

Autumn 2019

Gutsy moves pay off for Nomhle

Nomhle Leshomo's entrepreneurial skills kicked in at a young age. Selling sweets at school on a regular basis paid for new school shoes. It did, however, not end there. Whilst working for the North West Parks Board, Nomhle's caretaker did not arrive for work one day and she had to manage the cleaning, laundry and at the same time report for work. It was during this time that Nomhle had an idea, a vision. She could not be the only woman, wife, mother or working individual that experienced these challenges.



Nomhle Leshomo



Taking a gigantic leap of faith, Nomhle started her laundry services with her domestic 13kg machine, 2kg powdered soap and 2L fabric softener. Charging R70 for her first client's laundry basket and encouraging intern students to bring their washing to her, saw the birth of **MNPKR Cleaning and Laundry Services**.

Nomhle went on to purchase 200 pegs to hang clothes and an ironing board and whilst still working at North West Parks Board during the day, continued to work in the evenings and over week-ends to service her laundry clients. She later employed two women to assist her as her business continued to grow. When it started raining, Nomhle realised that she needed a dryer. That was when she approached FNB.

FNB granted Nomhle a loan of R5000 and with business advice from SEDA, registered her business on CIPRO. She went on to clean her first home over a week-end for an amount of R300.00. This enterprising woman not only has an entrepreneurial spirit, but a huge heart. Nomhle donated the R300 she made to a disabled girl who urgently needed some money, a trait that, still today, endears her to her staff and many a person.



In 2010 with the local hosting of the FIFA World Cup, Nomhle once again saw a niche in the market and obtained a combi to transport tourists around for the duration of event. This too paid off and provided much-needed funds for more equipment. In the following year, Nomhle took occupancy at the NWDC Light Industrial Park, offering good rental rates for emerging SMMEs. The successful relationship between the NWDC and this SMME took root from there!



Nomhle's second successful business, **Speedchem** was born after she realised that the soap they bought in bulk from Johannesburg did not clean clothes properly, especially domestic clothing. Conducting her own research, Nomhle realised that the water in Gauteng did not contain water softeners, as the water there was "soft". Water in the North West was "hard" thus resulting in Nomhle and her team manufacturing their own powered soap.

A partnership with Mr Dylane has this business now producing its own detergents and is currently growing from strength to strength. One business paved the way for the next one. A truly remarkable feat.

MNPKR Cleaning and Laundry Services currently employs **10 permanent staff** and **5 temporary staff**. This business has been a successful tenant at the NWDC Light Industrial Park in Mafikeng since 2011, occupying a space of **100m²**.

Nomhle's second business, **Speedchem**, took occupancy at the same NWDC Light Industrial Park in 2015 and now employees **4 permanent staff**. Speedchem also occupies a space of **100m²**.



A very proud Nomhle Leshomo with staff from both her businesses and NWDC Tenant Coordinator Mr Ishmael Maqana

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