

## Zamadloomo Matshaya

Associate | Corporate Commercial



*Dear Zama*

*It's me, you.*

*Remember the first week of January 2020? You were a bundle of nerves. After years of hard work, commitment, passion, diligence and faith, you were finally only two weeks away from becoming a candidate legal practitioner at ENSAfrica. The dream was finally becoming a reality. However, the closer you got to your "first day at the job", the more fear crumpled your heart. Suddenly, you wondered: would you be competent? Did you have the skills, would you fit in, would your background present a further stumbling block in your path? What if they do not think that you have what it takes to be part of the team? And more what-ifs.*

*Anyway, a few years later, I am here to tell you that I am impressed. In these few years, you have demonstrated that you can adapt to new environments and embrace the adversity that comes with it. You have taken advantage of opportunities to improve yourself and grow.*

*As a young woman practising primarily in the mergers and acquisitions branch of corporate law, you have been part of and assisted in corporate re-organisation, restructures, and due diligence investigations involving some of the biggest players in the various sectors. You have drafted commercial documents (including memoranda of incorporation, shareholders' agreements, sale of business agreements, share purchase agreements, and sale and subscription agreements), reviewed transactions, and have been involved in negotiations and implementation of major merger and acquisition transactions. Having regard for the importance of mergers and acquisitions in today's economy, and being one of the key instruments facilitating the growth of companies across different industries, I am proud that you chose to practise in this field.*

*You have faced your fair share of challenges: moving to a new city, questioning the quality of your work, and battling to maintain a healthy work-life balance, to mention a few. However, you have and continue to handle these challenges well. You did well by identifying experienced women in this profession to mentor you, to guide you through your challenges, and to transfer their knowledge to you. Thank you for having the courage to reach out to your seniors at work for training and development, and never being afraid to ask questions.*

*To my younger self, I have this to say:*

*"You do not have to worry too much; things always work out for the best. Your dreams are valid, and notwithstanding challenges along the way, there will always be opportunities that bring you closer to your goals. You will meet people who will see your value, invest in your development, and mentor you along the way. You will become a corporate lawyer; you will love the work you do, and you will excel at it. Work hard, diligently commit to everything you do, but give yourself grace and be patient with yourself."*

*And to my future self, I am very excited for the journey ahead. There are many opportunities that await, and I am here to witness you take up space and solidify yourself as a specialist in your profession. Understand that becoming the lawyer you want to be will take confidence in yourself and what you have to offer; a desire to learn and grow; courage, compromise, hard work and willingness to take risks. There are many opportunities for growth in this field – be ready to seize and embrace each opportunity that comes your way. Being a woman in your field will present issues of its own, and you need to be aware of these and have the courage to address them.*

*I wish you all the best for your future. Above all else, stay true to yourself.*

*Zamadloomo Matshaya*