**Connecting Business to Business in the Eastern Cape** 

## SINES INE

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## Ten years strong

## Jack of the Eastern Cape real estate and property trade

ort Elizabeth-based real estate firm, Warren Jack Property Group, recently celebrated 10 years of delivering a range of specialist services to investors and tenants in the Eastern Cape's commercial, industrial, retail and residential property sectors, on 1 March.

Warren Jack's long-standing association and experience over 30 years with several landlords, contractors, independent agents and the like has also proven profitable for companies looking to acquire suitable accommodation for their staff and executives.

Among its most recent successes, the Warren Jack Property Group has been involved in the development of the Access Park retail facility, the R200 million worth of leasing and sales of Old Union Spinning Mills industrial complex, R85 million worth of leasing and sales of industrial development along Grahamstown Road as well as a R500 million project on the William Moffet Expressway in Port Elizabeth with a few more projects in the pipeline to boost the Eastern Cape economy.

Business Link Magazine recently caught up with owner, Warren Jack, to find out how the last decade has been for the group.

"Before starting on my own business, the Warren Jack Property Group in 2003, I had gained full experience in the local property sector by working for Phillip Bowman for 18 years. He trained and mentored me and I don't believe you can get somebody better," recalled Jack.

Surprisingly, Jack started out on the football pitch overseas where he had a promising soccer career. It was only on his return home that he enrolled for a course on commercial property at the then-University of Port Elizabeth with encouragement from Bowman.

"After the course and after selling my first building, I just said, there goes the soccer, this is the job I want to do," he described.

In the last decade, the Warren Jack Property Group has weathered several economic storms and property market slumps. Today, it is among the province's top players in the real estate industry for both commercial and residential properties. In fact residential has seen an upswing with January 2013 showing sales in excess of R12 million.

"Knowing the market, time in the market which is a big factor, having a basic knowledge of the law and knowing the product and reading your clients is perhaps what has contributed to our success," said Jack, adding, "It's also important to keep

something extra for the hard times. When the economy is bad, having that something shows who will survive in the long term. Most important is to have a good team backing you."

Today, Warren Jack Property Group has built a reliable relationship with a local, experienced and reputable law firm whose full backing and services ensures hassle-free property transactions for the companies many clients.

The group can also liaise with quantity surveyors, project managers and the like on behalf of their clients.

Jack remains optimistic about the local property market.

"When the economy goes bad, everybody always says the property market is dying. The majority of that is only the residential market and not the commercial market," he said.

"The commercial market grows all the time." Jack also described that the Warren Jack Property Group has been working to grow its excellence record and has recently opened a division to service the Zwide, Kwadwesi area as he wants to bring B-BBEE into the realty sector.

"We want to bring more black players into the property market. There are simply not enough black real estate agents in our industry," he said.

Jack added, "My team is handpicked, mirroring my passion and initiative in achieving growth and wealth in property. Under my direct guidance, my team and I can assure you of our service excellence and unprededented knowledge when it comes to all property related matters."

Jack believes strongly in corporate social investment and, being a keen golf player, Jack has recently involved the Warren Jack Property Group in developing aspirant black golf players from Port Elizabeth's underprivileged Walmer Township on one of their projects.

In the past decade, he has also been involved with local soccer development in the townships through sponsorships and was an ambassador for FIFA World Cup 2010.

It is thanks to the kind of entrepreneurial spirit shown by Jack that the local as well as the national economy continues to grow.

Jack says that he is looking forward to the next ten years and believes that they will be as productive as the first ten. Business Link Magazine wishes him success.

"...looking into bringing BBBEE into the realty sector..."











Warren Jack Property Group is situated at 2 Mowbray Street, Newton Park in Port Elizabeth. Alternatively, you can call: 041 365 6200 or visit www.warrenjack.co.za for more information.