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**Nthabiseng
 Kgosinaga**



Here to be Fearless

**Driving change from
Soweto:** How a
entrepreneur turned an
unexpected introduction
to cars into a modern
autobody business.

Nthabiseng Kgosinaga is the Director of Soweto Xpress Autobody, a female-owned panel shop. Yet she did not plan a career in the automotive industry – with a diploma in Travel and Tourism, her future appeared to lie elsewhere. Then life placed her beside someone who understood cars from the inside out.

Her husband worked as a mechanical technician, and through him, Nthabiseng discovered the world beneath a vehicle's bonnet. Curiosity became fascination. She watched, asked questions and learned. Cars soon represented craftsmanship, independence and an opportunity waiting to be built.

That opportunity took her into one of South Africa's most stubbornly male-dominated working environments. Motor Industry Bargaining Council data shows that 94,998 women work across the country's organised automotive retail aftermarket, representing about 30% of its 316,945 employees. The progress is real, but so is the imbalance: roughly seven in every ten people in the workforce are still men.

The divide is clearest inside collision-repair businesses, where women are only beginning to gain ground as owners, panel beaters, spray painters and vehicle-damage assessors. Funding, mentorship, practical experience and outdated ideas about "men's work" continue to narrow their path.

Against this backdrop, Nthabiseng's journey carries real weight. Since 2022, she has helped build Soweto Xpress Autobody into a modern repair centre offering structural and non-structural repairs to insured and uninsured motorists. Its local team includes qualified technicians, panel beaters, spray painters, managers and administrators.

For Nthabiseng, the achievement is bigger than the vehicles leaving the workshop. It is found in the state-of-the-art equipment, the livelihoods supported by its team and the ability to offer specialist automotive services within Soweto – keeping skills, opportunity and economic activity closer to the community.

Soweto Xpress places empowerment alongside integrity and excellence. Its approval by the South African Motor Body Repairers' Association (SAMBRA) and modern repair techniques lend credibility to a journey that began with curiosity, continuous learning and courage.

As South Africa faces a shortage of qualified artisans, women such as Nthabiseng are part of the industry's future. Every female-owned workshop expands what young women can imagine – in the spray booth, on the workshop floor and at the head of the business.

From Soweto, Nthabiseng is proving that skill has no gender, leadership needs no permission and sometimes the most powerful way to challenge an industry is to build differently within it.

**Your
story
matters**

