

**M**aking a difference in the lives of other people is close to my heart. Therefore, I always want to be a catalyst in assisting others to be better in their crafts. I wish to become more benevolent and useful to humanity and to be dependable to those who need my assistance. I believe I can make a difference in young people's lives.

The assistance I am referring to includes mentorship and guidance regarding life in general, personal development, business, and any other matter that improves my fellow citizens. We need a generation of visionaries. We need a generation of confident, hardworking, smart, great attitudes and bold young people – dependable citizens!

This book was borne out of an idea that I had during the period in which I spent time with several young people who had approached me to assist them in different ways, including personal development, career advancement and growth, as well as growing their businesses and entrepreneurial acumen and skills. I took the challenge but felt that more could be achieved, hence this book.

The chapters in this book are written by each one of these young people. They chose the topics, guided by me, and the plan was to simply convey a message from each one of them about leadership. They did not do this for fame or to sell this book to make money, but to share their ideas. The topics covered in this book will appeal to different readers, and some readers might find more lessons in one chapter or in more chapters than one.

My message regarding this book is that individuals out there who have the time and energy to mentor young people, should do it. I find it gratifying when I sit for half an hour to an hour with each one of these individuals and discuss matters that are close to their hearts, and at times matters that become very sensitive to both of us.

These mentees differ from each other in more than one way. There are proactive individuals who make a serious effort to meet me frequently and have a plan of action on what they wish to achieve. Then there are those who have had several conversations with me, but their level of commitment is not so strong, and I tend not to push them hard. Again, I question myself whether I should be more aggressive in my approach to forcing these engagements, or should I just

leave it to individuals to take ownership. I am seeing great results, but I will do better to make these young people better human beings.

I urge each one of you who read this book to pick one or a few lessons and share it with those you wish to make a difference to. Mentorship of young people is critical, but this does not mean that the mentors will provide handouts in the form of money. People who wish to grow, are not interested in money, they are interested in a piece of your generous heart.

Enjoy!



MIKE TEKE was born in KwaThema, Springs. He is married to Sandile and is blessed with two children, his son, Boikanyo and daughter, Tshiamo.

Mike matriculated at Kenneth Masekela Senior Secondary School, where he enjoyed his football. He obtained excellent results but his family could not afford to send him to university, so he looked for a job. Luckily, he found one at a factory called Van Leer, earning R76 per week. He worked for a year and saved enough money to go and study at the University of the North. He played for various soccer teams in the local league. His first business deal came when he raised R10, 000 which is equivalent to more than R100, 000 in today's money

After graduating with a B.Ed degree he went back to Kenneth Masekela to teach. He then crossed over to the corporate world, and worked in various human resources roles at Unilever, Bayer, Impala Platinum and Bhp Billiton, respectively.

Mike left Bhp Billiton to become the founding CEO of Optimum Coal and listed the company on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in March 2010. In September 2012, he resigned as CEO and became the Non-Executive Chairman until April 2015.

Mike has served the South African industry in various roles over the years. He was elected as the Vice President of the Chamber of Mines for two years and then ascended to the role of President. He served until 2017.

Mike started Masimong Group Holdings, a diversified investment holding company and sits on various boards. Mike wants more people to succeed and has started the Masimong Foundation which supports many young people in achieving their dreams.

