

From Till Packer to Regional Admin Manager: East London local's journey with Africa's biggest retailer

From humble beginnings in Mdantsane, East London, to a leadership role at Africa's largest retailer, Kholiswa Mda's journey is a testament to resilience, dedication and the power of seizing opportunities.

After three years of unemployment following her matriculation, Mda's late friend Lulama Gqoli, who worked as a Money Market Clerk at the time, encouraged her to apply for a Till Packer position at Checkers Nahoon in East London.

Inspired by her friend's enthusiasm for her role, Mda took the leap, and what started as a means to make ends meet in February 2006, has developed into a rewarding career.

Mda quickly advanced from Till Packer to Cashier to Money Market Clerk – all within a year. By 2008, she was entrusted with roles in cash office management and receiving administration before moving to Queenstown to assume the role of Stock Administrator in 2009.

In 2012, her leadership potential was recognised, and Mda was promoted to Trainee Manager, followed by a position as Administrative Manager. After transferring to Cradock in 2018 to be closer to her family, she earned a promotion to Trainee Regional Manager in 2020. Shortly after, she assumed her current role as Regional Administrative Manager for the Chris Hani Region in the Eastern Cape which includes areas such as Engcobo, Lady Frere, Tsomo, Elliot, Queenstown, Indwe, Cradock and Middelburg.

Every day is an adventure, says Mda with enthusiasm. "I love the daily challenges I encounter - no two days are ever the same. It's fast-paced, dynamic, and never dull."

She plans to pursue studies in Human Resources or Marketing, leveraging her education to continue advancing within Shoprite. "There are countless opportunities — it's up to everyone to seize them and make the most of them. No matter where you start, there's always potential to grow and advance," Mda advises.

As Africa's largest retailer and South Africa's largest private sector employer, the Shoprite Group offers a variety of career pathways for individuals, especially youth, eager to build a rewarding career in retail.

Young people interested in retail careers are invited to explore the various opportunities available at the Group: [Shoprite Group Youth Opportunities](#) | [Shoprite Holdings](#).

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