

MILLENNIAL

WOMAN

MAGAZINE

THE WORLD OF
AFRICAN
FASHION

GRACIA
BAMPILE

GET
INSPIRED
WITH
DORIC
SITHOLE

HOW TO
BECOME AN
ASSET IN THE
WORKPLACE
WITH
BUSISIWE
NTULI

TRAILBLAZER
OF THE ISSUE

WITH

LINDELWA MAHLALELA

GET INSPIRED
WITH

LERATO NKHUMANE

MMM

Editor's Letter

Greetings once more for another thrilling edition of Millennial Woman Magazine. As we enter a new season, I trust you're courageously taming the year-end fatigue bull. Excitingly, we bring you another information-packed issue. Our journey begins with a captivating exploration of African fashion, spotlighting the incredible Gracia Bampile, our cover star. From there, we shift gears into the world of poultry with a feature on Lerato Nkhumane. Additionally, we introduce you to our Trailblazer of the Issue, a remarkable individual who is leaving an indelible mark in the field of education: Lindelwa Mahlalela. I am perpetually inspired by the stories that our fellow Millennial Women generously share. It is my sincere hope that these narratives resonate with you and, perhaps, alter your perspective on life as well. I acknowledge that we might be a little exhausted, but remember, we are on the cusp of our 2023 goals. So, let's keep going. Until our next encounter,
With love and light,

EDITOR
NOMAKHOSAZANA NDLOVU

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
FMG

BEAUTY EDITOR
TATENDA MKANDLA

ART DIRECTOR/ EDITOR
TATENDA MKANDLA

PHOTOGRAPHY
FMG

FASHION STYLIST
HAUTE AFRIKA

MAKEUP ARTIST
MAKEUP YAPATIEY



Issue 4 published in September 2023
All rights reserved © 2023

Nomakhosazana
Editor-in-Chief



FUSION MEDIA GROUP

**WE ARE TAKING
PHOTOGRAPHY/REELS BOOKINGS**

South Africa

SEPT 24-24 OCT

book now

+2767 927 2691 | dbossmk@gmail.com

NB : A 75% deposit or full payment is required to confirm booking.



THE WORLD OF AFRICAN FASHION

with

BAMPILE

Gracia Bampile is the creative force and founder of the South African-based fashion brand, Haute Afrika. Under her leadership, the company has meticulously crafted a sterling reputation for producing clothing suitable for a myriad of occasions, all while embracing a wide spectrum of individuals and styles.

What truly distinguishes Haute Afrika is its unwavering dedication to drawing inspiration from the rich tapestry of traditional African fabrics. This commitment results in garments that not only showcase the authentic beauty of African textiles but also resonate with a global audience, transcending cultural boundaries and creating a unique fashion experience.



Recently, Millennial Woman Magazine had the privilege of engaging in a conversation with the talented Gracia Bampile:

Q) What is your fondest memory about your childhood?

A) It was with my dad when he was still around. He was a fun individual. He was dope. I feel for any girl, your dad is your bestie.

Q) You studied International Relations at tertiary. Why did you choose to study International Relations?

A) I wanted to get a job at the United Nations. So, I googled what degree I need to work at the UN, and the first degree that popped up was International Relations and I never bothered to go back and see what other degrees you need.

Q) Why did you want to work at the United Nations?

A) The United Nations is a very esteemed organization and I've also wanted to help people, and that is the organization I knew did humanitarian work. Now I know there are many, but as a child, I wanted to work for the UN. I liked

what they were doing with other people's lives and giving back is so big to me. It made sense for me to work there, which I did.

Q) How was your experience working at the United Nations?

A) It was great. It was life-changing. I met beautiful people at the UN. I met inspirational people. I feel like the UN opened me to learning a lot of things and learning how to lead people. I had 3 bosses, and I was able to learn from their leadership styles.

Q) How did Haute Afrika come about?

A) Haute Afrika came about when I realized that people like my hobby of selling clothing items during lunch at university for pocket money. I thought about what would happen if I were to sit and develop a business plan to sell things to make money, and not just pocket money. That is how Haute Afrika came about.

Q) How was the process of building the business, Haute Afrika?

