

in schools. And he and his wife, Aspen board chairwoman Dr Judy Dlamini, run the Mkhiwa Trust, which aims to uplift communities through education initiatives. These include funding students who are pursuing accounting and medical studies.

### INSPIRING OTHERS

Strangely, Sizwe says he does not consider himself to be clever.

"I learnt early in my life that I am not smart and need to work a lot harder than other people," he reveals. "I will sleep for two hours if I have to work."

However, he says he hangs around with smart people.

"I have often been amazed at how people, including my wife, will figure something out and I will look at them and think, 'I did not think about that'," he says.

Sizwe is the fourth child of the late Evelyn and Sifiso Nxasana. His father taught mathematics and science in various schools around the country.

But he says his inspiration for his educational charity work came from watching his late mom.

"She made it her mission that her children got the best education," he says. "She went on to get her Matric after some of her own children had matriculated. She was never shy to share a desk with children younger than her. She then became a nurse.

"My mother valued education, and I have seen in my family the difference in the lives of those whose parents valued learning and ensured that their children were educated and those who did not.

"These experiences have instilled a love of learning in me and encourage me to continue to contribute to education in whatever way I can."



**RIGHT: A humble man, Sizwe told DRUM's reporter he doesn't consider himself clever: he's just prepared to work hard.**

“I contribute to education in whatever way I can”

### LEADING THE PACK

Sizwe will hold his new post in the NFSAS for a four-year term, meaning that it will expire at the end of August 2019. He is due to vacate his post at the FirstRand Group at the end of September.

"I am going to concentrate on family business with my wife," he tells us.

The family owns luxury stores, Luminance in leafy Hyde Park and Jimmy Choo in Sandton, among other ventures.

He is also a proud dad, whose two

daughters have taken a lead from their parents' work ethic and are successful careerwomen. The eldest, Nandi, is a medical doctor, while the younger one, Nkanyezi, is a chartered accountant and an analyst at JP Morgan.

If anyone can turn NSFAS around, it's Sizwe. Nzimande certainly thinks so, claiming he is the best possible candidate for the job.

Even Ntuthuko Makhombothi, president of the South African Students Congress (Sasco), has cautiously welcomed Sizwe's appointment to the post.

That's a good start, at least. ■

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**LEFT: The outgoing CEO of FirstRand has many awards and even an honorary doctorate. RIGHT: Sizwe and his wife already fund students through their family-funded Mkhiwa Trust.**



### SIZWE NXASANA AT A GLANCE

Sizwe Nxasana was one of the first 10 black chartered accountants in the 1980s. He created the Association for the Advancement of Black Accountants in Southern Africa (Abasa) in the 1980s.

He then established Sizwe & Co, the first black-owned audit practice in 1989. In 1996, it became part of Nkonki Sizwe Ntsaluba, the first black-owned national firm of accountants. He joined Telkom in 2003 as CEO, and oversaw its listing on both the JSE and NY Stock Exchange.

In 2004 he was awarded an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, the University of Fort Hare.

He also serves as Vice-Chairman of the South African Revenue Services Board and is a member of the Income Tax Special Court.