

Q&A

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Q *Where did your corporate finance journey begin, and how did you end up where you are today?*

A My journey began in 2001 when I switched degrees from a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Accounting to a Bachelor of Business Science majoring in Finance and Accounting. I was very interested in the corporate finance angle then – and have remained so. There aren't many female M&A bankers at the director level and beyond. I am here because of the support of the amazing mentors and sponsors I have encountered on my journey. They stretched me and made sure I did not stay in any comfort zone for too long.

Q *Did you have a mentor at any point in your career? If so, who were they and what did you learn from them?*

A My first mentor was my father. He was a career banker until his recent retirement. He taught me the value of investing in my professional relationships, and that my aptitude would only get me so far in my career.

Q *What are some of the most memorable deals you have worked on?*

A The recapitalisation of the Nigerian banking sector between 2010 and 2015. It involved the recapitalisation of eight Nigerian Banks to the tune of USD15 billion by the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria. It was a landmark transaction that led to the reform of the Nigerian banking sector, and today Nigeria's banking sector is healthy and well capitalised.

Q *How did the COVID-19 pandemic affect your work or career?*

A I decided to move to Absa after six years of working in a boutique corporate finance advisory firm that I co-owned with my partner. With all that it brought; the pandemic helped me to put a lot of things into perspective. In some way, it was a gift.

Q *What advice would you give to young women who are looking to enter the corporate finance market?*

A Working hard and being smart is a hygiene factor. To have staying power, you need to understand what you bring to the table and nurture those unique talents and gifts. 📌

