



STREET LEGACY

*Championing Backbones of
The Economy*

*Nokuthaba Zikhali | Ntuthuko Ntshiza
Sibusiso Mntambo | Awethu Magobongo*

TEAM EDITION

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MESSAGE FROM EDITOR

Welcome to the very first Street Legacy Foundation Newsletter of the year and more importantly, welcome into our story.

Being entrusted with the role of Editor and Administrator for this foundation is both humbling and deeply personal for me. Funny enough, before titles, before structures, and before newsletters, I was simply the first person to join the vision. The first employee. The first believer. When Awethu translated the heart behind Street Legacy Foundation to me, we were still at the beginning long before the team was formally introduced, before the concept was clearly articulated, and before the legacy had a name. What existed then was purpose and a deep respect for informal entrepreneurs who form the backbone of our economy.

This edition is therefore not just an update it is an introduction. An introduction to the people, the stories, and the lived experiences that give Street Legacy Foundation its heartbeat. Interviewing everyone featured in this edition was an absolute joy and privilege. What stood out most is how deeply legacy runs through our collective journey. Many of the entrepreneurs featured here were first inspired not by boardrooms, but by parents, guardians, and community members who hustled quietly and consistently.



These stories echo a shared truth: entrepreneurship is not always loud or polished sometimes it looks like integrity, perseverance, and showing up every day.

As the editorial team of one (for now), my role is to document, organise, and honour these narratives with care. As the administrator, my responsibility is to ensure structure supports vision. And as someone who has witnessed this foundation grow from a conversation into a movement, my commitment is to make sure no story goes unseen.

This first edition marks the beginning of a new chapter one where we intentionally tell our story, introduce our people, and invite our community to walk this journey with us. Whether you are an entrepreneur, partner, student, supporter, or curious reader, we are glad you are here.

Get to know our team and what drives them and join us in the journey of honouring entrepreneurs who work hard with what they have.

Welcome to Street Legacy Foundation.

Welcome to a year of growth, impact, and purpose.

This is only the beginning.

Ntuthuko Ntshiza



The Story Behind Street Legacy Foundation: Awethu's Why



When Awethu Magobongo is asked about the first entrepreneur he ever encountered, his response is immediate and deeply personal: his mother. Growing up back home in the rural Eastern Cape, Awethu's earliest exposure to entrepreneurship came not from textbooks or classrooms, but from watching his mother run a spaza shop a small, informal business that sustained their household and shaped his understanding of work, resilience, and dignity.

Pocket money was never simply handed to him. Instead, his mother encouraged independence by asking him to sell sweets, allowing him to keep the profits as his pocket money. It was a simple arrangement, but one that quietly introduced him to the fundamentals of entrepreneurship: effort, risk, reward, and responsibility.

One of the most formative memories Awethu shares is being sent to town to stock up supplies for the spaza shop. The family would buy stock from a store known as Jwayelani, a place that has remained etched in his memory. Young, soft-spoken, and visibly out of place, Awethu often faced bullying from elders who doubted his presence and confidence.

Everything changed during one particular visit when the shop owner noticed his struggle and chose to help him instead of dismissing him. That simple act of kindness stayed with Awethu for years. In a powerful moment of full-circle gratitude, he later assisted that same man's child with university applications an experience that reinforced his belief in community and unseen impact of small gestures.



When asked about the most important lesson he learned from his mother about entrepreneurship, Awethu speaks about integrity. He recalls how street vendors in the community would often agree on standard prices during sports days or community events to ensure fairness. However, some vendors would act opportunistically, lowering prices to attract more customers. His mother responded not with confrontation, but with strategy. She would send children to buy all the discounted stock from the vendor, finish their supply, and then sell the items at the agreed-upon price. Through this, she taught Awethu that integrity matters and that fairness in business protects the community as a whole.

Awethu's academic journey was as unexpected as it was transformative. Growing up, he did not even know that there was a university in Mpumalanga. He initially applied to institutions in the Eastern Cape, including Nelson Mandela University (NMU) and Walter Sisulu University (WSU), where he was accepted to study teaching. Unbeknownst to him, his brother also applied on his behalf to the University of Mpumalanga (UMP). Receiving the acceptance letter marked his first time leaving the rural Eastern Cape and stepping into an entirely new environment.

