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Growing up in eight of the country's nine provinces has given Itumeleng Mothibeli solid exposure and insight into to all that South Africa has to offer. It was a graduate programme at Old Mutual that introduced him to the world of property, and he has never looked back.

Under the mentorship of investment heavyweights such as Ben Kodisang, Mothibeli has been able to carve out a space for himself in the property world. He is passionate about how infrastructure drives development and how development drives growth, and is committed to using brick and mortar as a tool to break the barriers to trade that still exist on the African continent.

His executive management role at Vukile Property Investments means that he is accountable for the overall strategic direction, operations and performance of the fund's South African and Namibian property portfolio, which comprises 47 properties valued at R16-billion.

Mothibeli believes in the transformative potential of responsible investing.

"I don't think the property industry in South Africa has really thought about making a difference in the context of still being able to make money, because in a market that is overly saturated with malls, responsible investing must include building schools and clinics as well."

As a young man in South Africa today, the possibilities of digitisation excite him. "Young people have ideas that are being discussed in real time and technology has enlarged that conversation. What we must ensure however, is that these ideas are converted into concrete action, as the only way is to chip away."

— Nomonde Ndwalaza