

## **A message from Nono**

My career has been shaped by the realisation of the privilege I've been afforded to attend a brilliant school, have supportive parents, and be surrounded by a community that has embraced my uniqueness, with which I have chosen to live my life.

When I realised that my lived experience is not accessible to the majority of our country, this inspired my motivation to contribute my talents to make an impact where I can. From my days at Epworth, I have always been seen as "going against the grain" doing things a little bit differently from my peers but doing it wholeheartedly myself. At times, being different made me feel vulnerable, but over time, I came to accept the fact that those who change the world have had to do so by living differently from others. This allowed me to focus on what I was bringing into this world.

Looking back, the thread that has woven across my career in finance, agriculture, and entrepreneurship has centered around relationships and learning. I am grateful that I have been able to continue in this manner, as I believe that is what has helped me craft a career that fulfills so many aspects of my life, from financial to my spiritual and mental wellbeing, and also the chance to impact my community.

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### **Professional Bio**

Nono Sekhoto | Co-Founder, Circle Generation

Nono has a background in finance, commercial farming and agriculture, stakeholder engagement, advocacy, entrepreneurship, directorship, facilitation and public speaking which have all culminated in her leading in network practice, in the intersection of Africa's agri-food system and systems change.

She has charted a distinct and illustrious career which started in 2006 in financial services as a wealth manager for high network clients working at PSG Konsult, FNB Private Clients and Investec. Her work in agriculture started in 2011 as a commercial farmer managing a 2,000hectar mixed production farm, while supporting youth through advocacy at African Farmers Association of SA (AFASA), World Farmers Organization (WFO), United Nations and as a consultant at the African Leadership Academy supporting a network of youth to advance their careers in African agriculture. Her work has attracted invitations to speak and mediate discussions in platforms like TEDxWomen and various agricultural conference in Europe, US, Asia and across Africa, sharing her unique perspective on her participation in agriculture as young female farmer.

Nono's entrepreneurial spirit has led her to found and co-found 6 businesses focusing on consulting, commercial farming and tax. She also sits on various boards in the agriculture sector such as South African Agricultural Development Agency (AGDA) and Meat Industry and Research Trust. She has built a global network which she leverages to collaborate with multi-stakeholders on her current work with Circle Generation, her latest venture. Through interconnected offerings in consulting, leadership development, and network practice field

building, Circle Generation thrives on fostering meaningful connections and collaboration between stakeholders across sectorial context.

Nono is an alumnus of University of Pretoria, University of Free State Oklahoma State University, Entrepreneurs Fellow, GIBS Goldman Sachs Entrepreneurship 10,000 Women programme, African Management Institute, and Frankfurt School of Finance and Management, and Rome Business School.