

39^{of} 100**Oletilwe
Ramashala**

Here to be Sponsoring

Hailing from Soweto to creating spaces where women find their voice.

For Oletilwe, one of the most enduring motivations comes from Marianne Williamson's quote: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure."

It has carried her through seasons of doubt, uncertainty and growth, reminding her that sometimes the greatest barrier to becoming who we are meant to be is simply believing that we belong.

Oletilwe grew up watching her parents sacrifice to create opportunities for she and her siblings. When she was 10, the family moved to the suburbs so their children could experience possibilities beyond the boundaries of their circumstances.

Oletilwe learned early to create opportunities for herself, too. As a young girl, she appeared on television programmes to earn pocket money and she sold

sweets and chips to fund some of the things her parents could not always afford.

Years later, her professional journey began in a call centre job. As a young black woman from Soweto, she sometimes questioned whether she belonged in corporate spaces.

Those doubts became part of her education. The experience taught her resilience, humility and the importance of building relationships. It also taught her the transformative power of someone believing in you. Throughout her career, mentors opened her eyes to possibilities she had not yet imagined for herself. She decided to do the same for others.

Today, as Head of Business Development and Strategic Partnerships at Sanlam Corporate, Oletilwe is an accomplished commercial leader. However, her influence extends well beyond her corporate responsibilities.

In 2019, she founded Secrets to Success, a mentorship-to-leadership platform designed to make career advice, mentorship and leadership insights more accessible to women. Through conversations with executives and industry leaders, the platform has become a space for women to navigate confidence, career growth, leadership and sponsorship. One belief continues to shape her work: women are often over-mentored but under-sponsored. Oletilwe is determined to change that by using her influence and relationship currency to create access to opportunities that can change careers and lives.

She is also founder of Owning It 2, an initiative committed to connecting learners from less privileged communities with professionals who can provide mentorship, career guidance and exposure.

In every young learner in this programme, she recognises the girl she once was, the child whose parents created opportunity for, the young woman who had to find her footing, and the professional who once wondered whether she belonged.

Her impact will not be measured only by the positions she has held, but by the young people who found greater confidence and possibility because she chose to reach them and remind them of their unmeasurable power.

Your
story
matters

