

Tanya Seitz

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Baker McKenzie.

Tanya is a director designate in Baker McKenzie's Corporate Mergers & Acquisitions Practice Group in Johannesburg. She routinely assists clients in matters involving public and private mergers and acquisitions, global reorganisations, takeovers, securities law, private equity, equity capital markets, medical law, life sciences law, and corporate governance. She represents and advises multinational and listed clients across industry sectors, including cross-border transactional work in sub-Saharan Africa.

Tanya received her LLB from the University of Stellenbosch in 2013 and was admitted as an attorney in 2016.

Some of the recent matters Tanya has advised on are:

- *Aveng Limited in relation to the early redemption of its R2 billion convertible bonds and concurrent rights offer, which successfully raised R460 million.*
- *Bidvest Group Limited in relation to its acquisition of 100% of the shares in PHS Group Limited, a hygiene services provider in the UK, Ireland and Spain, for £495 million.*
- *Impala Platinum Holdings Limited in relation to its proposed acquisition of 100% of the issued and outstanding common shares in North American Palladium, the Canadian-based primary platinum group metals producer listed on the TSX and the US OTC market, for a total cash consideration of approximately R11,4 billion.*

- *Impala Platinum Holdings Limited regarding its offer for an incentivised conversion of US\$250 million in 3.25% convertible bonds due in 2022 into ordinary shares in Impala Platinum Holdings Limited.*

Q *The M&A industry worldwide has been a rollercoaster for the last few years – where do YOU think M&A in South Africa is headed, given our current political, economic and social climate?*

A The current political, economic and social climate has been turbulent, however, this has created opportunities for deals with depressed and deeply discounted assets. Equity capital markets transactions in South Africa have followed the global downturn, but the general sentiment is hopeful that the market will turn. Supply chain disruptions and soaring energy prices have led to predictions that we might be entering a period of poor economic growth and persistently high inflation, but the outlook is not wholly negative, particularly for Africa. Private investors have been capitalising on good value deals and many have held on to their investments, waiting for a good time to exit, so we could see a number of deals enter the market in the foreseeable future.

Among many other things, developments across the continent like the African Continental Free Trade Area and the focus on improving infrastructure, the increasing access to power via the energy transition (with accompanying global demand for Africa's critical minerals needed for the transition), and the growth of investor-friendly policies are all providing exciting opportunities for investors who are effectively able to manage the risks.

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

A Prioritise work-life balance. Strive for a healthy work-life balance from the outset of your career. Dedicate time to nurture and maintain personal relationships and hobbies, and take care of your physical and mental well-being. It's easy to forget, when you sell time, to horde some of it for yourself.

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

A Take your time, don't panic, ask for assistance where necessary, and proofread everything.

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

A Travel, walk my dog in the park, and enjoy a nice glass of wine... sometimes all at the same time.

FUN FACTS

Favourite Colour: Is black a colour?

Current book on your nightstand:
The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles.

Item not yet completed on your bucket list:
See the aurora borealis.

Preferred holiday destination:
The Kruger Park. 🇿🇦