

Mamodike Ophelia Funde

Youth Employment Pathway Manager & Talent Development Strategist

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Professional Summary

I am an experienced professional Youth Placement Manager. I bring over five years of experience in managing and implementing high-impact Youth development programme. My expertise spans youth employability and placement programmes as well as the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) program, with a proven track record of transitioning over 50+ young people from training to employment. I am currently serving as a Youth Employment Pathway Manager at Digify Africa Foundation. I have successfully led strategic partnerships with advertising agencies and secured and managed post-support training and work readiness initiatives in South Africa, Nigeria and Kenya from major philanthropic funders, namely, MSDF & Meta. With strong capabilities in stakeholder & client engagement with host companies hiring graduates, career pathway/placement strategy and impact tracking and analysis. I excel in building impactful career pathways to economic opportunity and supporting the youth in the transition from learning to earning through robust work readiness initiatives. I hold a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration from GIBS, and I am recognised for my leadership skills, having earned accolades such as the 2023 Digify Africa Value Award for growth and inclusion in the Lincoln Mali Leadership Foundation Cohort. As well as effectively and efficiently bridging the gap between skills development & earning opportunities for the youth and helping them thrive as professionals, and securing earning opportunities.

Areas of Expertise

Professional Experience: Talent Development & Management | Career Pathways & Placements | Client & Stakeholder liaison | Youth Engagement | Strategic Partnerships & Mobilisation | Alumni Support | Qualitative Research | Database Management | Impact Assessment and Tracking | Programme Planning & Implementation | Basic Project Management | Risk Assessment | Career Support & Coaching | Basic Monitoring & Evaluation | Group Facilitation | Building a Value Proposition

Technical Tools: Google Workspace, Microsoft 365, Slack, Power BIS, Monday.com and Canva

Professional Experience

Freelance Consultant, NetExpat

June 2024 – Present

- Provide cross-cultural training to employees engaged in international relations & talent mobility.
- Provide support for partners of expatriates according to the concepts developed by NetExpat, which includes integration support, career mentoring, resume review, advice on job search techniques, and preparation for interviews, etc.

Youth Employment Pathway Manager, Digify Africa Foundation**May 2024 –Present**

- Successfully facilitated the signing and currently manage an internship programme with Allan & Gill Gray Philanthropies SA worth R1 million within 90 days in the role.
- Successfully managed a hire-a-grad entrepreneurship pilot project with the SAB Foundation to empower candidates to become freelancers.
- Facilitate and liaise relationships between candidates who are freelancing and businesses that hire their digital marketing services
- Leading the placement & post support training initiatives on our flagship programme DigifyPRO Online with MSDP & Meta as funders valued at R5 million in S.A., Nigeria & Kenya that has connected 100+ young people to earning opportunities either as freelancers, entrepreneurs or full- time employment.
- Currently a programme lead & candidate support for a pilot Work Integrated Learning (WIL) programme with Mark1 media, an advertising agency, where candidates work on real business cases to gain practical work experience within the advertising agency.
- Successfully managing a graduate programme on social media moderation with VML South Africa, a marketing agency worth
- Support the learning team and software developers in building a marketplace platform for freelancers to increase placement initiatives
- Built post-support training and work readiness to complement placement initiatives.
- Compiled an insight report that provides insight and knowledge sharing on youth unemployment, the job landscape in digital, marketing and tech jobs.
- Currently working with Business Development to build a product breakdown to expand on the Dinaledi career pathway graduate programme within marketing agencies.

Assistant Partnership Manager, Digify Africa Foundation**Jan 2023-April 2024**

- Implemented & managed the job placement and work readiness initiatives.
- Brought and headed strategic partnership portfolios, resulting in signed MoUs with Jobox, Bloo Money, Credipple, Global Mentorship Initiative (GMI) & Yomobi
- Established and maintained partnerships with youth-led organisations and other strategic partners in skills and youth development.
- Created and managed the partnership pipeline database and placement stats.
- Supported management in formulating placement strategy and economic pathways to earning opportunities.
- Instrumental in facilitating job placement for the youth exiting our digital marketing program, connecting 40+ young people to earning opportunities.
- Supported research efforts on the current state of youth unemployment and compiled impact case studies from beneficiaries.

Additional Work Experience:

Executive Assistant, Wakanda Food Accelerator NPC

May 2022 – Dec 2022

- Assisted the Executive Management in establishing policies, MOUs, SLAs, and SOPs.
- Led the planning of our 2022 Youth Month Entrepreneurship Bootcamp
- Support the business development function with the relevant information required for funding.
- Supported Project Managers in implementing SMMEs' incubation program.
- Planned and organised board meetings and action items from meetings.
- Prepared information and research for upcoming projects and programs.
- Tactical in maintaining the executive's calendar, including scheduling meetings and speaking engagements, exercised discretion in committing time & evaluating needs.
- Supporting the General Manager and CEO in executing organisational strategies
- Successfully managed the office in the absence of the General Manager or CEO

Market Research Project Co-ordinator, Plus 94 Research Pty Ltd

June 2019 – May 2020

- Successfully coordinated multiple projects for the South African Department of Tourism, Department of Trade & Industry, Standard Bank, Barloworld Logistics, MAPS Project with Market Research Foundation (MFR), Momentum Insurance, and Transnet single-handedly and as part of a team from inception until completion.

Education

- 2021: Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration, *GIBS University of Pretoria*
- 2019: Master of Science in Animal Science, *University of Pretoria*. Published MSc dissertation found [here](#)
- 2016: Bachelor of Science in Animal Science

Achievements

- Awarded the 2023 Digify Africa value award for showing professional and personal growth.
- Selected to be part of a handful of young people showing leadership qualities to the Lincoln Mali Leadership Foundation 2023 Cohort
- McKinsey Forward Programme cohort 2022
- Class Representative for PDBA Online 2022 cohort, Gordon Institute for Business Science (GIBS)
- Recipient of the National Research Foundation Scholarship to complete MSc. Research
- Recipient of the GIBS Bursary Fund to complete a PDBA qualification.

***References available upon request*