Upon arriving in Mpumalanga, Awethu discovered that there were available spaces in the Bachelor of Commerce programme a discovery that redirected his academic path and introduced him to new ways of thinking about business and development.

His time at UMP soon led him to Enactus, an organisation that played a significant role in shaping his entrepreneurial mindset. At the time, Enactus UMP was running an enterprise called Hatching Hope, which immediately resonated with him. His brother back home was operating a chicken layers business, and Awethu attended a site visit to learn how similar ventures could be expanded and improved. What began as curiosity quickly turned into commitment, and soon he found himself actively involved in Enactus.

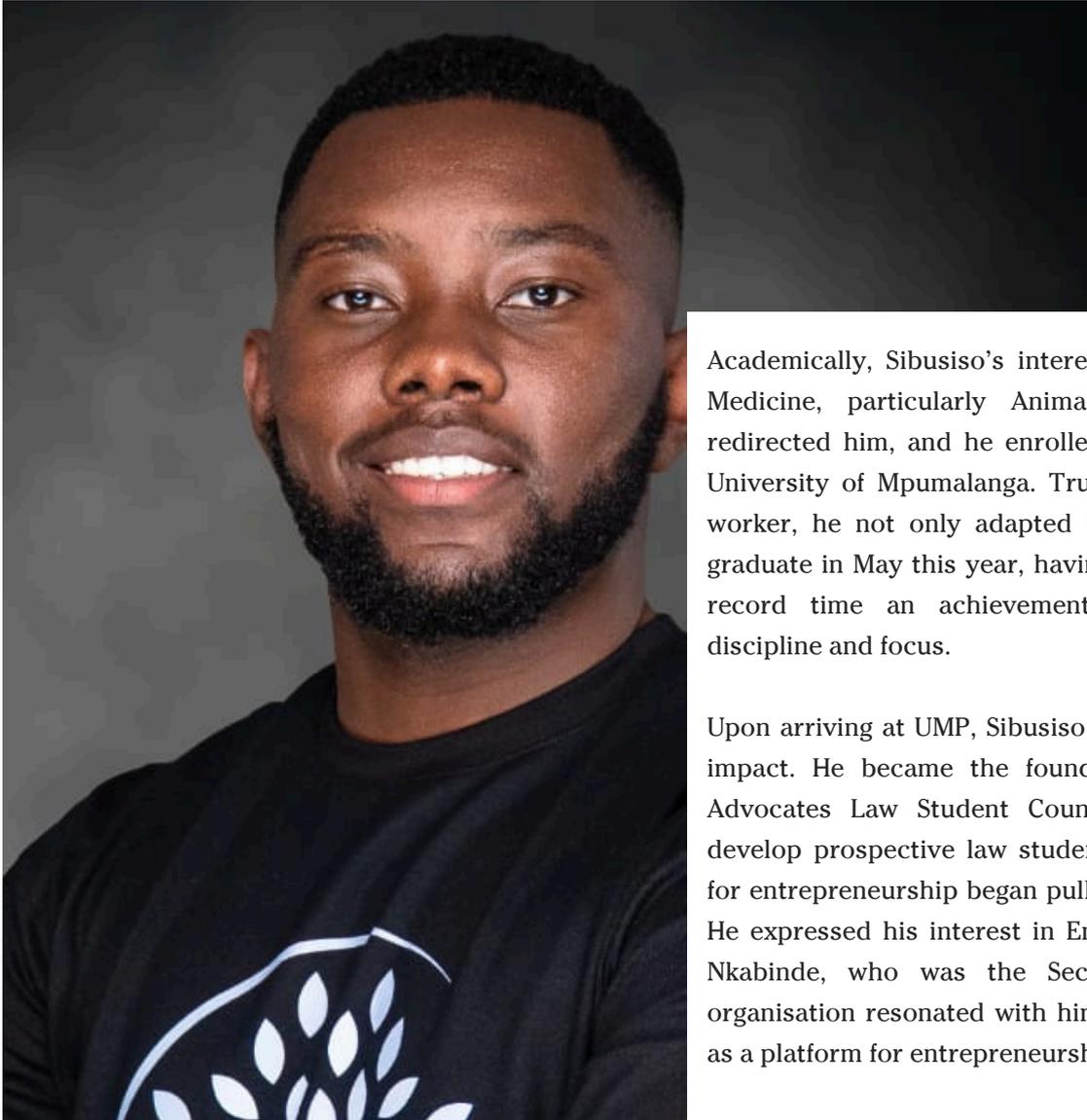
When reflecting on studentpreneurs who stood out during his journey at UMP, Awethu speaks with admiration about Siyabonga Jele, whose photography business grew remarkably. For him, Siyabonga's journey is a testament to discipline, consistency, and belief in one's craft.

