

## **VUYOKAZI LUGQOLA**

**Senior Manager,**

**PRASA Corporate Real Estate**



I am Vuyokazi Luggola, a Xhosa speaking lady originally from the Eastern Cape.

My interest and love for commercial property led me SAPOA, and thanks to its educational programmes I was offered further tertiary studies in property and Reals Estate. As a SAPOA bursary holder my progress and name was shared with more than 80% of commercial property owners, in the early 2000's. This meant that I never had to worry about which company would employ me next.

My career as a property practitioner took off steadily to allow me to work for reputable companies in management and Executive positions. The companies include Colliers RMS, Old Mutual Properties, V&A Waterfront, Broll Properties, Ryden Properties, JHI Properties; National Ports Authority (Property Division) and PRASA Corporate Real Estate.

During my career growth I experienced great support and mentorship from great leaders such as Johann de Beer, Saul Gumede and Jacob Molefe to mention just a few. I have during my career, also experienced antagonistic treatment, more especially one that was driven from gender, cultural and sexist motivations.

I believe that without the former support I would have left the real estate/property industry a long time ago because it is a challenging industry. However, based on the quality of training, mentorship, discipline, and self-determination, I decided to commit myself to serve the industry at large, rather than take a narrower view of serving only the company that had appointed me.

I am a black woman and was placed at the lowest level of human recognition in terms of South African politics at the time (situation is only starting to change). Since I never had the luxury of studying full time in tertiary institutions, I had to ensure that my practical experience grows alongside my career advancement in the industry.

I graduated a Master of Science degree with the University of Pretoria in 2009, A Postgraduate Diploma-Property Studies with the university of Cape Town, a B Tech Management degree (with property electives) at UNISA, and National Diploma Management at Border Technikon. Chasing after my childhood dream of being a lawyer, I have just added an LLB degree with UNISA (to graduate Aug/Sept 2021).

My hope and prayer is that practitioners like me in the S.A property industry should really take deliberate steps to mentor and provide career guidance to young upcoming hopefuls towards property and real estate, more especially to members of previously disadvantaged communities. These members never and still do not have appropriate career guidance in their schools, and hardly have any role models. Such

an effort would assist in closing the income gap between the haves and have-nots in the South African economy.

I joined this industry by chance; however, I love it and have no regrets.