

# Top Women Awards: A key empowerment opportunity for women in business

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In a world of gender imbalance in the boardroom, women can still show up with confidence, control, and authority.



Ralf Fletcher, CEO of Topco Media

While the numbers on women in business may appear to be encouraging, it is evident that there is still a long way to go. There are many barriers that prevent women from completely empowering themselves, some of which arise from concerns that have traditionally taken root in the minds of many. Recognising them aids in their eradication.

“Empowerment is an ongoing process,” says Ralf Fletcher, CEO of [Topco Media](#), organiser of the annual [Standard Bank Top Women Awards](#). “This entails questioning long-held cultural conventions that are detrimental to women. Empowerment campaigns also push for changes in laws and practices that are discriminatory or unjust to women.”

## Are you ready to highlight your gender empowerment?

The prestigious Standard Bank Top Women Awards, taking place on 10 November 2022, recognise and honour outstanding leadership, inspiration, vision, and innovation in organisations that help women rise to the top of the economic ladder.

“If you are a businesswoman, it is time to take more firm steps toward your empowerment,” says Fletcher. “And if you have women on your team, it is your responsibility to foster a culture that supports their participation in your company or organisation. Empowering yourself and/or others helps to expand your business, the economy, and the establishment of more diverse and inclusive workplaces.”

Featuring corporate and individual awards, these annual awards recognise and honour outstanding leadership, inspiration, vision, and innovation in organisations that help women rise to the top of the economic ladder. Covering all key economic areas and recognising businesses at all levels, from SMME to national.

“Today's empowered woman is tomorrow's leader for change,” emphasises Fletcher.

## Reasons to enter

As a business leader, you know recognition is important. Award and quality marks can improve your organisation's reputation and set you apart from the competition. They can also increase morale by highlighting your employees' accomplishments. Here are five more reasons to participate in this year's Top Women Awards:

- Winning a Top Women Award entitles you to a range of digital collateral to help you promote your gender-empowered status.
- Winners will receive PR and multi-channel marketing exposure, promoting their winning status on our website and to our email subscribers.
- Participating in the awards is a terrific way to honour your employees and build your brand by measuring your performance against South Africa's most gender-empowered companies.

- A nomination will differentiate your business from competitors and raise your profile to attract investors and key industry stakeholders.
- You will get the opportunity to network with other businesspeople who are enthusiastic about gender empowerment.

[Enter the Top Women Awards today.](#)

## **Looking back at the 2021 Standard Bank Top Women Awards**

The 18th annual Standard Bank Top Women Awards, which aimed to bridge the gap between the public and private sectors, took place on the evening of 4 November 2021. The awards recognise people who have had a considerable influence on women in South Africa by their unwavering vision and innovative leadership. Every year, about eight hundred critical decision-makers attend the ceremony.

Previous winners have gone on to achieve greater success such as representing the country at a UN level. Sponsors included Servest, SANBI, and Boschendal.

To see the full list of Top Women Past Winners and finalists, visit <https://www.topbusinesswomen.co.za/awards/>

## **Winners**

Top Business Woman of the Year Award – sponsored by Standard Bank: Leila Fourie – Johannesburg Stock Exchange

Top Women Young Achiever – sponsored by Standard Bank: Charmagne Mavudzi – Volvo SA

Top Women Empowered Company: Diversity in the Workplace – sponsored by Servest: Unilever

Top Women Business of the Year Award – sponsored by Boschendal: Institute of Directors in South Africa

Top Women Empowered Company: Skills Development – sponsored by Ekurhuleni West TVET College: The Skills Development Corporation

Top Women Public Sector Leader Award – sponsored by Motheo TVET College: Chantelle Martin Strauss – Department of Small Business Development

Top Women in Tech Award: Priya Thakoor, Vodacom

Top Women in Science Award: Mogaleadi Seabela, Anglo American

Top Women Empowered Company: Corporate Citizenship Award: Adcock Ingram

Top Women Empowered Company: Fast Growth Women-owned SMME: Torque Solutions

Top Women Entrepreneur of the Year Award: Thandeka Ndlovu-Mngomezulu, Total Serve Facilities Management

Top Women Empowered Company: Resources, Construction & Infrastructure – sponsored by TEG Group: Turner & Townsend

Top Women in Property Award: Lettie Mashau, Motheo Construction Group

Top Women Empowered Company in Youth Development: Unilever

Top Women Empowered Company: Public Sector Award – sponsored by Public Sector Leaders: National Agricultural

Marketing Council

Top Women Empowered Company: Health & Pharmaceutical Award: Adcock Ingram

Top Women Empowered Company: Biodiversity, Conservation & Environmental – sponsored by SANBI: Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions

Top Women Empowered Company: Retail & E-commerce Award: Vodacom

Top Women Lifetime Achievement Award: Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Top Women Lifetime Achievement Award: Irene Charnley

Top Women in Sports Award: Tatjana Schoenmaker

Top Women in Sports Award: Kgothatso Montjane

Top Women in Sports Award: Bianca Buitendag

Enter the Top Women Awards today.

