From Gardener To Leader Of The S.A. Quantity Surveying Profession

Dr Stephan Ramabodu has been elected as president of the Association of South African Quantity Surveyors (ASAQS).

Dr Ramabodu's first practical experience of the QS profession was as QS student at B&L Bloemfontein while studying for a BSc Quantity Surveying degree at the University of the Free State (UFS). After graduation, he became a junior lecturer at the university and did private work for contractors or QS firms to gain further experience. In 2006, he joined the construction consultancy, Davis Langdon, as a director and in 2008, left to start his own business, Ramabodu & Associates. He was also reappointed as lecturer at UFS where he completed a Master’s degree in 2005.

Thereafter, he was promoted to Senior Lecturer at UFS, and also elected as Senior Vice-President of ASAQS, Fees Chairman of ASAQS, and Editorial Board Chairperson of Acta Structilia, a national journal for research articles in the physical and development sciences, published by the UFS Department of Quantity Surveying and Construction Management.

He is now Senior Lecturer at the University of Pretoria's Department of Construction Economics and has established a new personal company, QS-Online.

The new ASAQS president came from a particularly disadvantaged background and had to do gardening work to pay for his high school studies. Spurred on by the promise of a bursary if he managed to matriculate, the young Stephan managed just that and enrolled at UFS for a generic BSc degree which he changed to BSc QS studies after an uncle who worked on a building site - and gave his young nephew money for transport and food - had introduced him to the Quantity Surveying profession.

Dr Ramabodu, who obtained a PhD at UFS in 2014, includes in his main aspirations as leader of ASAQS transformation, including gender equality; marketing the profession; research; and "providing the ultimate service to ASAQS members".

Bert van den Heever, immediate past president of ASAQS, comments: "Stephan is the first black South African quantity surveyor to be awarded a doctorate in his field. This is a tremendous achievement when you consider there are very few doctorates in the QS profession worldwide."

Lydia Carroll, director of the Irene-based company, Quantity Surveyors & Contracts Consultants, has been elected as vice-president of ASAQS; and Yunus Bayat of Bayprop Projects in Pietermaritzburg, as deputy vice-president.

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Caption:

Dr Stephan Ramabodu, the new president of ASAQS, has worked his way up from a particularly disadvantaged background to become the leader of the quantity surveying profession in SA.

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