The idea behind Street Legacy Foundation is rooted deeply in Awethu's upbringing. Inspired by his mother and other informal traders, he wanted to create a platform that acknowledges and celebrates street vendors as the backbone of the South African economy. He highlights how corporate companies and public sector institutions hold year-end functions and recognition events for their employees, while informal traders who work tirelessly under harsh conditions are often overlooked.

Over time, the vision of the foundation has evolved. Awethu is refreshingly honest about his entrepreneurial journey, openly acknowledging that not all his business ventures succeeded. Some failed, and he attributes these failures to misaligned partnerships, starting businesses for the wrong reasons, and, at times, ideas that simply were not strong enough. Rather than seeing failure as defeat, he views it as a teacher.

One of the foundation's most impactful moments in the previous year was its partnership with ChargedUp, where Awethu witnessed the eagerness of entrepreneurs showcasing their businesses. A moment that left a lasting impression was meeting a young woman who arrived at the event with only 50% of the required ticket money, driven purely by her desire to be part of the opportunity. For Awethu, this moment affirmed why platforms like Street Legacy Foundation are necessary.

Inside the Mind of Sibusiso Mntambo



Sibusiso Mntambo's journey is anchored in discipline and commitment to excellence. When asked who the first entrepreneur he ever knew was, his answer reflects both legacy and inspiration. The first was his father a medical doctor who owns his own practices and has always been the driving force behind Sibusiso's pursuit of excellence in everything he does. From an early age, he learned that entrepreneurship is not only about ownership, but about responsibility, consistency, and being the best at your craft. The second defining entrepreneurial influence came when Sibusiso was just 16 years old. During a Grade 10 school trip, he met Vusi Thembekwayo that encounter left a lasting impression.

Academically, Sibusiso's interests initially leaned toward Medicine, particularly Animal Science. However, life redirected him, and he enrolled for a Law degree at the University of Mpumalanga. True to his nature as a hard worker, he not only adapted but excelled. He is set to graduate in May this year, having completed his degree in record time an achievement that truly reflects his discipline and focus.

Upon arriving at UMP, Sibusiso wasted no time making an impact. He became the founding chairperson of Proto Advocates Law Student Council, a society created to develop prospective law students. In 2023, his deep love for entrepreneurship began pulling him in a new direction. He expressed his interest in Enactus UMP to Bongumusa Nkabinde, who was the Secretary at the time. The organisation resonated with him immediately, particularly as a platform for entrepreneurship and public speaking.

The first enterprise Sibusiso worked on within Enactus UMP was Maphosa Maps, a tech-driven initiative with a social mission. The company designed jewellery embedded with a panic button for women who had experienced GBVF, enabling them to call for help discreetly in moments of danger. For Sibusiso, this project represented the intersection of technology, and impact.

When reflecting on studentpreneurs who stood out during his journey at UMP, Sibusiso highlights Bongmusa Nkabinde. What impressed him most was Bongmusa's strong administrative background and how he translated it directly into business through PitchWrite, a company that helps entrepreneurs document and articulate their business stories. Sibusiso notes with admiration that starting a business aligned to your discipline is a completely different ball game one that often leads to sustainability.



“Cash flow can look impressive, but profitability tells the real story. That lesson changed how I view business forever.”

His relationship with Awethu Magobongo, the founder of Street Legacy Foundation, started in 2023. Sibusiso openly shares that their first encounter was not smooth; they didn't like each other initially. Both were new to the organisation, strong-willed, and passionate. In 2024, they were placed together as Enterprise Coordinators, a pivotal role within Enactus. The following year, Sibusiso became President, with Awethu as Deputy President. It was during this period that they intentionally invested in understanding each other on a personal level. What emerged was a genuine brotherhood. They began studying together, supporting one another beyond tasks and titles.