### **2021 Top Women Finalists**

Top Businesswoman of The Year:

Founder & CEO, Annette Stewart – Stewart Attorneys

Group CEO, Charmaine Mabuza – Ithuba Holdings

CEO, Emma Mashilwane – Masa Risk Advisory

Deputy CEO, Janine George – Carrol Boyes

CEO, Leila Fourie – Johannesburg Stock Exchange

CEO, Lyn Mansour – KLM Empowered

SA country director, Melicia Labuschagne – Liqui Moly

Acting assistant GM, Mpho Modisane – Airports Company SA

Head of Digital Africa Solutions, Pamela Mkhize – Enel Green

ME, Priya Thakoor – Vodacom

CEO, Parmi Natesan – Institute of Directors in South Africa

Commercial director, Rumisha Motilal – Gilbarco

CEO, Sholain Perumal – The Gold Bar

CEO, Wendy Alberts – Restaurant Association of South Africa

Top Woman Young Achiever – sponsored by Boschendal:

Co-founder & managing director, Alexandra Miszewski – Novita Biotechnology

MD Farah Moosa – Neonhive Management

Founder Innocentia Mahlangu – Hatch & Shengineers

Senior account manager, Lerato Chiyangwa – Apo Group

Fleet Business head, Lizelle Erasmus – Tiauto Investment

Contract manager, Mampho Sotshongaye – Golden Rewards

Section manager, Mogaleadi Seabela – Anglo American

Supply chain procurement expert, Nadina Singh – Tetrapak

Marketing director, Natasha Maharaj – Distell

Director, Nosihle Mngqibisa – UCT Shawco Law

Founder & CEO, Pretty Ndlovu – Virtuoso Digital Agency

Executive director Raksha Naidoo – Synerlytic Analytical Services

CEO Sma Mathibeli – Calvin & Family

Head of Marketing & Consumer Experience, Charmagne Mavudzi – Volvo Sa  
Project manager, Kamva Donah Makabane – Cisco Systems  
Founder & executive director, Marie Sebueng – Iams Powerhouse  
Founder & principal, Renisha Bhima – Bonalesedi College  
Founder, Noli Mini – Relax Spa

Diversity In the Workplace – Sponsored by Servest:

Ethekwini Municipality  
Gilbarco  
Global Business Solutions  
Seymore Du Toit And Basson  
Tetrapak  
Turner & Townsend  
Unilever

Skills Development – Sponsored by Ekurhuleni West Tvet College:

Ekurhuleni East Tvet College  
Goodwork Foundation  
KLM Empowered  
Mancosa  
The Skills Development Corporation  
Total Facilities Management  
Tsebo Group Holdings  
Career Box

Top Woman Entrepreneur – Sponsored by Standard Bank:

CEO, Asima Haroon Joosub – Aj5d Projects  
Founder & CEO, Helen Seymour - Nephro Best Dialysis  
Founder, Marie Sebueng - Iams Powerhouse Consulting  
Founder, Mbali Bhengu – Mindswitch  
Founder, Nelisiwe Radebe – Nelly Projects  
Founder, Noli Mini - Relax Spa  
Founder, Nomalanga Sitole - The Voice Within  
CEO, Nomazibulo Tshanga - Ziyana Consulting  
Founder & principal, Renisha Bhima - Bonalesedi College  
Founder & MD, Sally Acton - Torque Solutions  
CEO, Thandeka Ndlovu-Mngomezulu - Total Facilities Management  
Founder & MD, Thandeka Nombanjinji-Nzama - Mbokodo Building  
Founder & MD, Tshego Kekana - Alfa Destiny Communications  
CEO, Xoliswa Daku - Daku Group

Top Woman in Public Sector Leader – Sponsored by Motheo Tvet College:

