Ukanyo Mabandla

Senior Associate

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Ukanyo is an accomplished emerging M&A lawyer whose technical expertise, commercial insight and commitment to transformation make him a deserving member of The Rising 20. As a Senior Associate at Bowmans, he has established himself as a trusted transactional adviser, taking on responsibilities beyond his level of seniority and contributing to significant South African deals.

His practice spans mergers and acquisitions, equity capital markets, private equity and cross-border transactions, particularly in mining, energy and natural resources. Notable experience includes ARM's strategic investment in Surge Copper Corp and the cross-border acquisition and delisting of Renergen by ASP Isotopes.

Ukanyo has coordinated multi-jurisdictional workstreams, engaged directly with clients and regulators, and led key aspects of transaction execution. He combines legal expertise with an understanding of the commercial, political and regulatory factors influencing client decisions, translating complex objectives into practical solutions.

Beyond dealmaking, Ukanyo has contributed to technology adoption and innovation at Bowmans, helping pilot artificial intelligence tools and supporting colleagues in adapting to new ways of working. His willingness to embrace innovation reflects a forward-looking approach to the evolving legal profession.

He is equally committed to mentorship and transformation, supporting junior practitioners and underrepresented groups, including women and persons with disabilities, to help broaden opportunities for the next generation of legal professionals.

Combining technical excellence, commercial judgement and inclusive leadership, Ukanyo has established a strong foundation for future advancement. His transactional experience, innovative mindset and dedication to developing others position him to become a leading M&A practitioner in South Africa.



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