A) To be honest, it's only now that I am beginning to take it in. I felt like I was on autopilot. I was doing things, but I wasn't living or present. That's also a downfall of being creative because you don't get time to sit and appreciate what you have done for example I was thinking about the launch of my new collection when I was in Uganda. So, building Haute Afrika for the most part was auto pilot.

Q) What are your key lessons from building a business from the ground up?

A) Get a good team, and treat people well because everything revolves around people. You don't want your name to come up in conversations and people are like that one is unprofessional, or she is not a good person. I also believe Karma is the same in business. Be present, work hard, manage your schedule, and cheer yourself up. Never let fame or money get into your head.

Q) Can you elaborate on the design process, and what goes into creating a Haute Afrika ensemble?

A) People always ask me this question and I never really know what to say. Some of my biggest hits were production mistakes. Some were being changed as they were being stitched. For some of them, I had to sit and think. I feel like fashion is a talent, but that doesn't mean one must be lazy. There are ways to nurture the talent. I don't know for everybody else, but I know for me, I don't have to try so hard.

In a conversation with the talented Gracia Bampile:

Q) You have worked with renowned public figures, what is the importance of collaboration amongst women in business?

A) Collaboration is so important in so many ways. It gives one brand exposure. You get to learn how other people are doing things and you get to teach other people how to do things. It's a two-way thing. Collaboration for me is a win-win thing. I feel like the people I have worked with are such amazing individuals, it makes the process of collaborating so easy.

Q) How do you make sure that Haute Afrika as a brand, stands out?

A) I stay authentic. When you are who you are, you don't have to show up as anyone else. Authenticity is what sells.

Q) Finally, what are your words of advice to women who want to enter into the world of fashion design?

A) Work hard because nothing comes easy. Stay true to yourself. Be authentic. Be kind, Kindness goes a long way.

With care comes **confidence.**

Our mission is to give you superior quality products that will enhance your natural beauty, take you on an exploration of womanhood and that will give your confidence a boost.

Our products are carefully crafted to deliver effective results that will leave you feeling radiant and empowered. From luscious lashes with the LASHOUT eyelash growth serum to earth-friendly skincare, we have everything you need to unleash your inner strength and shine like the star you are.



Let your lashes
bloom
& your confidence
blossom



10% Discount Code: MM_SPRING10



M O N I S E
BEAUTY

Get Inspired with

Lerato Nkhumane is a versatile business owner who excels in multiple domains, driven by her unwavering passion for poultry, early childhood development, and writing. Her entrepreneurial journey is a testament to her diverse interests and the dedication she brings to each facet of her life.



Q) Please tell us about your journey to entrepreneurship. What inspired you to venture into the world of entrepreneurship?

A) My journey in entrepreneurship has been good, bad, and interesting at the same time. I was inspired by being around businesswomen. I was inspired by wanting freedom for myself and passion. I would often feel trapped and unhappy when I have a job and having to do same thing over and over so that also inspired me to just get out there and explore.

Q) You currently businesses in various sectors at the same time. What measures do you put in place to ensure that each business runs smoothly?

A) I currently run 2 businesses, a poultry farm business and a school shuttle business, and then I have an au pair side job I do, and I run an NGO. I work normal hours as someone who has 1 job and put in 8 hours work. I make it a point that I work 8- 10 hours a day so that I'll still have time for my kids and husband. All the 4 things that I do have each 2 hours of my attention per day. So, I put hours, a lot of discipline and focus as a measure in my businesses.

Q) How do you keep yourself motivated on your challenging business days?

A) I keep myself motivated by setting smaller goals for myself and understanding that things don't always work out the way we plan or imagine. I also don't have huge expectations. I motivate myself that through challenges you can learn so much, and I use those challenges as a learning process. I have had so many challenges in the business, a lot! And that taught me to grow a thick skin and soldier on. Challenges either makes you or break you and for me I always choose the winning side. I choose not to be broken and that's what keeps me motivated.

Q) Please tell us about your business LF Poultry. What inspired the beginning of LF Poultry?

A) LF poultry falls under the agriculture field, we farm chickens for eggs and meat. It was established in 2018, we supply both formal and informal market. I saw a business gap and that is what inspired it. When I started in 2018 there wasn't too many females in poultry, and I wanted to tap in something that has a gap and open for opportunity. After a year in the business, I was really hooked and today I can't imagine my life without a chicken business.

Q) What is the importance of the agriculture industry in South Africa today.