When asked about the importance of brotherly love in business, Sibusiso offers a profound reflection: “you need to like the people you work with”. That love, he explains, shapes the energy of the work, strengthens collaboration, and creates an environment where excellence can thrive.

The vision behind Street Legacy Foundation was first communicated to him during the Enactus National Competition Camp. For Sibusiso, the concept made complete sense, especially coming from Awethu, whom he describes as a philanthropist by nature. After offering constructive criticism and feedback, Sibusiso joined the team, aligning himself with a vision rooted in impact and empowerment.

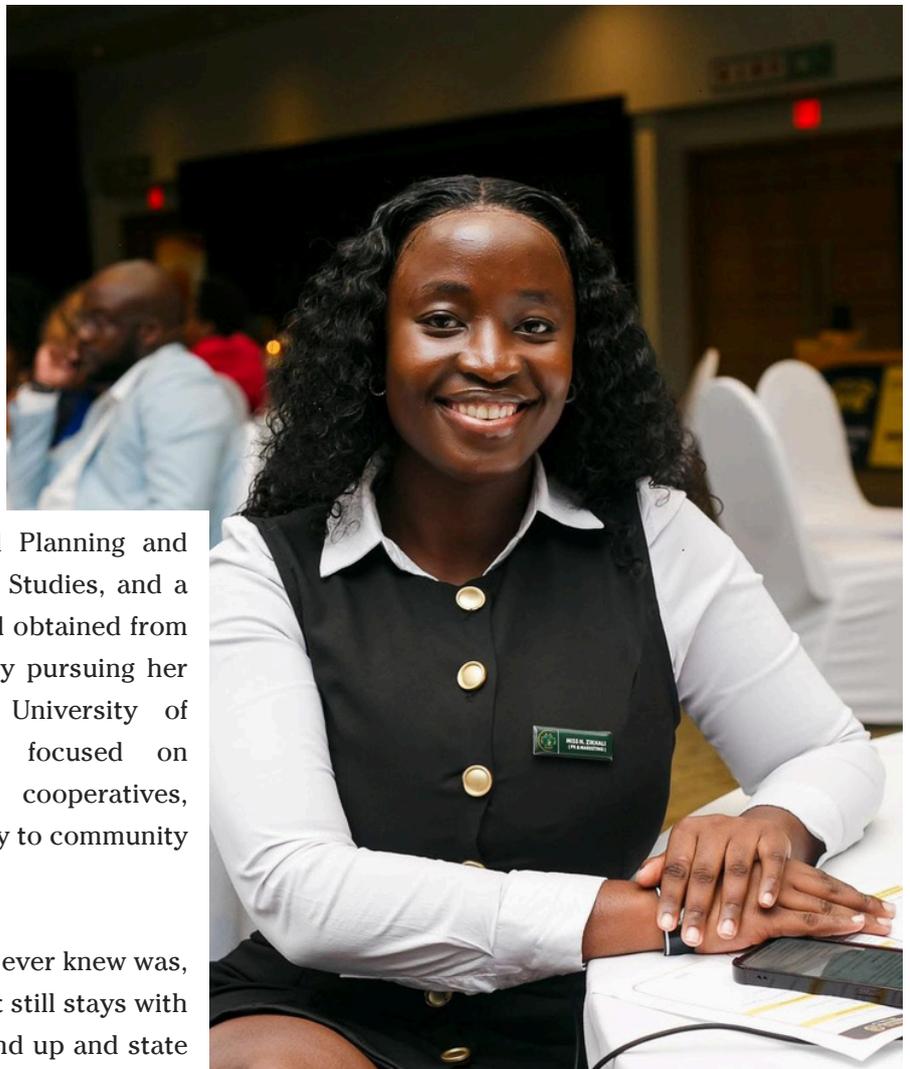
Beyond organisational leadership, Sibusiso is also a businessman. He runs businesses in various industries, including logistics and removals, property, as well as media and marketing. One of the most valuable entrepreneurial lessons he learned came directly from his father: the difference between cash flow and profitability. He recalls that in M&M Storage's first year, while income looked impressive on paper, actual profit amounted to only 14%. That experience reshaped how he understands sustainability, growth, and financial discipline.

