

# Founder Profile – Lerato Mokalapa

## Lerato Mokalapa

**Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder | eduSYMS (Pty) Ltd**

Lerato Mokalapa is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder of eduSYMS, an African EdTech company developing enterprise technology that enables educational institutions and skills development providers to digitise learning, administration, compliance, assessments, and student management through a single integrated platform.

Growing up in a rural community in South Africa, Lerato experienced firsthand the educational inequalities created by limited infrastructure, poor connectivity, and fragmented administrative systems. These experiences inspired her to build technology that ensures institutions, regardless of their location or resources, can access world-class digital education solutions.

With a background in Law (LLB) and Electrical Engineering (N6), Lerato combines legal, business, and technical leadership to drive eduSYMS' strategic growth, commercial partnerships, fundraising, governance, and product vision. Before founding eduSYMS, she established and managed Bright Index Collection, a debt collection and business administration company, where she gained extensive experience in operations, compliance, financial management, and client relationship management.

Under her leadership, eduSYMS has evolved from a startup into a fast-growing enterprise technology company serving educational institutions, professional bodies, and skills development organisations across Southern Africa. The company currently serves clients in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and the United Kingdom while preparing for expansion into West and East Africa.

Lerato has led the development of strategic partnerships with organisations such as the South African Grain Milling Academy (SAGMA), the National Chamber of Milling (NCM), colleges, schools, and skills development providers. Her vision is to position eduSYMS as Africa's leading digital education operating system by providing an affordable, scalable, and offline-first platform designed specifically for emerging markets.

Her entrepreneurial journey and leadership have earned recognition through several prestigious innovation programmes, including:

- UNDP timbuktoo EdTech Programme – Top 5 Startup
- GCIP-SA (Global Cleantech Innovation Programme) – Semi-finalist
- Pitch Palabre – Finalist
- Standard Chartered Women in Tech South Africa Programme

Lerato is passionate about using technology to create equal educational opportunities, empower institutions, improve compliance, and prepare Africa's learners and workforce for the digital economy. She believes that quality education should never be limited by geography or internet connectivity, and this vision continues to shape eduSYMS' innovation and growth strategy across the continent.

## **Core Expertise**

- EdTech Innovation
- Digital Transformation Strategy
- Business Development
- Enterprise SaaS
- Fundraising & Investor Relations
- Strategic Partnerships
- Corporate Governance & Compliance
- Product Strategy
- Market Expansion Across Africa
- Entrepreneurship & Leadership

## **Vision**

*"To build Africa's most trusted education technology ecosystem, empowering every institution with intelligent, accessible, and scalable digital solutions that transform learning and administration across the continent."*