A) The importance of agriculture today in South Africa is the opportunity that is now open for females in particular to tap in the agriculture space. The poultry industry is one of the biggest in South Africa.

Q) What is your word of advice to other women who want to venture into the field of agriculture?

A) My advice is go for it please! There's so much space to be filled in agriculture. There is a lot of money in agriculture. There's so much to be done in agriculture, there's a lot of industries within agriculture. The chain is long. Research in which could resonate more with you. It can be livestock, can be crops, you just pick one that you see there's a gap and go for it.

Q) Finally, what is your word of advice to women who have multiple interests and also want to venture into various businesses in various sectors?

A) Why not? if you are someone that is ambitious, you are someone that likes to learn new things, you are a people person, you love making money, you love to explore, you can definitely be able to juggle multiple things. Most importantly, always leave a space to work on your mental health, it is important. Don't try to do too much if you know you can't handle multiple things and it is ok if you are just a 1 thing at a time type of a girl. Sometimes multiple can be helpful in terms of you not just doing one thing over and over. Do only what soothes your heart and your mental health. Anything that makes an impact in your life and the next person, do that!

Health and Wellness with Keitumetse

Keitumetse is the visionary founder behind Phenomenal Health and Wellness. Millennial Woman Magazine recently had the privilege of sitting down with her to uncover the inspiring story behind her enterprise and her unwavering commitment to health and wellness.

Top of Form | Bottom of Form

Q) What inspired the birth of Phenomenal Health and Wellness?

A) My passion for health and well-being has been a lifelong pursuit but it was my personal health crisis that crystalized the importance of the journey. Having engaged with people around me, it also brought to attention the prevalence of chronic medication reliance which marked a pivotal turning point for me, reinforcing the imperative significance of transformation to change this health narrative that's how Phenomenal Health was birthed

Q) What have been our key learnings in the process of starting your business?

A) Key learnings in the process of starting my business is to operate in excellence, always go an extra mile. Don't take short cuts with anything- get an expert in anything you seek i.e branding, website, packaging etc. Start with what you have

Q) What have been the highlights of building your business?

A) My highlight is participating in this remarkable event- The Authentic Woman Summit by extending my support

Q) How do you make it through your bad business days?

A) I find solace in prayer, engaging in heartfelt conversations with the Almighty that guide me through challenging moments. Spiritual connection serves as my anchor

Q) What is the importance of taking holistic health and wellness for women?

A) It is essential to prioritize holistic care for women, as health plays a vital part of one's overall wellbeing. Without good health, the enjoyment of life's pursuits becomes challenging

Q) Please share one selfcare method that you recommend for women?

A) REST- rest is often overlooked, yet an essential aspect of self-care. It's essential to allocate dedicated time to rest as it contributes to maintaining overall wellbeing. Embracing the notion that not only is it permissible but also encouraged to prioritize rest in the self-care routine

Q) Finally, what is your advice to women who want to venture into the health and wellness sector in business?

A) DARE TO GO AFTER YOUR DREAMS- your wealth of expertise and knowledge are essential to enlighten and empower our people





Building a Beauty Empire 1 lipstick at a time with **Nomzamo Pometun**

Nomzamo Pometun is a multifaceted entrepreneur who skilfully manages both a thriving beauty business and a successful catering venture. Her ability to excel in diverse industries highlights her entrepreneurial prowess and passion for delivering excellence in all her endeavors. Millennial Woman Magazine recently had the privilege of sitting down with Nomzamo to gain insights into her dynamic career and the unique blend of businesses she navigates.

Q) You are the founder of DEW KISS, what inspired the inception of your business?

A) My love for lipstick inspired me to start my own lipstick line. I'm not a makeup person in general but you will barely see me without lipstick on, so I thought why not have my own line. Initially, I wanted to only have those rare colors like blue, green, black etc. but then decided otherwise, because I had to look at what will sell more.

Q) What have been our key learnings in the process of starting your business?

A) I have learned that having great business ideas doesn't mean that you will become an equal or more of a businessperson. It takes determination and hard work to sustain a business.

Q) What have been the highlights of building your business?

A) In the beginning I had a supplier who supplied the products to me but now I have started making my own lipstick & lip gloss from scratch which is a total joy. From researching and gaining the knowledge of the oils and every ingredient, knowing what is suitable for which skin type. When I had a supplier, I wasn't informed in depth about the importance of all these things.

