

Introduction



Who is Tebogo Mosetlhe?

Ernest Hemingway once said, *“In order to write about life, first you must live it.”* In this book, I delve into the experiences, lessons and observations encompassing various aspects of life that I have encountered thus far. My journey has been a rollercoaster ride and I believe God intended for me to use my life’s trials and tribulations to convey a story that could be a voice for the voiceless. Above all, I aim to showcase God’s love and mercy towards me in all that I’ve ever faced, both in alignment with His will and my personal capacity.

Where are my manners? Hi there, my name is Tebogo Mosetlhe. I hail from Alexandra Township and was born on 22 January 1999. I hold a Bachelor of Science Honours degree in Computer Science from the University of Johannesburg. By day, I’m a senior administrator in data analysis at Vodacom and a peer support coach at the St Mary’s outreach programme, Ikusasa Lethu. By night, I’m a visionary, a dreamer, the hardest worker in the room and most importantly, a child of God. Despite the challenges faced, this journey has been both demanding and enjoyable, allowing me to achieve some of the goals in my vision board.

I have a passion for video games and am a dedicated soccer enthusiast. I’m a big Orlando Pirates fan which stems from my family, particularly my father, who is a fervent supporter. His influence has led me to develop a genuine love for the team and sport in general. I play soccer with my friends and acquaintances at least once a week. Additionally, I find cooking and cleaning quite therapeutic, although it is more of a necessity since

I live alone than it is me exploring the kitchen or being a neat freak. I have a keen interest in public motivational speaking and draw inspiration from people such as Dr Eric Thomas, Coach Pain, Prince Ea and many others.

The approach to how they deliver their message resonates with me on a deep level, evoking a profound response that leaves me with goosebumps. Listening to them empowers me, instilling a belief that I can overcome any challenges set before me. On a spiritual level, I am a Christian, with my favourite pastors being Joel Osteen, Michael Todd, Steven Furtick, Sarah Jakes Roberts, and Bishop TD Jakes. In moments of despair, I turn to their teachings as a source of reassurance, reminding me of God's favour and grace over my life. Despite the perception that I may appear more mature than my age, I'm truly just a simple guy with a big head filled with big dreams.

Why the name Tebza and not Tebogo?

Everyone named Lebogang, Kamogelo, Tebogo, Tumelo, etc. are often referred to as Lebza, Kamza, Tebza, and Tumza, respectively in South Africa, also known as *SouthA*. However, before people started calling me Tebza, I was a special case. The names ranged from *Tlhogo* and *Headache* all the way to *Forehead* and *Stena*. In some cases, I was even called *Ma1000* or *MaMlambo*, but these two, in particular, were nicknames I got from playing soccer. The size and shape of my head were common themes in some of these nicknames. The name-calling eventually stopped but only because I personally decided to stop paying attention. Gradually, over time, people started calling me Tebza and it eventually stuck till today, with rare cases of still being called demeaning names.

Two interesting facts: first, my preferred name on my matric jacket was *#Tebza.com*. Secondly, I submitted Tebza as my preferred name on the job paperwork for my current role as senior administrator at Vodacom, not knowing the impact that would bring to my workplace. I still can't tell you till today why I did that, but I guess you could blame it on the excitement I had when I was officially appointed as a permanent employee for the red

team. A week later, I realised that my entire work account, not to mention my email address, had been created using it. In other words, Tebza was the name to be used when addressing people in meetings and interacting with stakeholders. Imagine addressing an important stakeholder/client or even a whole CEO, then ending with a, “*Kind Regards, Tebza.*” Over time, it became a norm and I’ve come to fully embrace it. I guess I let go and let God. Now, I’m Tebza at home and at work.

Why this book and what can we expect from it?

The circumstances that shaped, broke, and then rebuilt the person I am today are the driving force behind this book. I want it to motivate, inspire and reignite the fire stemming from within, by simply holding it before turning to the first page. I want it to go across the borders of my country of birthright, in the hope of locating anyone and everyone who might be feeling like they serve no purpose in this thing called *LIFE*. If God can be gracious to me despite my many imperfections, He also has a purpose and still loves them just as equally. This book demonstrates an exhilarating journey consisting of the many highs, lows, in-betweens, and lessons learnt and that is what readers can expect. With that said, sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride.