



THE ENTREPRENEUR AND BEAUTY QUEEN

In 1995, while doing her first year for the Diploma in Marketing at MUT, Ntandokazi was crowned Miss MUT and had to become a role model to fellow female students. It was an experience that carried her through her career, starting with her first job in 1997 with South African Airways at the old Durban airport.

Ntandokazi Kheswa - Class of '94

Ntandokazi was born and raised in Umlazi's K-section and completed her primary and high school education in the township. She had always dreamed of working for herself one day, but her journey was so delayed that any other person would have given up. But not this street-smart township girl! She remembers that every time she drove past a petrol station, she would dream of one day running her own service station. In 2001 she finally picked up the courage to pursue her dream by writing a proposal to buy a franchise and own an Engen garage. It took six long years of consultations before she opened doors (or shall we say pumps) at Hippo Park Engen, a brand new service station located in Nandi Drive near eThekweni Hospital, in February 2017. She remembers as if it were yesterday the many thoughts that went through her mind, wondering what would happen if she got no customers. Her very first client was a motorcyclist and from that moment, motorbikes became her symbol of good things to happen.

“My advice to current MUT students who have a dream of making a difference is that they must be prepared to work hard, respect money and be hands-on. Being hands on gives moral support to staff and contributes to positive teamwork.”