Today, Sibusiso serves as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Street Legacy Foundation. It is a role he is perfectly suited for as it allows him to engage with stakeholders, build partnerships, and translate vision into execution. He speaks with genuine excitement about creating meaningful collaborations and ensuring that systems and purpose align.

Sibusiso Mntambo's story is one of evolution from discipline inherited, to leadership refined, to brotherhood discovered. It is a reminder that true entrepreneurship is built not only on ambition, but on relationships, integrity, and the courage to grow.



The Story of Nokuthaba Zikhali



Nokuthaba holds a BA in Environmental Planning and Development, an Honours in Development Studies, and a Master's degree in Development Studies, all obtained from the University of Zululand. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Development Studies at the University of Mpumalanga, with research interests focused on socioeconomic development, agricultural cooperatives, and climate change fields that speak directly to community upliftment and sustainability.

When asked who the first entrepreneur she ever knew was, Nokuthaba shares a childhood memory that still stays with her. In Grade 3, learners were asked to stand up and state their parents' professions. She could not neatly define what her mother did, but she knew one thing for certain: her mother worked. There was always food on the table, school needs were met, and essentials were covered. So, she stood up and explained what her mother did in her own words. Her teacher smiled and said, "Your mother is a businesswoman." In that moment, Nokuthaba learnt about entrepreneurship.

Her academic journey, like many meaningful ones, did not follow a straight line. After matric, Nokuthaba's first choice was Dental Therapy, followed closely by Environmental Planning.

"Authenticity is what sustains both business and identity. When you understand who you are, stay true to your values, and consistently deliver with integrity, trust will always follow."

However, she was first accepted into Development Studies, and by the time she received confirmation for her preferred options, her mother had already paid a non-refundable registration fee. What initially felt like a compromise became a calling. Over time, Development Studies grew into her intellectual home.

During her university years, Nokuthaba was actively involved in student life and leadership. She was part of Enviro Minds, a non-profit organisation working with schools on green energy initiatives, and she also served as Deputy Secretary of the Postgraduate Society, sharpening both her leadership and organisational skills.

Beyond academia, Nokuthaba is widely known on social media as Melanin Thaboew. Her digital journey began unexpectedly when people mocked her on Twitter because of her complexion and fashion sense. The posts trended and so did she. Instead of shrinking, she owned her presence. In 2016, a Social Media Manager reached out to her, and she landed her first paid work online, charging R150 per trend, which she diligently added to her savings. This year marks 10 years of her working in the social media space.



When asked what has sustained her for a decade in such a fast-paced and often harsh industry, Nokuthaba attributes her longevity to professionalism and trust. She believes in understanding what is expected of you, trusting partners and agencies, and consistently delivering quality work. That, she says, is how trust is built and kept.

Navigating negativity on social media is never easy, but Nokuthaba's resilience stands out.

She explains that she is not easily influenced and does not internalise what people say. "I don't take to heart what people say," she shares, a mindset that has protected both her confidence and mental health.

Among the many campaigns she has worked on, one that stands out most is her current Clicks and Engen campaign. What made it special was its focus on family and unity, values deeply important to her. Being able to shoot the campaign with her family made the experience even more meaningful.

For small businesses navigating social media, Nokuthaba offers grounded advice: authenticity is everything. She encourages entrepreneurs to constantly ask themselves, "Is this authentic? Is this my true self?" She also stresses the importance of growing a real community—not rushing numbers, but building relationships with people who genuinely understand and believe in what you are selling.

One of the most powerful lessons Nokuthaba carries comes directly from her mother's life as a street vendor. Long before she encountered the term in a lecture hall, she learned product differentiation at home. Using amagwinya as an example, her mother taught her how innovation, variation, and creativity could set one product apart from another. Years later, Nokuthaba encountered the same principle in the classroom only this time, wrapped in academic language.

Her connection to Street Legacy Foundation began through Awethu Magobongo and Ntuthuko, who at the time was handling PR and Marketing. What deeply moved her was the clarity of their vision and their focus on informal traders. As the daughter of a street vendor, this mission resonated deeply with her. Since then, she has loved every moment of being part of the organisation.

