



METROPOLITAN

COLLECTIVE Shapers

When Rofhiwa Nethengwe found herself with unexpected free time, it presented her with the opportunity to expand on her side hustle and take it to the next level.

"I love cooking and I excel in African Cuisine," says Rofhiwa, founder and owner of *Balo's Food Cave*. "My friends and relatives were always encouraging me and pushing me to open a restaurant in the suburbs. They said there was nothing better than my *Mogodu* to remedy their Monday morning babalas, and they preferred to buy a *Kota* instead of a pizza after work," she says.

Without the funds and skills needed to rent and run a restaurant, Rofhiwa opted to use her savings to buy a food truck, and then employed her husband to run it while she was at work.

"In 2022 I lost my job and that forced me to fully focus on my food business as a main source of income while I was waiting for the outcome of my CCMA hearing." They relocated *Balo's Food Cave* to their home in Atteridgeville where they sell "a variety of food like Kotas, wors rolls and our signature dishes which are *Mogodu* and *Nama Ya Thlogo* which are genuine African recipes I cook from scratch."

Rofhiwa's aspiration to help her community has seen her delve into the NGO space where she uses the food truck to prepare meals for children at a local orphanage; and she helps survivors of gender-based violence with training to find entry-level skill jobs, as well as food and personal hygiene essentials.

"I do this as a result of my love for people and wanting better for my community. After losing my job we had to go work from our home in Atteridgeville but after the **Metropolitan Collective Shapers** Top 10 announcement, I have a vision to open a shop in Centurion."

Whatever the future has in store for Rofhiwa, her success is almost guaranteed as this go-getter always finds a way to turn life's challenges around. You can follow her progress on her [Facebook](#) page .

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