Q) How do you make it through your bad business days?

A) In any business there is always going to be some lows, so you always have to remember why you started it to begin with. You will continuously thrive to stay dedicated and reach your main goal. In my case, I do take a break, breathe, and reflect and then come back with a fresh mind.

Q) You also have a catering business. What is the importance of having multiple sources of income for women in the present-day society?

A) I believe that every woman should be financially independent. We have evolved, so cultures & certain things also erode with time. Women need to understand the power we have. We can now build empires along men and also be successful on our own. More so, in this society with its values, every woman needs to be able to stand on her own. It would reduce the abuse some have to endure in the name of 'I don't have where to go' 'I don't know where to start and so forth.'

Q) Finally, what is your advice to women who want to venture into the beauty sector in business?

A) It's a flooded business so do your research and be ready to work hard and claim your spot. Above everything, don't be afraid to try.

Starting a Florist Business with Lisa Khumalo



Lisa Khumalo is a blossoming florist who is steadily cultivating her business from its very roots. Her entrepreneurial journey is a testament to her determination and passion for the art of floral arrangement. Millennial Woman Magazine recently had the privilege of engaging in a conversation with her to delve into her unique story and the floral world she is crafting.

Q) What inspired you to start a florist business?

A) First of all, my passion for flowers did not start recently but it started from a young age, I used to visit my uncle who is into gardening flower who is also now my business partner. Besides selling them, I appreciate the beauty flowers uphold and the joy people feel whenever they receive flowers. The health benefits that flowers contain other than showing affection they also have health benefits for example Tulips have anti-septic properties and assist with cardiovascular health the list is endless. Basically, the broadness of this business is enough inspiration to keep learning.

Q) What has running your business taught you about yourself?

A) Well in this business you must always be on your toes, it is not an easy business. It has taught me time management because flowers must be kept fresh till they reach the customer and to also keep up with industry trends since we also sell gifts. I have to be cautious with the changes of consumer tastes and habits. It has also taught me to meditate and keep a calm spirit because nature reacts to your aura they gravitate towards your energy if it is bad, you will always deliver stale flowers.

Q) How do you keep yourself motivated on your challenging business days?

I shut down external noises, negative people will make you think that it is not possible so I learn from those that have made it in this industry. I once read a quote which says, do not seek to follow the foot steps of the wise, seek to what they sought meaning on challenging days I have to always seek the drive and passion from the people that made it in their business and apply it to my own business. My customers also keep me motivated every time I feel overwhelmed I always remember how happy I make them whenever I deliver flowers, that alone is enough motivation.

Q) What do you enjoy about running your business?

A) Mostly customer interactions because I get to learn different perceptions that helps me enhance my skills as well as personal growth. The competition within this business, you can see from social media that people in this industry are quite creative so researching on how to beat that and show my creative side can be fun. Above all flowers make me calm. They also have a positive effect on me because we live in a stressful environment hence, I enjoy the beauty and therapeutic scent they have.

Q) What is the importance of learning about entrepreneurship for young people in South Africa?

A) To be honest, entrepreneurship is where the monetary value is. People are willing to support if you apply the right mind set. It opens doors for self-growth as well as an opportunity to interact with people that aid to your growth. It also creates employment cause the future is in the hand of us young people. My Spiritual leader always tell us young people to not wait for opportunities but to take that ideas no matter how big or small it is to take it and action it they are willing to listen and support us as young people. Job opportunities will not come and knock on our doors. We must take action. Also, being an entrepreneur teaches you to be responsible because if you fail you will be the one dealing with a loss so that self-discipline that comes with running your business will make you responsible and reliable.

Q) What is your word of advice to other women who want to start and run florist businesses?

A) No one owes you anything if you do not act no one will, yes, it is not an easy business but do not tell yourself that it is not possible, IT IS. Money should not stop you if proper research and be humble enough to start from 0 then walk you way up to the top. Just do your research know what you are dealing with and everything else will fall into place remember, if it is not, you then who? if you want to be a florist then who can stand in your way, I BELIEVE NO ONE.



Get inspired with Doric Sithole

Doric Sithole brings to the table more than a decade's worth of invaluable experience in the dynamic realm of Marketing and Communications. Her journey in this field has been marked by a steadfast commitment to her craft, driven by a deep-seated passion for crafting communication strategies that truly make an impact. One of Doric's notable strengths lies in her dedication to nurturing and honing the skills of those around her. Doric believes in the power of skills development and invests her time and energy in fostering the growth of professionals and young women.

Q) You are a marketing & communications strategist, facilitator, and MC. How has the journey of discovering and honing your versatile skills been?

A) Over the years I have learnt that the most important goal every human being must pursue is to discover who they are and why they were created which is 'Purpose', a process I refer to as 'Unearthing the Diamond Within'. You can be thriving in your career climbing the corporate ladder but still feel empty. I started as a Marketing & Communications professional in corporate and when I discovered my purpose, I also discovered other facets such as my ability to facilitate a conversation, being a Coach and a Master of Ceremonies. So, honing my versatile skills has only been possible because I know my Purpose or my Why? and I pursue every goal by being 'Fearless and Passionate' an inspiration I draw from one of my favourite quotes. "Be fearless in the things that set your soul on fire" - Jen

Q) What measures have you taken to ensure that you are excellent in every role that you find yourself in either at work or in business?

A) Perpetual Learning is a skill and a key principle in my life and when I became aware that I can learn in an accelerated manner it was the spark that I needed to grow in my career. I always step into a role with a student mentality, so I consume myself with the knowledge required for me to understand where I am, which explains why I have a 'rainbow' CV that has so many diverse industries and versatile skills. I am an individual who leads from the heart so people are very important to me and Respect is core value when I engage in work, business and socially because in the end people never forget how we make them feel so we must always take a conscious decision to check in on how our approach could have been better than the one we used yesterday when we lead. I also believe being consistent and passionately applying myself to each role has contributed to the success I have achieved in my career and in business.

Q) You have mastered the art of monetising your gifts and passions. What are your words of advice to young women who are working towards being able to monetize their passions?

- Know what your gift is – you should be able to articulate the value that gift brings to the people you serve (clients)- never get comfortable with your gift refine it through learning & surround yourself with people whose work resonates with where you want to be.
- Value may be exchanged in other ways that are not monetary just be very clear about the value each party will gain so that in the long run you can see the fruits of that exchange.
- Discovering your worth and value is work and if a client cannot meet you halfway so you do not sell yourself short be brave enough to say thank you and walk away. If you negotiate make sure you go to bed at night at peace with what the account will look like when the client pays you.
- Deliver with Excellence -if you are bold enough to ask for 'that amount' also remember to back it up by delivering the service like a Queen - walk the talk and do so with integrity.

Q) What advice do you have for individuals aspiring to become effective leaders and communicators, especially

Get inspired with Doric Sithole

in the context of today's rapidly evolving business landscape?

A) In order for you to be an Effective Leader you must be able to Communicate Effectively and to achieve Effective Communication in business there must be an end goal. When you walk into a room what is your goal what are you taking into the room and what do you intend to leave in the room when you are gone. Always pretend you have one chance to make an impression and aim for excellence. etc Other Tips a) Learn how to Communicate Effectively (watch online videos, read books e.g., Dale Carnegie an author with books I binge on repeatedly b) Get Feedback c) Practice what you learn d) Looking Good is a Must not an Option

Q) You are also a Philanthropist who believes in empowering women in Africa. Could you tell us more about your philanthropic efforts and the specific initiatives you are involved in to empower women on the continent?

A) I am the Founder of a platform called Diamond Women Africa and it was created to offer women the opportunity to engage in conversations focusing on Authenticity, Purpose and Leadership. I believe that we need to embrace who we are as African women by being Authentic and then go on to pursue our Purpose so we can serve our communities with intention and Lead with Excellence. Women are resilient in nature and establishing a 'diamond' inspired platform made sense particularly when we pay attention to challenges, they experience in socio-economic and cultural contexts. We have a specific program we run once a year to expose the girl child that may not understand statistics about Gender Based Violence or Gender Pay Gap but is hungry to grow and learn. DWA partners with Women who own community centres in vulnerable communities, and we bring 20 girls, a group we call #Diamond20 into a space with Female Guest Speakers who pour into the cups of these young ladies by inspiring them to lead. This event always leaves me in awe of how many unearthed diamonds are in our communities. My prayer is that more individuals and companies will contribute resources to work shops like these (e.g. sanitary pads, books, food parcels etc) because our African Girls need it.

