

# FACULTY OF ENGINEERING



## PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER AND MD OF DWEBA ENGINEERING

**Fondly known by his peers as Dweba, Sifiso is passionate about collaboration. This has resulted in the founding of the MUT Masters, an alumni chapter for engineering graduates across all disciplines of engineering.**

## Sifiso Vezi - Class of '90

This has created a platform for many MUT graduates to reconnect and support one another. After completing his mechanical engineering diploma at MUT in 1993, Sifiso completed postgraduate studies with other institutions; however, his passion for MUT is what he believes enabled him ultimately to reach his dream of establishing his own business.

Sifiso's engineering career started back in 1994 when he was named the Best Trainee Ever in a presentation on the Futuristic Full Electrical Vehicle Project and was featured in the company newsletter. He went on to work for companies such as Illovo Sugar and BP South Africa, but always had the idea of establishing his own business. This he achieved in 2005 when he founded Dweba Engineering in partnership with his wife, Nana Vezi. The business has since diversified and grown to deliver turn-key solutions which include engineering procurement and construction management, as well as engineering consulting and construction. In the process, he has employed a number of MUT graduates. For instance, in 2014/2015 his staff complement consisted of 25 MUT graduates who worked for the company as technicians, site agents and in other roles. Dweba has since mentored many young engineers whom he has helped to become registered professional engineers.

While he was at the peak of his career, he suffered a major blow which he blames on too much focus on the business and too little on his health. He has had to battle severe depression which he has managed to contain, and he is now working on increasing public awareness of depression and its risks. "The passing of Dr Mayosi, a respected cardiologist, brought me to tears because I understood exactly what he had been going through. After my illness I decided to refocus and do things differently. I speak on early signs of depression and dealing with the vulnerability because everyone can be a victim of depression," says Sifiso. "I teach a lot to my staff and warn against the danger of chasing money to the detriment of one's health, which I think is what led to my illness. My episode has taught me a lot about myself and has increased my desire to educate others," he concludes.

The trying times in Sifiso's life have helped him gain more balance and focus on his family. He is very lucky that his first son Njabulo has a B.Tech in Civil Engineering, while his second born Anele has a B.Tech in Architecture. He believes it is time for him and his wife Nana to scale down and allow their sons to scale up and take over the business. Sifiso and Nana have been married for 19 years and are blessed with their two sons and a 10-year-old daughter, Nina.