



METROPOLITAN

# COLLECTIVE Shapers

It was while searching for an apprenticeship to qualify as a Civil Engineer that Thabiso Mhlongo realised that food was his passion. He began dreaming about owning a restaurant one day.

"*Epicure Bitez* is a food business based in Atteridgeville, Pretoria, that caters for people with exquisite palates for succulent meals and a love for gourmet meals," says owner Thabiso.

He says the idea to open a restaurant came to him while he was working as a barista. "I was working at a health food franchise while looking for an apprenticeship. I was so inspired and thought 'wow, I can do this on my own one day!'"

For the next two years he day-dreamed about his logo and the food he would serve, until he eventually worked up the courage to take the risk. "In December 2020, I registered my business and on 27 December 2020 I had my first food pop-up; and now here we are today," he says proudly.

"*Epicure Bitez* was the first eatery in Atteridgeville to introduce tacos to the area. We also sell succulent wraps, gourmet burgers made with our own homemade beef patties, and juicy and tender chicken wings. It's not just eating out, it's a gourmet dining experience where we use only fresh ingredients to create mouth-watering meals in a Kasi environment. I love cooking and playing with different herbs and seasonings in the kitchen as it is my comfort space."

Thabiso currently employs two people. "We have our head of marketing that does our content, our sous chef, and me as the head chef." He hopes to use his **Metropolitan Collective Shapers** experience to help grow the business so that he can create job opportunities for young people.

"My goal for *Epicure Bitez* is to open two to three branches in the next three years. We are doing well on our social reach. But with the coaching from this Metropolitan Collective Shapers programme, along with the media, marketing and PR training, we can reach a greater number of customers to come and experience our business. It will allow us to make enough capital to create jobs and give back to our community."

You can find out more about Thabiso's Kasi gourmet restaurant by following him on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [Twitter](#).

Or go and experience it yourself at 55 Moroe Street, Atteridgeville, Pretoria, 0008.

Email him at [mhlongothabiso7@gmail.com](mailto:mhlongothabiso7@gmail.com)  
Call him on 061 439 9924

#Metropolitan  
#TogetherWeCan  
#MetropolitanCollectiveShapers



## Thabiso Mhlongo

Epicure Bitez

Together we can



[www.metropolitan.co.za](http://www.metropolitan.co.za)