

# Bongiwe Nyawo



TOP 10

**Bongiwe Nyawo** is the Founder and Director of Nyawo Zendalo Air, an innovative Agri-Tech company based in Cinci Reserve, KwaZulu-Natal. Born and raised in this rural community, Bongiwe's roots deeply shape her purpose: creating solutions that uplift people and protect the environment.

Nyawo Zendalo Air operates at the intersection of agriculture, sustainability and technology, integrating drone technology, AI, and data-driven insights to support sustainable food production, environmental conservation, and climate resilience. The business addresses critical challenges such as climate change, food insecurity, and limited access to modern agri-tech in rural areas.

After earning her Remote/Drone Pilot Licence, Bongiwe saw the potential of drones as powerful tools for agriculture and environmental monitoring. By incorporating AI-driven analytics, she transformed Nyawo Zendalo Air into a future-focused solution aligned with global sustainability goals. With the world's population projected to reach 9.8 billion by 2050, Bongiwe believes innovation is essential to conserve resources and secure food systems.

Her inspiration stems from a desire to make a meaningful impact and prove to young people that dreams are valid, even in rural communities. Nyawo Zendalo Air is driven by a commitment to environmental sustainability, food security and social empowerment, ensuring rural areas are not left behind in the global tech revolution.

Being part of the Metropolitan Collective Shapers programme has been a pivotal experience, providing mentorship, governance insights and a supportive network. Bongiwe credits the programme with affirming her vision and equipping her to scale Nyawo Zendalo Air for lasting impact.

Beyond business, Bongiwe is guided by two mantras: ***"One's only limit is the depth of your imagination"*** and her late brother's words, ***"Don't be afraid to fail, you learn from your mistakes."***

Nyawo Zendalo Air is more than a business. It's a movement to **lift others while rising**, create jobs, introduce scarce drone and agri-tech skills and position rural communities on the global stage. At its core, the company champions **innovation, sustainability and shared progress**.

Together we can



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