



Towards 125

(1898-2023)

FIDA HUMANA FORTIS



Name: Disebo Makatsa

Matriculated from Epworth: 2002

Tertiary Education:

BSc. Natural Sciences (Geosciences), UP (University of Pretoria)

PDM Wits Business School, University of the Witwatersrand

MBA Wits Business School, University of the Witwatersrand

Professional Experience:

I have worked in the mining industry for 6 years, in various technical positions ranging from technical assistant to the CEO to Group Projects Manager for companies including Central Rand Gold, Shanduka and Pan African Resources. Upon completing my MBA at the age of 26, I moved into the world of business where I am currently a supplier of specialized goods and services for both government and the private sector, services including consulting, managing cleaning programmes & school feeding schemes.

Lives: Bryanston, Johannesburg



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Most distinctive benefit of an Epworth education in Disebo's view:

The most distinctive benefit of my Epworth education was the independence it instilled, not only to believe in but also to do whatever it is we (as the girls of Epworth) set our minds upon.

Fida Humana Fortis (Faith Compassion Courage) – our Epworth motto. These words remain true and impactful to me even to this day. Not only were we taught that faith helps us to believe in the good of others but that compassion and empathy help us to care for all around us and lastly the courage to aim for change and be bold in decisions wherever they are needed. These values I believe hold true for every girl child. My career has seen me sit in many rooms with male counterparts, me being the only female. The mining industry for years has been known to be like this. However, in these rooms, one thing remained constant. I stood out and that can only be attributed to the education, independence, courage and most importantly the humility that Epworth instilled in me. This same courage enabled me to start my own business at a young age and to believe that the tools and skills acquired through my education were sufficient for me to make a success of things. This can only be attributed to the principles instilled in me as a young Epworth girl, and for this, I will forever be grateful.

Why Disebo is choosing to pay it forward by donating to the Epworth Foundation (**):

I grew up in a township where opportunities to receive an Epworth education were slim to none. However, through the hard work of my single mother, I was able to progress and distinguish myself in life thanks to attending a school like Epworth, I even became the Head Girl in 2002. That speaks volumes about Epworth and the essential role it plays in women from all walks of life learning how to succeed. Epworth did not see my background or upbringing as an obstacle to becoming anything I wanted to be. Instead they believed in me and encouraged me to be the best I could be, consistently. For that, I would love to see more young girls from the rural areas or townships receive the same education that I received and to watch them excel in their own light. A good and sound education opens many doors to important rooms, but an **Epworth** education keeps you in those rooms to break the glass ceiling!

(**) The Epworth Foundation is the social impact arm, a registered non-profit organization (NPO)** and public benefit organization (PBO)**, designed to support the financial well-being of Epworth. Our school is a pioneer in social transformation and consistent deliverer of world-class education in South Africa for over a century. The Epworth Foundation consistently and committedly seeks funding to provide bursaries for talented and deserving high school girls who could not otherwise afford an Epworth education.

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