

# Tsogo Sun Entrepreneurs

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*Entrepreneur of the Year Award – 2015 Finalists*

**Jesse Mbewe**

**JC Cleaning Services**

**Gauteng**

## **Vital statistics**

Years in business	: 5
Employees	: 42
Annual growth	: ↑ 14.3%
Annual turnover	: < R10 million
Business classification	: Exempt Micro Enterprise (EME)
Nature of business	: Accommodation establishment

Jesse Mbewe entered the hotel industry nearly twenty years ago and what began as a career developed into her operating a successful business of her own. “My passion grew as I watched my supervisors in my very first position after I completed matric. I worked as a room attendant in a hotel housekeeping department and I did my best.” She was quickly promoted to room and laundry supervisor, and then fulfilled various positions within the hotel environment, including receptionist, beverage manager and executive housekeeper.

Jesse’s big opportunity came in 2010, when Southern Sun Montecasino outsourced its housekeeping services to an external business. “Although I never dreamt of being able to run my own business, with this opportunity, the possibility suddenly became a reality for me,” she explains. “Running my own business was tough in the beginning, but I have definitely found my way.”

“I am now doing what I love and I do it best,” she says “The service we provide is excellent because if you have happy and motivated staff, they will love their jobs. The happier they are, the better we are able to deliver the requirements to our customer.”

Jesse is the sole proprietor of JC Cleaning Services. She employs a total of 42 staff members, including two supervisors. With a strong development ethic, she sees her company as the starting place for people wishing to pursue a career in hospitality. “I want people to grow and so I explain to

new employees how someone helped me to get to where I am, and I want to do the same for them – if they're willing to work hard too, of course."

Discussing the future of her business, Jesse's intentions are well considered and practical, "Housekeeping and cleaning services are what we do best at JC Cleaning Services, and in the next few years, I intend to expand to include office cleaning services as well."

She says that being part of Tsogo Sun Entrepreneurs has helped her own development as a business person and it's given her the courage to pursue her goals. "When I was chosen as a finalist, it felt like I was selected from among millions! I feel so honoured! Tsogo Sun Entrepreneurs has given me confidence and I am proud to live the Tsogo Sun values."