



Stories best told by an **Engineering executive**

Engineering executive Dr Pat Mazibuko is breaking all the stereotypes often associated with engineers. One of these is that engineers can be impersonal, reserved and take little interest in other people. Contrary to this, Dr Pat has mastered the art of conversation, a skill that resulted in him publishing Series 1 and 2 of a book titled *Conversations with the Best*. Series 1 of the book has earned Dr Pat a double nomination – for Best Inspirational Book and Best Upcoming Male Author – in the Book Behind Awards.

Conversations with the Best outlines some of the impactful conversations that Dr Pat has had with different people of all classes at different stages of his life. Through the book, Dr Pat aims to demonstrate the ancient wisdom of listening to those who have travelled the path before. His belief is that the book will touch the hearts and minds of readers. Series 2 of the book deals with various issues including leadership lessons, motivation, life skills, as well as topical issues like the COVID-19 pandemic. Such conversations are meant to set the agenda and create a chance for a leadership dialogue at all levels.

“*Conversations with the Best* was informed by a deep conversation on the N2 with an old man that I was with. We live in times where people are depressed by all sorts of

things, and I wanted to motivate people with practical and real-life scenarios. This is not related to my professional work but these are real-life lessons drawn from all walks of life. The book gave me an opportunity to preach in a very succinct way, thus touching the hearts and souls of people. I took a leaf from the late Quincy Jones in his song: ‘What good is a song if it can’t inspire, it is not good enough to sing.’ I then asked myself the question, ‘What good is a book if it can’t inspire, then it is not good enough to read’,” said Dr Pat.

Dr Pat embraces education as part of getting a foot in the door and believes that the current generation should not only study to be employed but to create employment. In describing his writing style, he says the book is meant to be intriguing and some chapters will drive the reader to have a conversation with the man in the mirror.