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After decades of experience, Letlaka Ndamase now has own real estate firm



MULTI-SKILLED: Letlaka Ndamase, director of Ndamase Property Solutions, runs his business from his home office in Stirling, East London. Picture: SUPPLIED

BOMIKAZI MDIYA

After decades of holding various positions in real estate, Letlaka Ndamase started his own real estate company eight years ago.

Ndamase, 50, used his experience and passion to grow Ndamase Property Solutions which he operates from his Stirling home.

Popularly known by his clan name Faku, Ndamase, who hails from Ngqeleni near Mthatha, said: "After I matriculated in 1990 at Rode Senior Secondary School in eMaXesibeni, I went on to study for a national diploma in construction supervision.

"I graduated in 1995 from Transkei Technikon, now known as the Walter Sisulu University. In 1993, when I was doing my in-service training for construction supervision, I met a property valuator, Christian Amoako, in Mthatha."

This sparked his interest in property and he decided to become a property valuer.

He went on to study at Unisa for a national diploma in real estate, majoring in property valuation, which he completed in 2003.

Ndamase said he had held

various positions, beginning with his in-service training as an assistant foreman.

He also worked as a junior quantity surveyor from 1996 to 1998, and as a building inspector from 1999 until 2002.

Working in Absa Real Estate (asset management) as a commercial valuer from 2002 till 2005 gave him the experience he needed to venture into real estate.

"I was working for Absa when it dawned on me that I could start a business when Absa outsourced [our division].

"Since the [real estate] industry is service-orientated, all I needed was my pension to secure office space and relevant furniture and my skill, having signed service-level agreements with one or two clients."

Using his experience, he began property valuations in 2006. In 2015, Ndamase moved on to steer his own ship and found his place in the property market.

"What is challenging with being a business owner is the fact that even if you are sick or suffering a bereavement, you can't really take off time."

Honesty, and maintaining professionalism are the fundamental values that have kept his

business alive.

"Even though I studied a construction qualification, I was exposed to property valuation which unfolded a hidden passion for real estate.

"I cover what was known as the former Ciskei and Transkei homelands, extending further north up to Maletswai.

"I have just ventured into auctioneering via an entity known as Bighope Auctioneers which was established in 2021.

"It has made some remarkable sales within the East London and Mthatha areas.

"The beauty about Bighope is that there is a professional valuer behind it who is able to assess property values before an auction mandate is signed and in so doing, the property is almost certain to fetch a reasonable price.

"I have also mentored a few candidate valuers who are directly employed by the department of public works.

"In my own way, I have given back to my community by uplifting other previously disadvantaged children who adore their venture into the real estate space."

He said maintaining his integrity is what sets him apart from competitors.