising Vodafone International Holdings B.V. and Vodafone Europe B.V. in the selling of their shareholding in Vodafone Egypt Telecommunications SAE. This deal was awarded "2021 Deal of the Year" by DealMakers.

The deal was challenging from a technical perspective, and involved navigating the complexities of highly regulated companies in different jurisdictions. Furthermore, from a personal perspective, this deal stands out due to the steep learning curve I experienced from a technical, drafting and deal management point of view.

**Q** *What advice would you give a young woman working on her first deal?*

**A** You may be tempted to immediately start working on the transaction; however, it is important to understand (i) the deal and the parties to the deal; (ii) the key commercial drivers applicable to the deal; and (iii) the regulatory framework applicable to the deal.

Furthermore, understand your role in the transaction team, and provide the necessary support and input (with the utmost diligence and attention to detail).

Lastly, ask questions, don't give up, and learn as much as you can.

**Q** *Did you have a mentor and, if so, what was the most important thing you learnt from them?*

**A** In my career, I have had several mentors (some from structured programmes and others from organic relationships). I am so grateful for the wonderful mentors who have assisted and guided me in my career. The main lessons I have learnt from them are:

- Be authentic, be brave, and back yourself.
- Be kind to yourself.
- As you grow in your career, make sure you that you lift and empower those around you.
- Do not compare your career journey to that of anyone else.

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

**A** I am big on family, and I enjoy spending time with them and making food together. I have also started swimming lessons, and this has helped me to unwind and keep fit. I also enjoy drawing and painting – my favourite medium is charcoal on paper. I hope to one day unwind by taking a road trip around our continent, having an authentic experience of the food, culture, music and art.

**Q** *What is one thing that makes your life easier and that you really wouldn't want to do without?*

**A** A daily detailed to-do list.

## FUN FACTS

**Favourite Colour:**  
Yellow.

**Current book on your nightstand:**  
*The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives.*

**Favourite restaurant:**  
Marble in Joburg and The Fat Cactus in Cape Town.

**Three words your colleagues would use to describe you:**

Attentive, affable and driven. 🧡