

In conversation with

Tumelo Sereo

Tumelo Sereo was born and raised in a small village called Disaneng in Mahikeng, North West. He holds a BSc degree in Mathematics and an Honours in Applied Mathematics from the North-West University. He is currently in the final stages of his MSc at SACEMA, Stellenbosch University.

"To lose patience is to lose the battle" - Mahatma Gandhi



Why Epidemiological Modelling

After completing my degree, I pursued my studies, and did an Honours in Applied Mathematics (same university). There was this course that really fascinated me called Biological Mathematics. That is where I started seeing how all Theorems and Proofs from Mathematics were being used in real world problems. In pure Maths you solve equations and get all forms of solutions, yet I couldn't understand where everything is going. Ever since, I will always ask my Honours supervisor about BioMaths, and it ended up being my natural field of interest. I think that is the reason I ended up being in Epidemiological Modelling and now, it's getting more interesting as I use emerging technologies plus Mathematics and solve health problems

What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

There are a lot of activities that I really enjoy doing, I think it's because I have 'Fear Of Missing Out' (FOMO). Usually I will go out and play soccer with my peers - that's when I'm home (Disaneng). I am also involved in our Church Choir - singing is my hobby. In Stellenbosch, where I'm currently based, I will go hiking with my friends and sometimes I will go to the beach to learn how to surf.

What do you do to inspire yourself on your "off" days?

I would like to think I am a comedian. But I am comfortable doing it in my home language (Setswana). I will spend time with my friends, sharing jokes with them. I also enjoy listening to podcasts (any type) and learning about other people's perspective. Lastly, I enjoy watching football.



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