

MEN MUST MANAGE THEIR WOMEN AS PROJECTS

Dumisani Hlophe

Men in partnerships must engage their women like projects. This is the assertion of Busani Ngcaweni. Thus, Men must apply project management principles to manage their women. Ngcaweni argues that there are three relevant project management principles that must apply.

The first is project initiation. This is the phase of project conceptualization. At this stage, the project manager conceptualizes the projects. That is, what he wants to do, and for what purposes. Then determine the operational mode of achieving the intended project results.

Similarly, argues Ngcaweni, a man will first conceptualize his desired woman. He will determine what woman he wants. That is, what are the qualities that he wants in a woman for a relationship? Then he will determine the nature of the relationship that he wants to develop with such a woman. Linked to this, he needs to determine what should be the nature, content, and desired outcome of the relationship.

This part of the project is important because it determines the plans for the next phase.

The next stage of the project management principles is called the implementation phase. Others refer to this as the project operationalisation stage. At this stage, the project manager sets the project in motion. The scoping is done. Resources have been allocated. The time frames have been drawn and set. The risks and possible mitigating factors have been identified. Essentially it is all systems ago.

Once again, the man here has determined what would be his ideal woman. Thus, he sets out to find this woman. Given that this project management is dependent on the project itself - the woman, falling in love with the project manager – the man, there are some serious negotiations between phase one, and phase two. In fact, before phase two starts, the project manager might find himself spending some financial and other resources to get the project off the ground. That is, to get the operationalisation phase going.

The man's move from phase one to two depends on the project itself. Thus, the man must move to be where he is likely to find his project. He must entice her on issues such as taking her out, and call her telephonically – assuming she gives him her telephone numbers.

The transition from part one to two is also important to the operationalisation of part two. It allows the man to determine the likes and dislikes of the woman. More importantly, it

allows him to determine whether she is expensive or not. That is, can he afford her. Is she extravagant or simple on the dollar.

This assessment determines whether the project is sustainable or not. That is, can the man have a long lasting relationship with this woman. This ushers part three.

Part three is an ongoing assessment and monitoring and evaluation. This phase determines various aspects such as: the pace at which the project is moving; what works and does not; are resources properly allocated and utilized accordingly. Ultimately, the project manager must determine whether it is worth continuing or cancelling it.

Similarly, Ngcaweni argues, the man needs to assess the operationalisation of his relationship with the woman. He must determine whether she adds value into his life or not. He must determine whether she is draining him, and or a useful companion. He must determine whether this project – the woman, over a long period will be a major asset or a liability. Now based on his ongoing assessment, the man can do two possibilities: take the relationship to a higher level – or cancel it!

Ngcaweni's male approach to relationships as described above is results driven. It suggests the following: that before a man enters into a relationship with any woman; he must first determine what he wants in a woman. What characteristics and personality is he looking for. That is, have an ideal woman in one's head. Secondly, ascertain means to get such a woman. Thirdly, ascertain from the onset what he needs to take out of such a relationship. That is, determine way in advance what is the long term intended outcome.

This is a rational approach to relationships. It needs to be complimented with the emotional element. Whilst most men do not show it, they are emotional beings in relationships. They are as much as emotional as rational. Moreover, I take it that whilst the operationalisation phase of the relationship starts, the "project" – the woman also becomes the co-project manager. That is, both the man and the woman now co-own the project – the relationship.

The love relationship project has a tendency to develop its own life. This is mainly because the project manager – the man, makes rational calculations but also falls subject to his emotional being. Secondly, the project managed – the woman, is also rational, and also emotional. Thus, sooner or later the project begins to engage the project manager. Later, the project also begins to develop its own project management steps against the original project manager.

In essence, love relationships are projects. Project management principles are essential for relationships. However, I assume that whilst the man might initiate the love relationship. Once it picks up, both the partners must co-manage the love project.

- All Rights reserved www.kunjalo.co.za