



ECONOMICS **CHOSE ME**

TINYIKO **NGWENYA**

WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE YOUR CURRENT CAREER?

It's not so much about a certain person who guided me but rather a lightbulb moment that occurred to me in 2014 when I rotated to Futuregrowth Asset Management during my CA(SA) articles. I was sitting in a fixed interest meeting and was fascinated by the conversations around the "China rebalancing" and the US Fed raising rates and what that meant for our bond investments.

It just made sense to me and, more importantly, was intellectually stimulating. I would then go back in the evenings and read up on the various topics to better contribute in the meetings the next day and worked closely with the team, absorbing as much knowledge from them as I could.

Economics chose me and I've never been more grateful to have been given the opportunity by MacroSolutions to work in the Economic Research Unit (ERU) and get paid to do something that I am very passionate about.

WHICH ECONOMIC INDICATOR ARE YOU MOST WORRIED ABOUT CURRENTLY AND WHY?

Growth. At our 2017 forecast of 0.8%, we're not growing enough to integrate young people into our economy. In order to stay profitable, companies have all implemented a hiring freeze, which means that postgraduates, the very skilled individuals that we speak of, are not finding jobs.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB?

I joined Old Mutual in January 2013 when I began my Chartered Accountant training.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST VALUABLE RECOGNITION YOU HAVE RECEIVED FOR YOUR SKILLS DURING YOUR CAREER?

What makes me smile every day, and gives me assurance, is having someone reply to an email to simply say: "Thank you, that was extremely helpful and/or insightful."

- A) It means they actually took the time to go through the work that you put a lot of effort into delivering, and
- B) It's small feedback to show you that you are incrementally moving in the right direction.

What I equally value is when a colleague pulls me aside and tells me how I could've done something better. Recognition is great, but it is constructive criticism that truly develops you.

WHO HAS HAD A BIG INFLUENCE IN YOUR LIFE?

I tell him all the time, but Conway Williams, the Head of Listed Credit at Futuregrowth, is the reason I am the person I am today. Before joining Futuregrowth I had the toughest job rotation, so much so that I was ready to pack up and move to another institution. It broke me.

When Conway took me on as his "trainee", he listened. He entertained my curiosity and was unapologetically brutal in his feedback. He also doesn't take life too seriously, which I admire. But when it's crunch time, it's crunch time. I worked my hardest at that time because someone took an interest in me and I can never thank him enough for pushing me to my limit.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE NON-ECONOMIC PASTIME?

Spending time with my family and friends and just listening to them talk.