Q) What other projects are you working that are Women-related?

A) I recently took up a new role as a South Africa based partner and MD for an organisation called Ignite Purpose which is a human-centred coaching and training consultancy company. When the founder Christina Foxwell spoke about her passion for women and her Pan-African vision to 'Ignite Purpose' I knew I had found alignment in my career particularly because we empower people and organisations through Coaching and Training. I am also the Co-Founder of a Podcast called #UnlockWomen which I co-pilot with the Co-Founder Khanya Sosibo. Khanya -my sister from another mother- has been so amazing through this journey of Sisterhood in Business. The Podcast emanated from a conversation that came out frustration about how we were struggling as women in business. The objective is to have authentic conversations with Women leading in diverse industries using a holistic approach that focuses on dealing with inner insecurities regarding money, acknowledging the role culture plays in how we engage with money and providing practical tips so women can embrace the beauty of being empowered Financially and the freedom it brings for us to do Purpose-work

Q) Finally, please share your daily mantra and your secret to living a holistically purposeful life.

A) I believe that God has a Purpose for our lives and it is our job to find out what that Purpose is. My daily mantra has two verses Psalm 91 and Psalm 23 it is reminder for me to always acknowledge that my life is in God's hands Psalm 91 "...he is my refuge and fortress" and that everything I need has been supplied Psalms 23 "...I shall not want'. Living a Purposeful life does not exclude pain and disappointment it is about finding your centre even in the midst of chaos and prayer does that for me. When life gives you lemons you go to the one who created lemon trees so he can help you understand how to deal with the situation. I also surround myself with people that challenge me in work and business and have similar values as mine and lastly my inner circle has a good sense of humour because a good laugh keeps the doctor away *wink*



Trailblazer of the issue with Lindelwa Mahlalela

Lindelwa Mahlalela stands as the driving force behind LeeConnect, a company she founded and now leads as its CEO. Her mission is to empower high school learners by providing invaluable assistance in navigating the complex landscape of university and college funding schemes, ultimately granting them access to high-quality education. Lindelwa's work has left a profound mark on the lives of countless young individuals, as she equips them with the essential information and resources required to advance their educational journeys. Millennial

Q) Can you tell us more about the inspiration behind founding LeeConnect and the mission of your organization?

A) LeeConnect was established because of my passion for education and always striving to make a positive impact in the lives of others. I met a young girl who passed matric with outstanding results but had no idea about an email address. I think that was one out of hundred thousand grade 12 learners that were not exposed to information and resources to enable them to make the right career choices in tertiary institutions.

Q) What motivated you to focus on helping high school learners with university and college funding scheme applications and access to quality education?

A) When you enter a school, you enter a space full of hope, the children have dreams to become doctors, teachers, lawyers and engineers. They have big dreams and so much potential, but those dreams may seem too far for them to reach as soon as they leave high school because they were not exposed to academic information and resources. LeeConnect solves academic problems, we make dreams come true. We fill a gap of inequality and offer convenience by making things easier for learners. I believe in being the change that I want to see.

When I was doing my final year in high school, I struggled with applying to universities, I had no idea where to start or how to go about the process of aligning my interests, strengths, and hobbies into a career that I would truly love. I had little information about which university was in which province. Focusing on education and providing access to information and resources was a personal problem and I did not want anyone else to experience that. Q) You were recognized as one of Africa's Brightest Young Minds and made it to the Top 10 of the Gordon Institute of Business's Science Festival of Ideas. How have these experiences influenced your work and vision for LeeConnect?

A) "Recognition is the greatest motivator", when big organizations such as the Africa's Brightest Minds and Gordon Institute of Business Science recognized my work, it was a stamp of approval in greatness that I am in the right path and that my impact is significant. As an

Trailblazer of the issue with Lindelwa Mahlalela

online business, it has given LeeConnect good traction and has helped us to get good customer base in all the provinces of the country.

Q) You've expressed the importance of making resources and information more accessible in the education sector. What specific strategies or initiatives do you believe can help achieve this goal?

