



# Zipho Sikhakhane

Zipho Sikhakhane is an international speaker, writer and business advisor. She has been a motivational speaker for 15 years and has presented to audiences across four continents, including TEDx Talk delivered in the USA on Africa's business potential. She is also a weekly Business Columnist for the Sunday Times and is the first black South African to complete an MBA at the prestigious Stanford University in the USA. She delivers inspiring talks and poetry on topics related to Africa's potential, leadership, entrepreneurship, youth and women empowerment. In 2016, she received the Outstanding Young Achiever Award from the UNESCO Center for Global Education and the Independent Pan-African Youth Parliament.

Zipho's professional background includes developing strategies for large public and private sector clients as a management consultant at McKinsey & Co (the leading management consulting firm globally). She also held project management and change management positions for the industry leading retailers - Edcon in South Africa (the biggest clothing retailer in Sub-Saharan Africa) and Inditex in Spain (the parent company of Zara and the biggest fashion retailer globally). In 10 years, she has travelled to 30 countries and worked in 10 of them. Currently she is an Executive at a new venture that is acquiring the scaling businesses in the food sector. She also provides advisory and investment support to small businesses and entrepreneurs across Africa.

## Keynote Topics

### 1. Leadership Begins with YOU

Individuals need to learn how to lead themselves first, before they can effectively lead others. Emerging from humble beginnings, Zipho beat the odds to achieve outstanding academic success and hold leadership positions in leading corporations locally and globally. She shares insights on the leadership techniques that enabled her to become an exceptional leader.

### 2. Leading Africa to Prosperity

The African continent presents immeasurable growth opportunities for local and multi-national corporations. The leaders that will succeed in making the most of these opportunities are ones that understand the importance of having a long term vision and adapting their leadership approaches to the demands of the local context. Zipho has presented inspiring talks across four continents on the progress and potential of African economies - including a TEDx talk delivered in the United States.

### 3. Entrepreneurship - Building the Giants of Tomorrow

Zipho is passionate about helping entrepreneurs build businesses that will last and achieve scalable growth. Having been an entrepreneur throughout her youth, since as early as the age of five years old, she shares her perspectives on some of the pitfalls that prevent small business owners from taking their businesses to the next level. She also shares the latest trends and insights on entrepreneurship in the local context - based on research done for the weekly business columns written in the Sunday Times on this topic.

### 4. Inspirational Poetry

Zipho has been writing and presenting poetry for many years. She can deliver engaging poetry recitals on a variety of topics.

## Areas of Expertise

- Business Strategy: diagnostic, design and implementation
- Change Movement: top-team alignment, culture diagnostic, design and roll-out
- Customer Centricity: customer strategy, segmentation, change movement
- Retail: RFID technology, store operations and optimisation
- Communications: presentation and public speaking, inspirational leadership

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