

Rands with Sense

Considering Starting Your Own Business

- The first thing you need to consider when thinking of starting your own business, is if you **have what it takes** to become an entrepreneur. Entrepreneurs are self-driven, ambitious, they think out of the box, are problem solvers and hard workers.
- If you feel that you are ready to embark on your own venture, make sure that **you have done all the necessary research...** For instance, if you decide to sell a product, research if there is a market for it. Find out where would be the best place to sell it. Do a costing and work out your profit margins. Also, find out the minimum quantity you have to sell to cover all your basic costs.
- The best way for you to make an informed decision, is to **write a business plan**. There are many online resources with business plan templates, and it would be in your best interest to write a thorough business plan.
- Also research the **type of business module** you would like to register. If you want to trade as a sole proprietor, you don't have to register a company as you will be trading as yourself. The next level is to register a private company or a PTY LTD, as CC's are no longer available.
- For both structures you will have to **register for income tax**, VAT (if your income is above R1 million per year), UIF, SDL, COID (if you have employees) and PAYE.
- You will also need to apply for certain licenses depending on your chosen industry, the size of your business, and if you employ staff.

