



# A serial entrepreneur

## who is equally at home in the railway and baby food sectors

Famous singer Beyonce once said, “This goes out to all the women getting it, you’re on your grind. To all the men that respect what I do, please accept my shine.” It is these words that have seen our alumna Dorothy Mofomme thrive in what was once seen as a male-dominated space – and that’s just the start.

**D**orothy has come full circle in her career as an engineer, entrepreneur, philanthropist and mentor to many. Arriving at MUT in 2000 from the village of Marapong on the border of the Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces, Dorothy knew that she needed to keep her chin up and make her presence felt as she embarked on her diploma in electrical engineering. Right from the onset she never profiled herself as a follower but a leader, taking on the huge responsibility of being a class representative during her first and third semesters. From then on, nothing could stand in the way of her becoming a respected engineering technician and fulfilling her dream of starting her own engineering company and uplifting women and young girls in the sector.

Dorothy boasts a very rich career that includes many successful projects in state-owned and private enterprises in South Africa and Africa. Her extensive experience, drive and

passion propelled her to found her first company, Valotec228, in 2011. It was a very ambitious move for a woman to venture into the railway sector but Dorothy was set on her goal of making a mark and creating opportunities for young people. The business provides a variety of solutions to the railway industry, including railway signalling, mechanical design, assembly, construction, railway maintenance, optic fibre solutions as well as quality management solutions.

Valotech228 has given Dorothy an opportunity to give back to her *alma mater* by training six MUT electrical engineering students. Her support for university students extends to include other universities and TVET colleges. For instance she has transferred her skills as a guest lecturer for BTech students at Tshwane University of Technology and worked with deaf learners from various communities in Gauteng to give them hands-on information technology experience.