



# Q&A

**Obakeng Monamodi**

Analyst

Standard Bank

## What initially drew you to a career in M&A or corporate finance?

I have always been intrigued by the ability to see behind the curtain and understand how companies come to be, grow and evolve. I was curious about how deals are structured, and how companies merge – especially at a large, publicly listed scale. The complexity of buying and selling companies has always fascinated me.

## What did your path into this field look like – was it intentional or did you discover it along the way?

My path into corporate finance was serendipitous. When I was in high school, making university choices, I told my mom that I wanted to be an investment banker or a consultant. I knew very little about what either career entailed, but they appealed to me. My university journey was challenging, and my early years in the working world were filled with imposter syndrome. I doubted my ability to succeed in corporate finance. One day, I shared my CV with a friend at the bank for a credit role, only to receive an email from the Head of Corporate Finance in Business and Commercial Banking – and, as they say, the rest is history.

## Can you share a defining moment or turning point in your career so far?

The choice to move from mid-market M&A to corporate and listed M&A has been the best decision of my career so far. It has challenged me and helped me grow in unimaginable ways. Above all, it has affirmed my ability to do hard things, and reminded me that I am more capable than I know.

## How have you built resilience in a high-pressure, male-dominated environment?

I've built resilience by cultivating discipline in my routine, my wellness, and how I show up for my job. People often remark on how difficult it must be to work in a male-dominated environment, but to most people's surprise, it has been good for me. It has taught me to embrace my femininity, lean into my strengths, and speak up in areas where I may lack experience. I don't try to keep up with the men; instead, I bring a softness and human element to the environment, which allows everyone to let their guard (and

egos) down. I think, in such an intense environment, we can all get quite robotic and hardened, so I go out of my way not to add to the intensity and harshness of the environment.

## Have your views on work-life balance changed over time?

My views have evolved. I've accepted that balance is a myth, and chasing it can become a job in itself. Instead, I've embraced routine, discipline and self-care to keep me going. I make the most of my free time, ensure that I rest when I can, and give myself what I need, when I need it. Sometimes I sleep more than I see my family, or spend most of my weekend socialising because that's what I need to recharge at that time.

## What advice would you give to your younger self starting out in this field?

You are far more capable than you realise, and you have to bet on yourself before anyone else does. Most people suffer from some form of imposter syndrome or another, but what matters is how you deal with it. I would also emphasise the importance of showing up and standing out. People treat and receive you based on how you treat and present yourself, so always put your best foot forward. 🙌

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