

Connecting the dots

Stories of change: Young Women in Local Government

Tebesutfu's successful transition

Summary

Tebesutfu Nkhambule, Markens, Eswatini

Project involvement: Young Women in Local Government network and mentoring

Having the support of a mentor has helped Tebesutfu Nkhambule to navigate the hectic and stressful transition from working for Ezulini to working for Markens Town Council. With the support she received, not only has she put together a proposal for a food bank for her old council, but she is now part of the Markens Town Board, where she intends to drive forward new projects to enhance the town's facilities. The experience has given Tebesutfu the confidence that she can go even further and achieve her goal of being an auditor.

Background and aims

Tebesutfu Nkhambule, is a public health and environmental inspector at Markens (?) Town Council, Eswatini. She had previously worked with Ezulini Town Council before transferring to her new job.

Finding the transition to a new council quite stressful, Tebesutfu was looking for support in her journey to get the most from her new job and have the most impact for the community.

How the CtD project has helped

Tebesutfu was allocated a mentor from Mbabane Town Council, a very strong woman with a lot of experience in local government.

Tebesutfu says that, thanks to her mentor, she has gained many new skills such as communications, public speaking, and having the courage to face her weaknesses. She has also been inspired in having ideas for many local government projects that she would like to implement.

“She has taken me through this journey and has been very, very helpful for me,” says Tebesutfu.

“I learned so much from her and hope she has gained something from me. She has been very helpful for me and right now I feel that I have done so many things. Working with her has been a great journey for me.”

All in all, Tebesutfu says that being part of the Connecting the Dots project gave her the opportunity to explore her strengths as an individual.

Impact

Moving jobs from Ezulini to Markens Town Council was very hectic and stressful for Tebesutfu. Having a mentor has been an enormous help to her in dealing with the transition.

Before the move, Tebesutfu wanted to implement a food bank for Ezulini and the help she has received enabled her to put together a project proposal, which has now been approved and, though she is no longer there to see it through herself, she hopes that the town council will be putting the plan into action.

Thanks to the positive support of her mentor, when moving to her new job, Tebesutfu was able to take the initiative and propose to be part of the Markens Town Board where she is keen to come up with projects for the town.

“I am ambitious to do a lot for the town. It is still a little town but I see big things for it,” explains Tebesutfu.

“The Connecting the Dots project has made the journey worthwhile. I want to be an auditor in the long run and this has helped me a lot, as right now I am actually walking towards my dream, towards my end goals,” she said.

Looking ahead

Tebesutfu’s next step is to get more education and more qualifications so that she can fulfil her dreams and goals of being an auditor. The move to Markens Town Council has given her the confidence that she can go further and achieve her aims and her plans.

“I am hoping for the best for everything,” says Tebesutfu. “I hope there will be more programmes for women in local government like Connecting the Dots..

“The mentorship programme has been such a great journey, and so much knowledge and skills have been gained,” she concluded.