When asked which studentpreneur from the University of Mpumalanga has inspired her, Nokuthaba proudly mentions Sandile Mzimba, founder of Eco-Polish. She speaks with admiration about his innovation, the awards he has won, and his ability to seize opportunities—even as a first-year student.

Nokuthaba currently manages multiple businesses, each reflecting a different chapter of her growth.



Her first, born in 2016, is her Social Media Business, built on a deep understanding of brand needs and authentic storytelling. Her second, an Academic Writing Business, was launched in 2022 with a strong focus on supporting clients through understanding rather than simply delivering work. Her most recent venture, a Delivery Bike business, launched in January 2025, has taught her leadership, people management, and the delicate balance between being firm and being compassionate.

When asked what she enjoys most about her role today, her answer is simple and honest: it aligns with her passion. And for Nokuthaba Zikhali, alignment has always been the foundation of her success.

Bianca Msiza's Entrepreneurial Journey

Bianca Msiza's story is one of intentional growth and bold action. A third-year Bachelor of Administration student at the University of Mpumalanga, Bianca carries herself with the kind of assurance that comes from knowing exactly where your inspiration began and where you're going next.

When asked who the very first entrepreneur she encountered in her life was, Bianca answers with great pride and without hesitation: her aunt, Khosi Mthlane, the owner of Hotel 247. Bianca was just 13 years old when she first witnessed entrepreneurship up close. Watching her aunt run a business while raising young children planted a seed that would grow steadily over the years. That example became the reason Bianca fell in love with the idea of entrepreneurship.

To this day, she eagerly looks forward to their conversations, which are almost always centred around one powerful message: "You can also do it."

Bianca's journey to university was not the one she initially planned. Her first choice was to study LLB, but after being rejected, she was accepted into the Bachelor of Administration programme. At first, she viewed BAdmin as a temporary stop, convincing herself she would do well in her first year and then change courses. Instead, she found herself falling in love with the degree. Now in her final year, Bianca is carefully choosing her majors true to her character as a perfectionist making sure every decision aligns with who she is and who she is becoming.

Her first year also marked the beginning of her hands-on entrepreneurial exposure when she was introduced to Enactus by Sibusiso Mntambo and Benneth. True to Sibusiso's reputation as a pusher and a relentless hard worker, Bianca was immediately thrown into work. There was no easing in, only action. The very first enterprise she worked on was Charcoal Climate, a project that has consistently stood out for her throughout her years of working with businesses.





“Watching my aunt run a business while raising young children taught me that entrepreneurship is possible, personal, and powerful. Every conversation reminded me that I, too, could build something meaningful.”

When asked which studentpreneur has truly touched and inspired her, Bianca speaks with great admiration about Sibusiso Mntambo. She describes him as someone who lives by the motto “getting things done” and whose formidable work ethic left a lasting impression on her approach to work and leadership.

Bianca’s path later crossed with Awethu Magobongo, the founder and visionary behind Street Legacy Foundation, during auditions for the Enactus National Competition. What struck her most was how accommodating and unbiased he was easy-going, genuine, and approachable.

She laughs as she fondly mentions his nickname, “umhlobo.” What ultimately drew her to Street Legacy Foundation was the organisation’s intention and its deeply people-first approach, which she says reflects the founder’s character. She also admired the strong emphasis on stakeholder relationship-building and the opportunities such relationships create.

Beyond her academic and organisational roles, Bianca is also a business owner. In January 2025, she formally registered Msiza Organics, marketed under Siza Aesthetics, a haircare brand she began long before official registration. True to the “just start” philosophy, Bianca began selling her products and gained traction even before the business was registered. The recipe behind her products carries deep meaning it was passed down from her grandmother in KwaMhlanga. Bianca speaks fondly of how her mother became her very first sales champion, actively finding clients and helping grow the brand. One of the key reasons she eventually registered the business was her awareness of the risks of operating informally a topic she had plenty of insight on and could speak about at length.

Bianca is deeply passionate about marketing, especially social media marketing. She strongly believes in the alignment between a brand and its owner, noting how much easier it is to build trust when people can relate to the story behind the product.



In her case, customers trusted Msiza Organics largely because they could see the results with her beautiful, rich afro hair became a living testament to the brand’s authenticity.