Assistant director, Chantelle Strauss – Department of Small Business Development  
Deputy director: Resource Based Industries, Dr Nthabiseng Maude Mthetwa – Department of Trade, Industry and Competition  
Senior manager – Portfolio Delivery, Gcobisa Mashegoana – Eskom  
GM: Risk Management, Mpho Modisane – Airports Company Sa  
Council member, Shandini Naidoo – National Agricultural Marketing Council  
Acting chief officer, Sonto Mayise – KZN Convention Bureau  
Executive manager, Viwe Mgedezi – Gautrain Management Agency  
PR councillor, Kekeletso Mahlelebe – Democratic Alliance  
CRO, Yvonne Mothibi

#### Top Woman in Tech:

Senior account manager, Lerato Chiyangwa – Apo Group  
MD Linda Botha – Skillstrain Distribution  
CEO Marilyn Radebe –Soma Solutions  
Business director, Mushfiqoh Samodien – Aspire Solutions  
IT Systems manager, Nolwazi Mfingwana Moepeng – Mancosa  
Founder, Pretty Ndlovu – Virtuoso Digital Agency  
ME, Priya Thakoor – Vodacom  
ME, Alexa Terblanche – Exosystems

#### Top Women in Science:

MD Babalwa Fatyi – Myezo Environmental  
Founder, Innocentia Mahlangu – Hatch & Shengineers  
Section manager, Mogaleadi Seabela – Anglo American  
Head of Africa Digital Solutions, Pamela Mkhize – Enel Green  
Director, Phumzile Lembede – Emvelo Quality and Environmental  
Executive director, Reyna Singh – Ng Global Energy Solutions  
MD Simphiwe Mamvura – Maponya 911 Ems

#### Youth Development:

Goodwork Foundation  
The Aurum Institute  
The Skills Development Corporation  
Unilever

#### Corporate Citizenship:

Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions  
Tiauto Investment  
Adcock Ingram  
Ng Global Energy Solutions  
Mdito Business Enterprise

#### Retail & E-commerce:

Carrol Boyes  
Hirsch  
Honey  
The Gold Bar  
The Regency Hotel  
Vodacom

#### Fast Growth Women-Owned SMME:

Golden Rewards  
Myezo Environmental  
Nelly Projects  
The Transformation Legacy  
Torque Solutions  
UCT Shawco Law  
MKG Travel and Tourism

#### Resources, Construction & Infrastructure:

Motheo Construction Group  
Synerlytic Analytical Services

Turner & Townsend  
WOA Fuels & Oils  
Aj5d Projects

Public Sector:

Ekurhuleni East Tvet College  
Ethekewini Municipality  
Gautrain Management Agency  
National Agricultural Marketing Council

Health & Pharmaceutical:

Nephro Best Dialysis  
Maponya 911 Ems  
Adcock Ingram  
The Aurum Institute

Top Woman in Property:

Founder Bella Mfenyana – Neatela Property  
CEO Dina Soukop – Soukop Property  
CEO Lettie Mashau – Motheo Construction Group  
MD Nomawethu Bolane – The Regency Hotel  
Principal, Thelma Ubisi – Thelma Properties

Top Male Driving Gender Empowerment:

MD Leon Hendricks – Dkl Group  
CEO Theo Baloyi – Bathu  
MD Velaphi Ratshefola – Coca-Cola South Africa

Top Women Business of The Year:

Daku Group  
Institute Of Directors in South Africa  
Ithuba Holdings  
Restaurant Association of South Africa  
Unilever  
Vodacom  
Mdito Business Enterprise

Biodiversity, Conservation & Environmental:

Novita Biotechnology  
Nsovo Environmental Consulting  
Triplo4 Sustainable Solutions

▪ **Top innovators shine at the 6th Annual Africa Tech Week Awards** 17 May 2024

▪ **Calling women entrepreneurs! Pitch your business at the EmpowHER Entrepreneur Development Series 2024** 30 Apr 2024

▪ **Celebrating 30 years of democracy with the 23rd edition of *Impumelelo: Top empowerment*** 30 Apr 2024

▪ **Sentech Africa Tech Week 2024: Shaping Africa's tech future** 17 Apr 2024

▪ **Celebrating tech innovators at the 7th Annual Africa Tech Week Awards - Submit your entry** 5 Apr 2024

## Topco Media



Topco Media is one of South Africa's leading business-to-business media houses, producing high profile, relevant conferences and awards. Our conferences include Africa Tech Week, Standard Bank Top Women, Top Empowerment, Future of HR, National Business Awards and Future of Sustainability. We also produce authoritative and informative business and investment publications such as Top 500, Top Empowerment, Nelson Mandela 100 years to name a few.

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