Mbali Kubheka

Principal: Infrastructure Finance

Looking back on your journey, what shaped the way you think about leadership?

I started my career at Nedbank as a graduate trainee, and I was fortunate to work under leaders who valued my voice and encouraged me to contribute regardless of my title. I was given the opportunity to share my views, challenge thinking, and contribute to strategy. That taught me that leadership isn't defined by a title; it's defined by your willingness to take ownership and contribute to a shared outcome.

What first drew you to sustainability and infrastructure?

I was actually exposed to sustainability before I entered the field professionally, during my honours studies. I wrote my thesis on responsible investing and shareholder activism, and that sparked my interest in the role finance can play in influencing behaviour and driving positive outcomes. When I started my career in export finance, I worked on development-focused transactions across key African markets, and I saw firsthand how capital can help address infrastructure challenges, support economic growth, and improve livelihoods. That experience showed me that finance can be a powerful catalyst for development when it delivers both commercial value and meaningful impact.

How do you navigate the tension between commercial objectives and sustainability goals?

I am an investment banker who likes impact. The starting point is always bankability. A transaction has to be commercially sound before sustainability considerations can be incorporated. Once that foundation is in place, then we look at the environmental and social outcomes that are material to the client, the industry, and the country context, and work on a solution that speaks to all three. It's okay to walk away from an opportunity that isn't bankable, even if it has a lot of impact.

Is there a transaction that changed how you think about leadership?

The most recent transaction involved the development of a sustainable finance framework for Nampower, Namibia's national power utility, alongside the establishment of a landmark N$5 billion bond programme. The framework provides a structured approach to mobilising capital towards projects that support the country's long-term energy objectives, while also prioritising energy security in rural and underserved communities. What made the opportunity particularly rewarding was the way stakeholders came together to achieve a shared goal, each bringing their own expertise. It reinforced my belief that effective leadership is about aligning diverse stakeholders around a common purpose and creating an environment where everyone can contribute meaningfully. It also reinforced my belief that Africa's most pressing challenges require collective action across the public and private sectors.

What does Big Deal Energy mean to you?

Creating lasting impact through the work I do whilst prioritising commercial success, especially as it relates to legacy deals. It's building trust with clients and delivering solutions that create value long after the transaction has been concluded. For me, one of the greatest measures of success is return business. That's when you know you've become a trusted adviser and banker of choice.

What's the biggest misconception about women in corporate and investment banking?

That we have to choose between professional success and personal fulfilment. I don't believe that should be the case. I'd like future generations of women to know it's possible to build a career, pursue ambitious goals, and still have a life outside of work.

If you could speak to yourself at 20, what would you say?

You belong. You're amazing. Your work ethic will be your differentiator. Most importantly, stay grounded.

What's the 1 piece of advice you'd leave with a young woman considering a career in CIB?

Prioritise competence, invest in your learning, and apply yourself consistently. Titles and progression are important, but they're usually the result of a strong foundation, not the starting point. Credibility is what creates opportunities, and that's earned through preparation, hard work, and a commitment to continuous learning.

'Prioritise competence, invest in your learning, and apply yourself.'

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