

Umzamo Analytical Services



“Mondi Zimele supported the dream right from the beginning” – Audrey Ndlovu

Audrey Ndlovu is the driving force behind Umzamo Analytical Services, a coal testing laboratory service located in South Africa’s coal belt.

Born in Johannesburg and schooled in Zimbabwe, Audrey has always been ambitious. She studied Analytical Chemistry, obtained a B.Tech Management degree and a number of certificates relevant to running a lab.

She started work as a lab assistant at CentraChem, then joined SABS as a lab technician, rising rapidly through the ranks to become operations manager.

In 2012 Audrey saw an opportunity and established her own lab business in Vryheid.

“The market knew me but initially they didn’t want to take a risk with a new company,” she remembers. “I broke even in the first year, but the second year was a struggle.”

The banks wouldn’t lend her the capital she needed to get her lab to the level that would enable her to compete effectively.

Working capital and equipment

In 2013 Mondi Zimele stepped up to the plate to provide the working capital that she needed to get accredited and to invest in more equipment, and the business took off. A contract with Eskom and Keaton Energy followed.

Today Umzamo supplies coal testing services to a wide array of customers. The business has grown from just three employees to over 100 people, with five labs.



“Reporting back to Mondi Zimele taught me discipline” – Audrey Ndlovu

Audrey Ndlovu says the coaching she received from Mondi Zimele taught her discipline, and has enabled her to stand on her own two feet. She has repaid her initial MZ loan in full.

“MZ can take a lot of the credit for our success,” she says. “They supported the dream right from the beginning, and now we are a successful and reputable company competing with international service providers.”



Hilton Office
Tel: 033 329 5506
Fax: 033 329 5507

Richards Bay Office
Tel: 035 902 2624
Fax: 035 902 2136

Piet Retief Office
Tel: 017 824 8054
Fax: 086 743 9999