At Street Legacy Foundation, Bianca serves as the Business Development Officer, where she is responsible for partnerships. When asked what excites her most about this role, she responds proudly: “I myself am a product of Street Legacy Foundation.” Being part of the organisation from the other side now helping to create opportunities for others is a journey she is genuinely excited about.

The Journey of Siyabonga Mthethwa



Siyabonga Mthethwa is a third-year and final-year Bachelor of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) student at the University of Mpumalanga, when asked who the first entrepreneur he ever knew was, Siyabonga responds boldly and with visible excitement: his father. A chef by profession and owner of a catering company, his father introduced him early on to the realities of entrepreneurship hard work, discipline, and consistency.

Watching his father build something of his own left a lasting impression and planted a seed that would later grow into Siyabonga's own entrepreneurial journey.

His academic path, however, did not unfold exactly as planned. Siyabonga explains that he missed the confirmation dates for both DUT and UKZN, a moment that could have easily discouraged him. Instead, he made a late application to the University of Mpumalanga, where he was accepted. What seemed like a last-minute decision soon became a defining turning point.

Upon arriving at UMP, Siyabonga received support from Tsumbedzo, popularly known as Ramadi, who was working with the Housing Department at the time as an RSA. What stood out was Ramadi's character his respectfulness and discipline. Siyabonga recalls how deeply his father was impressed, even going as far as saying, "I want you to walk in the footsteps of this young man."

Later, while browsing UMP's social media pages, Siyabonga came across an Enactus post featuring Ramadi. That moment connected the dots. Curious and inspired, he joined Enactus UMP, unknowingly stepping into a space that would significantly shape his growth.

The first enterprise Siyabonga worked on was NextGen Sell, where he collaborated closely with Daniel. This experience was particularly meaningful because it aligned directly with what he was studying. It opened his eyes to new possibilities especially the idea of becoming a studentpreneur and showed him how technology could be applied in impactful ways beyond the classroom.

Siyabonga's first encounter with Awethu Magobongo, founder of Street Legacy Foundation, is told with humour and warmth. He laughs as he recalls an AGM where Ntuthuko was the MC and Awethu was called up to speak. Awethu arrived late and sat behind him. What immediately caught Siyabonga's attention was his smile. "I had never seen someone with such a big smile," he says. When Awethu spoke, Siyabonga found himself drawn in not just by the words, but by the energy and authenticity behind them.

The vision of Street Legacy Foundation was later communicated to him by Sibusiso Mntambo, and Siyabonga says he loved the idea instantly. What stood out strongly during the interview was how deeply connected Siyabonga is to his parents. At almost every milestone he spoke about, he mentioned consulting them seeking approval, wisdom, and guidance. Their advice is always grounded in faith, patience, and purpose.



When asked how he felt about working for an NGO in a voluntary role with no monetary compensation, Siyabonga reflected on a conversation he once had with his parents during his Enactus journey. They encouraged him not to focus on money, but on skills, growth, and reminding him to grab opportunities with both hands even when they feel uncomfortable. That perspective has stayed with him.

In 2025, Siyabonga founded his own enterprise, SM Vision Works, a company that builds apps and websites. When asked why he didn't start earlier, his response was both honest and profound: "It's not about starting a business, it's about starting right. I would rather fail as a seasoned person." For him, preparation matters more than speed.

When reflecting on studentpreneurs who have inspired him, Siyabonga confidently mentions Abednizer Masilela, founder of Enhlanzeni Star School. He credits Abednizer with teaching him the powerful lesson of starting with what you have, rather than waiting for perfect conditions.

Siyabonga also shared a deeply personal reason for choosing to start his business alone. Growing up overweight, he often relied on others to join him in exercising, only to be disappointed when they didn't show up. When he finally chose to do it alone, he succeeded and lost the weight. That experience taught him self-reliance, discipline, and the power of personal accountability.

Today, Siyabonga serves in the IT role at Street Legacy Foundation, a position perfectly aligned with his skills and passion. He speaks with genuine excitement about being part of the team and contributing meaningfully to the organisation's mission.

"It's not about starting a business early, it's about starting right. I would rather fail as a seasoned person than rush unprepared."



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