

# Estralita Kwalo

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Estralita Kwalo is a young woman that works as a Field Officer of the Informal Settlement Department. She has worked as a field officer for the past four years. She is also the eldest of three siblings: followed by her 16 year old brother and her two year old little sister.



## A Little Bit More about Estralita

Estralita was born in Cape Town and primarily raised by her mother. During most of her childhood, her father was absent, which led her to develop a very strong relationship with her mom. When Estralita was 11 years old, her mother gave birth to her brother. Thirteen years later, her baby sister was born. As a very joyful person, Estralita remembers fondly her 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Birthdays. In both of

them, she had big celebrations where family and friends gathered around and dressed for the occasion. Estralita matriculated in 2003, and pursued an acting career by attending the School of New Africa Theater Association. During this period, she was selected to become part of the cast of a play based on Robben Island and offered a one year contract. However, after that year she realized how difficult finding consistent and stable employment in this field can be and decided to change career paths. She started working at a factory and participated in a radio advertisement, before acquiring a job under the City of Cape Town. At first, she was offered only contracts, however for the past four years she has begun working permanently.

## Interests & Hobbies

Estralita's biggest passions are singing and dancing. However, she would like to learn how to play guitar, drums and piano. She also enjoys lazing around at home – watching movies, TV shows and cricket matches. She competed in long distance running during her years at school as well. She also states that she enjoys reading, but admits that with the new era of cell phones and technology she does it less than desired.

## Job as a Field Officer

Her motivation to pursue this career path was reinforced by the benefits offered by the City. Therefore, she applied to a council job and obtained her first job in the City at the age of 19. Her favorite part of the job is being able to work with people. Most importantly, she

finds that helping others is a very rewarding experience. Estralita faces a range of different challenges through her work. Some related to communities and residents while others deal with colleagues. She states that in both cases, the resistance to compromise causes the challenge.



### **An Opportunity in Flamingo**

Estralita hopes to see the construction of many new structures in Flamingo Crescent. Also, she hopes that the use of drugs, alcohol and abuse diminishes. With this, she hopes children value their education and matriculate to provide themselves a better lifestyle. In a year's time, she sees in Flamingo a reblocked community with electricity and other basic needs.

### **A Glimpse into the Future**

Estralita's biggest goal is to be successful; but not at the cost of sacrificing the things she loves and enjoys. Estralita wants to keep studying and has recently applied for Public Administration and Management. She hopes this will prepare her better in her career and help her obtain a higher position in the future. As for the City Department, she hopes that salaries will increase. Also she believes that

there is a lot of space for improvement in the management area. For this reason, she wants to be promoted and improve work ethic, where there is no favoritism and protocol is followed. One of her ideas to accomplish this goal is to build an organogram, where a visual representation of the organization can be seen. This will help discover areas that are understaffed and others that are not.

#### **Skills**

- Communication
- Engineering
- Leadership
- Entrepreneurial
- Cultural
- Caring
- Building
- Crafting
- Musical
- Cooking
- Administrative
- Teaching