A) We have mentorship and career guidance sessions where we have one-on-one sessions with learners to guide them into the right career paths and to prevent the increased number of learners taking gap years or dropping out in universities because they selected wrong courses or something outside of their interests. Our strategy includes having an in-depth conversation with the learners, analyzing what their talents, interests, strengths, and weaknesses are. Learners have to choose courses that they are passionate about. We further provide an overview of how different working environments operate so learners are well informed about what to expect when they enter workspaces. We believe that self-awareness is important in guiding the learners to make the right career choices.

Q) In your opinion, what are the key challenges that young entrepreneurs, especially those in South Africa, face today? How can they overcome these challenges?

A) Some of the key challenges that young entrepreneurs face is having short term goals for their businesses which makes the business become unscalable and unprofitable. Not being exposed to financial knowledge, we usually follow trends and lose the main focus of the business because we want to be jacks of all trades and sometimes, it's great to do one thing and excel in it then to do a lot of things and be average in all of them. We lack patience and focus on the results instead of learning and acquiring skills throughout the entrepreneurial journey.

Q) Empowering learners is a noble goal. Could you elaborate on some of the specific steps or initiatives you believe can contribute to creating a more empowering educational environment in South Africa?

A) The greatest step that can contribute to creating a more empowering educational environment in South Africa is providing access to information and resources to everyone who needs academic help, it is to close the gap of academic inequalities by fostering and encouraging positive partnerships. There is a quote that says, 'If you want to go fast, go alone and if you want to go far, go together'. The power of unity is often underestimated because young entrepreneurs usually seek competition instead of collaboration. LeeConnect has partnered with incredible entrepreneurs that seek to improve the current education system through various platforms. We have partnered up with Uni-wise, an app that shows learners which courses they qualify for and in which institutions and Sigma Tutors, access to experienced tutors that help learners in high school and students in tertiary institutions to excel in their studies. Rated Original is the best in helping businesses to create an excellent online presence. We all do different things but our passion in creating a more inclusive and education-focused society unites us and helps us work in harmony.

Q) What's your vision for the future of LeeConnect? Are there any upcoming projects or plans you'd like to share with us?

A) LeeConnect has spread its wings and landed in Botswana, we have started assisting young people in Botswana to apply to universities, this has been made possible through amazing partnerships and collaborations. We aim to continue



Millennial Woman Magazine

Events



Women of Substance Empowerment *Seminar*

In commemoration of Women's Month, Women of Substance NPO orchestrated a compelling women's empowerment seminar. This event served as a beacon of unity, drawing women from diverse backgrounds and experiences, converging in a room pulsating with encouragement, inspiration, and unwavering support. The seminar, masterfully hosted by the multifaceted Shirley Kaliko, transcended its intended purpose. It emerged as a truly transformative experience, instilling every woman present with a profound sense of renewed strength and unshakable courage to navigate the challenges of life. This remarkable event boasted an impressive lineup of speakers, each an expert in their respective fields. They shared invaluable insights on topics ranging from business acumen to mental health and the art of leading purposeful lives. Their collective wisdom and diverse experiences added a rich tapestry of knowledge to the gathering. The Women of Substance NPO's empowerment seminar underscored the extraordinary power of women coming together to uplift and empower one another. It was a resounding testament to the indomitable spirit of women and their capacity to inspire and support, leaving a legacy of motivation and unity.



Empowered Women in *Conversations*



On July 1st, 2023, a remarkable gathering of women took place in a dedicated space, uniting with the common purpose of sharing ideas, insights, and mutual inspiration. This significant event, aptly named "Empowered Women in Conversation," was expertly hosted by Nelisiwe Nhlapo. The event featured an impressive lineup of speakers, including the dynamic entrepreneur Hetty, the fitness enthusiast Semmi Fit, and the accomplished Adele Barnard.

The event served as a platform for empowerment, where women had the opportunity to delve into crucial topics. They received invaluable insights into financial literacy, which is essential for personal and economic growth. Additionally, the event emphasized the importance of physical health, with Semmi Fit likely offering guidance on maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Furthermore, attendees had the privilege of exploring the art of personal brand building, a pivotal skill in today's competitive world.

"Empowered Women in Conversation" undoubtedly left a lasting impact, equipping women with the knowledge and inspiration needed to excel in various facets of their lives. It was a testament to the strength and potential of women coming together to support and uplift one another.

