

YOUNG & DRIVEN

Ntuli's bumpy road to success

Nomaswazi Nkosi

YOUNG entrepreneur Ntokozi Ntuli's road to success was not an easy one after resigning from her last job without having a solid plan.

Talking about how she had felt in the build-up towards her resignation, Ntuli said: "I gave myself five years to change.

"I was doing the same thing over and over, and I had felt that there was no room for growth."

In addition to her becoming overwhelmed by feelings of complacency, Ntuli's mother was fighting cancer at the time, and she was battling her own health issues as a Type-2 diabetes sufferer.

"Those things also prompted me to change," the 31-year-old said.

"As a Type-2 diabetic, I was always sick."

Before the drastic change Ntuli worked for six years for various companies as an interior designer and worked on various high-profile projects.

"When I started working for this one company, uShaka Marine was still being built so I was tasked with designing the KFC there."

She said she showed a lot of dedication and hard work on the project.

"It was difficult, but I was happy with the work I was doing."

She also did work on The Sails Hotel as well as for Mr Price clothing stores.

"If I didn't start off there I wouldn't have pushed myself to do something more better for myself."

When she resigned, Ntuli thought she would have another job lined up but the one prospective job ended up being a scam.

"It was very difficult and I only had savings to cover expenses for three months."

With the knowledge that

DESIGN IS HER BUSINESS



CREATIVE: Ntokozi Ntuli is a young entrepreneur who owns her own interior design company called NT Design Box. It offers design solutions to corporate, retail and private clients

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

something had to give, Ntuli started her own company called NT Design Box. It offers design solutions to corporate, retail and private clients.

"I started my company around 2009 when there were many projects available because of the 2010 (Soccer) World Cup."

Ntuli grew her business until small projects became her "bread projects", and bigger ones came knocking on her door.

"Big projects take about eight to nine months, but we still have the small bread projects."

Ntuli said her business is different to others because she adds a technical component to her designing.

The biggest challenge her business is facing is finding funding and capacity for employment.

● As part of Women's Month, Sowetan is running a series on young women entrepreneurs.

PROFILE

NTOKOZO Ntuli is an entrepreneur on the rise after starting her own interior designing business called NT Design Box.

She graduated from the Durban University of Technology with an interior design diploma.

NT Design Box offers design solutions to corporate, retail and private

clients.

The services include interior design, project management, consultation and technical drawing among other services.

Within the second year of starting her business, it was already consistent in terms of income and the number of clients.