



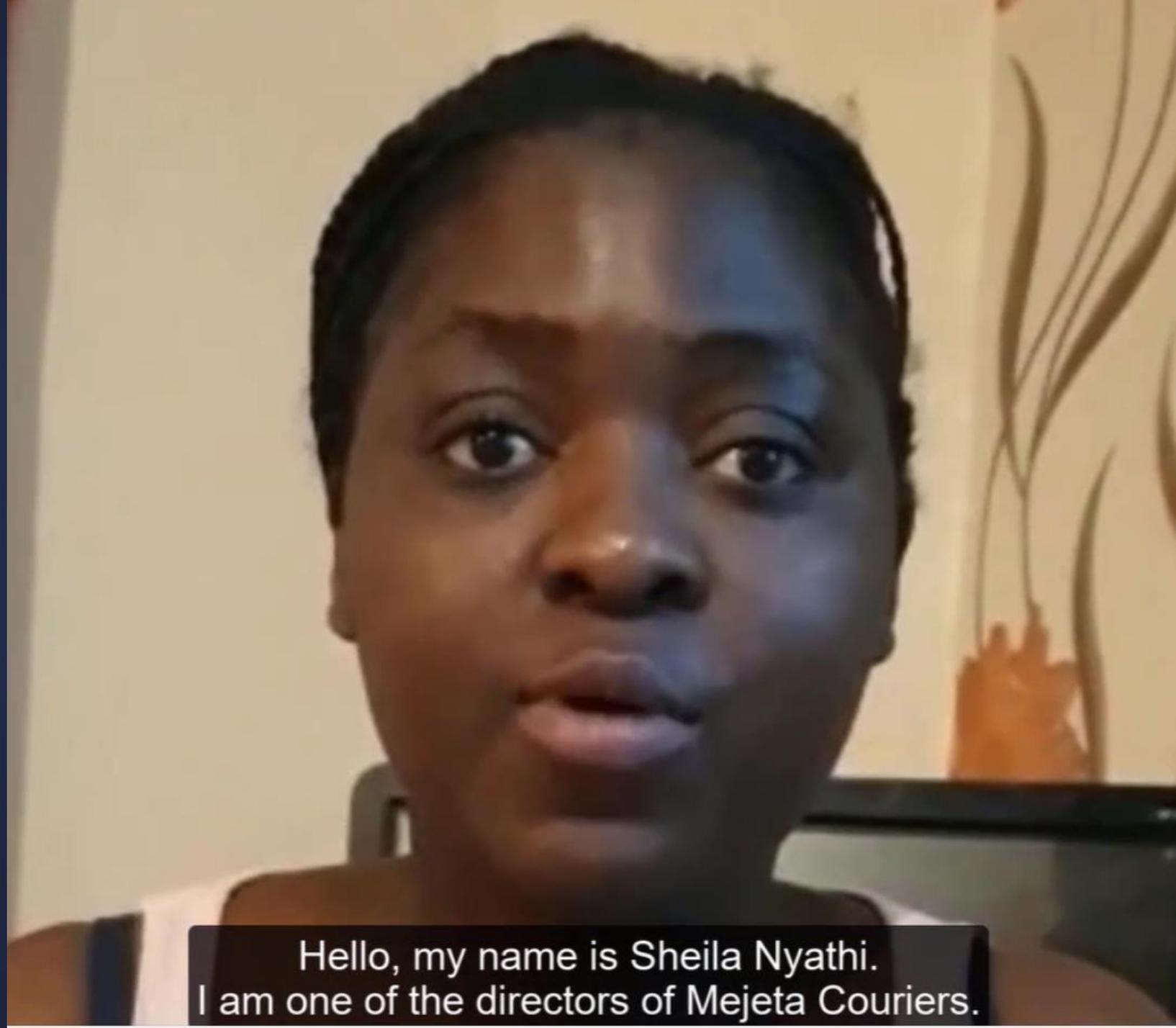
EMWOSE
Women from ethnic minorities in social enterprise

Interview form

Overview

Name: Sheila Nyathi

Courier Service & Logistics
Mejeta Couriers
Langsford Close
Wrexham
LL139EX, UK



Hello, my name is Sheila Nyathi.
I am one of the directors of Mejeta Couriers.

Hi. It is good to see you. My name is Sheila Nyathi. I am British and originally Zimbabwean. I am from North Wales and I have my social enterprise business in North Wales.

I had always wanted to run my own business. After completing my high school and college studies, I completed my master's in biomedical science. Following my studies, I decided to start my enterprise (Mejeta Couriers) because I saw a gap in this area – I felt it lacked diversity, in terms of women and BAMEs. BAME refers to Black and Minority Ethnic or Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic to describe people of non-white descent.

We are based in North Wales, have 10 vans, employ 20 people and have contracts in and around North Wales. We have contracts with Tesco as well as several medical contracts, and the business is doing well. The courier business was an easy choice, because it does not require a lot of start-up capital and I had previous experience working in the industry. I was intent on the business having elements of social enterprise, as this is my other passion.

The transport industry is very competitive, but I am confident that I will be able to balance the two aspects of my business, namely, profit and philanthropy.
plastic.

Interview transcript

Keywords:

Zimbabwe
Ubuntu
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Volunteering
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As a transport business, we focus on using our vans and labour. We work alongside homeless charities by using our vans to collect food supplies from supermarkets and deliver them to homeless shelters. We offer employment and skills training to our staff as well to homeless persons recommended by local charities. We donate regular proceeds to local charities.

We are making very good progress; growing from strength to strength. We now have contracts with big organisations like Tesco, Rowlands Pharmacy, NHS, Debenhams and many online retailers. This has helped us to fulfil our social enterprise drive and gain recognition in our community. We now have a lot more drivers than the ten workers we started with, we have employees from diverse background, and we stand up for equality and diversity.

Unfortunately, it is not all sunshine and roses. This area is very competitive. We are competing with big and established organisations like DHL, and they can be very difficult to compete with. As a person from a BAME background, it can be very challenging to run a business; hard as it is to accept, people still judge a person by the colour of their skin. However, I am proud of the achievement that my enterprise has started being recognised by the public, new clients and local customers.

Full video [here](#)

