



Q&A

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Q: Can you tell us about your background and how you ended up in your current role?

A: So, I grew up in Durban and I was raised by a single mom. Growing up, education was always a big deal in our house. I knew that if I worked hard in school, it would open doors for me and my family. I worked hard at school and got into a great high school in KwaZulu-Natal, which led to a great scholarship that enabled me to attend the University of Cape Town. At university I decided to study accounting. I initially explored different options to complete my articles and found my home in the Nedbank CA training programme. And it was this programme that enabled me to rotate through various specialities in Nedbank CIB, giving me a broad perspective and flexibility early on. It was during my articles where I discovered my love for credit, and the space afforded me the ability to explore various industries.

Q: What drives you in your work every day?

A: The dynamic nature of my work and the opportunity to contribute to impactful projects really keeps me going. I love being part of innovative projects that push boundaries in a calculated and structured way. The variety of sectors I deal with keeps things interesting. Plus, I'm motivated by my family – my husband, my 3-year-old, and my 3 dogs. Balancing work and family are challenging but also incredibly rewarding.

Q: How do you balance your career and personal life, especially as a woman in a demanding field?

A: It's all about setting strict boundaries and being intentional with my time. I've gained confidence through building expertise in my area, which helps reduce the nervousness that comes with new challenges. Asking for help, delegating tasks, and keeping open communication with my support system at home are essential. I also make sure to switch off from work to spend quality time with my family. It's a constant balancing act, but being organised and having a supportive network make it manageable.

Q: What advice would you give to your younger self?

A: I'd tell my younger self to be patient and kind to myself. It's so important to work on that inner

voice that doubts one's abilities. Over time, I've realised my value and that I deserve to pursue my goals. Being kind to yourself and patient with your progress is crucial. This self-compassion helps overcome self-doubt and allows you to put your best foot forward in both your career and personal life.

Q: How have you dealt with imposter syndrome, especially as a woman of colour in a male dominated industry?

A: Imposter syndrome is something we all face, especially women of colour in male dominated industries. For me, preparation and knowledge are key. Being well-prepared boosts my confidence. It's also crucial to identify the aspects of a role that trigger imposter syndrome and focus on building skills in those areas. Building a strong network of mentors and peers is vital – they offer support and validate your capabilities. This external validation helps combat imposter syndrome, because it's not just you who sees your potential; others recognise it too.

Q: How do you stay ahead in a constantly changing field like mining for example?

A: Staying ahead in mining involves a lot of reading and keeping up with industry news. But beyond that, you need to get out there with site visits, meet with managers, and understand the operations on the ground. For me, banking the rest of Africa can't be done from an office in Johannesburg. You must engage with the local dynamics and understand the unique challenges and opportunities each country presents. Networking, attending conferences, and leveraging mentors and peers also play a role in staying ahead.

Q: What are your future aspirations?

A: I'm passionate about leading change. I want to lead in a dynamic way and make a broader impact. Currently, I'm building and diversifying my skill sets in preparation for future leadership roles. When the right opportunity comes, I want to be ready with the skills, knowledge, and insights necessary to make a meaningful contribution to the organisation.

Q: What would you change in Nedbank if you had a magic wand right now?

A: CIB is focusing on it now, but further

emphasising the need for bolder strategies groupwide. When we decide on a key strategy, we need to put everything behind it and ensure everyone is aligned (unity across clusters). We are great at being a green, sustainable bank, and I believe we can apply the same boldness to other strategies to stay innovative and competitive as competition is fierce.

Q: What excites you about Africa?

A: Africa's untapped potential is immense. The people are vibrant and dynamic, with a strong sense of resilience and adaptability. Despite the challenges, there's so much room for development and investment, and I believe we can make a real difference. The continent's resources and the unique perspectives of its people make Africa an exciting place to work and grow.

Q: What advice would you give to a young woman who wants to learn from you?

A: First, be kind to yourself and work on your inner voice. Second, be intentional about your career. Figure out what you enjoy and where you want to end up, and then take steps to get there early on. Look for mentors, build your network, and be proactive in your career planning.

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: I have a bit of an obsession with horror movies. I even go to the cinema alone to watch them. I also love boxing to relieve stress and keep fit. Travelling is something I love; it keeps me grounded and allows me to experience new places and cultures. I balance my love of food with my fitness routine, trying new workouts to keep things interesting. Most of my friends are in Cape Town, so I often visit them, combining my love for food, fitness, and friendship.

