

## Empowering the construction industry's future generation

by Selena Davids

Pheladi Riba, a professionally-registered Quantity Surveyor, is a passionate advocate for the construction industry and is dedicated to creating awareness among the younger generation about the vast array of job opportunities it offers. Her journey began in 2013 when she applied to study BSc (Quantity Surveying) at the prestigious University of Pretoria. Recognising the importance of preparation, she joined the JuniorTukkie programme, where she attended the Grade 12 Preparation Conference. This invaluable experience helped her excel in exams and laid a solid foundation for her future academic pursuits.

In 2015, Pheladi embarked on her university chapter, eager to make a difference in the lives of aspiring learners. Believing in the power of mentorship and leadership, she became a member of the JuniorTukkie Student Ambassador's Society. Through this platform, she not only honed her own leadership skills but also had the opportunity to give back to society by empowering other learners who desired to pursue higher education.



Recognising her potential and dedication, Pheladi was nominated to be the Vice-Chairperson of the JuniorTukkie Student Ambassador's Society in her second year of study. In this role, she took on additional responsibilities, contributing to the preparation of various leadership conferences, camps, empowerment week programmes, and information sessions. Her commitment to empowering and inspiring others was evident as she became a role model for aspiring students looking to navigate their own educational journeys.

After successfully completing her studies, Pheladi commenced her professional career with Delta Built-Environment Consultants (Delta BEC). Her dedication, knowledge, and work ethic quickly propelled her forward, and she is now a professionally registered quantity surveyor with Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) Quantity Surveyors. Her expertise in the field allows her to contribute to a wide range of projects, including her involvement as one of the quantity surveyors for the University of Pretoria's Erica Ladies Refurbishment Project, where she had previously resided for two years.

Reflecting on her journey, Pheladi attributes her success not only to her academic achievements but also to her unwavering work ethic and perseverance. She recognises that good grades may open doors, but it is through hard work and dedication that one truly excels. She acknowledges the challenges that come with university life, emphasising the importance of a strong support system and the necessity of personal growth and character development.



Pheladi expresses profound gratitude, saying, "There is so much that I can say about this transformative journey, but I am truly grateful to the Almighty God for blessing me with an unwavering support system! It's important to understand that success isn't solely determined by how 'smart' one is. While good grades may open doors, it is the combination of hard work and unwavering perseverance that propels us forward."

Through her experiences, leadership roles, and professional achievements, she has become an inspiring figure for aspiring learners interested in pursuing construction careers. Her dedication and determination serve as a shining example, demonstrating that with the right mind-set, hard work, and support, one can achieve their goals and make a meaningful impact in their chosen field.

In a world where the construction industry plays a significant role in shaping our physical surroundings, her dedication ensures that its future is bright and full of capable professionals. Together, let us embrace the challenges, celebrate the successes, and pave the way for a new generation of construction industry leaders who will leave a lasting impact and shape a better tomorrow.

**#TUKS\_OF\_NIKS > #JUNIOR\_TUKKIE > #FUTURE\_LEADERS > #RELATED\_MENTORS > #QUANTITY\_SURVEYORS > #WOMEN\_IN\_CONSTRUCTION"**