

# AFRICA

## CAREER SUMMIT

Insight Magazine: Issue 2



# AFRICA CAREER SUMMIT & GALA | 20 A W A R D S | 25

TRANSFORM THRIVE TRIUMPH

## Compliance as a Gateway

- Nastassja Pollard

Meet the Judges

Meet the Speakers

Meet the Finalists and the Winners

## Water-Saving Projects

- Jonathan Chatikobo

A close-up portrait of Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, a woman with a large, dark afro hairstyle, wearing a colorful patterned jacket over a black turtleneck. She is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

# Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

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# WELCOME

“I am an African. I owe my being to the hills and the valleys, the mountains and the glades, the rivers, the deserts, the trees, the flowers, the seas and the ever-changing seasons that define the face of our native land.”  
— President Thabo Mbeki

These words are not simply poetic; they are prophetic. They remind us that to be African is to carry within us a rich inheritance — of wisdom, resilience, beauty, and boundless potential. It is from this truth that the Africa Career Summit was born, a continental call to action to elevate African talent, deepen collaboration, and accelerate the trajectory of African careers. This year, as we convened in Johannesburg for the 2025 Africa Career Summit & Gala Awards, we witnessed a powerful convergence of minds and missions. Hundreds of Africans representing every corner of the continent and the diaspora, gathered under one roof to exchange ideas, build bridges, and chart a path forward for African excellence.

The calibre of speakers this year reflected the depth and diversity of African leadership. From seasoned CEOs and pioneering entrepreneurs to rising thought leaders, government representatives, and change-makers, each voice brought a vital lens to the conversations that shape the world of work. We heard from boardroom titans who've built empires across sectors, public servants innovating within complex systems, creatives reshaping culture, and trailblazers building technology for African contexts. Their stories were not only rich in insight but rooted in a shared desire: to see Africa flourish, not in fragments, but as a collective force.

Our masterclasses offered hands-on learning, our panels tackled hard truths and offered bold solutions, our Gala Awards were a celebration of excellence a powerful reminder that African brilliance deserves to be recognised, elevated, and rewarded on our own terms. This platform is built on the conviction that Africa does not lack talent, only the platforms to amplify it. The Africa Career Summit is that platform. It exists to unlock access, activate networks, and accelerate careers for a generation of Africans determined to thrive globally while staying rooted in purpose.

To our generous sponsors, thank you for your investment in the future of African talent. Your partnership fuels this mission and enables its expansion. To our exhibitors, your presence transformed this summit into a marketplace of ideas, innovation, and opportunity.

To our board, your guidance has kept this vision grounded and growing. And to my incredible team, your excellence, tenacity, and grace are the invisible threads that held every detail together. I am endlessly proud of you.

This summit is not just a moment. It is a movement. It is a manifestation of what happens when Africans believe in one another, build together, and dare to lead with vision.

As we close another remarkable chapter, we do so with gratitude, pride, and unwavering belief that the best of Africa is still unfolding, and that we are the ones we've been waiting for.

In purpose and partnership,

Dr. Vumile Msweli  
Founder, Africa Career Summit and Hesed Africa Foundation



# Master of Ceremonies

Nomonde Xulu is a seasoned corporate executive with expertise in strategy, communications, investor relations, and sustainability. With a strong track record in corporate governance and stakeholder relations, she excels in crafting compelling narratives. Nomonde is also a dynamic business news anchor and skilled MC, known for her deep knowledge of financial markets, corporate strategy, and economic trends, as well as her ability to lead high-level discussions.



Nomonde Xulu



Gugulethu Mfuphi

Gugulethu Mfuphi is a renowned broadcaster, moderator, and financial journalist with over a decade of experience. As an anchor on CNBC Africa, she covers market trends and corporate news. Gugu holds a Bachelor of Commerce in Economics and Finance and is known for her impactful work as a moderator at high-profile events. She is also dedicated to mentoring and community development.

Phokeng Mogase is an experienced IT professional with over 20 years in both the public and private sectors. A 2022 Visionary CIO Awards Finalist, she is the Chief Information Officer at FSCA, focused on enhancing customer experience and operational efficiency through technology. Phokeng also serves on the Advisory Board of Smart Innovation, a consultancy specialising in strategy development and technology transfer in the Science and Technology sector.



Phokeng Mogase



Established in 1976, the Black Management Forum (BMF) is a non-racial, non-partisan organisation committed to driving South Africa's economic and social transformation.

We serve as a platform for leadership development, policy advocacy, and inclusive economic change — empowering our members to influence growth and equity across both the corporate sector and the entrepreneurial space.

Our membership is driven by a shared commitment to justice, ethical leadership, and meaningful transformation. It brings together individuals and organisations who pursue professional excellence while actively challenging systemic barriers to progress.

With a national footprint and active presence in every province, the BMF continues to be a trusted voice for transformation, a catalyst for leadership, and a leading advocate for inclusive growth in South Africa

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Whether you're a **student, young professional, or seasoned executive**, the BMF offers you:

- Exclusive access to networks of influence
- Cutting-edge leadership development
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# Keynote Speakers

## Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is the former UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. A global advocate for gender equality, she was South Africa's first female Deputy President. She is involved in numerous organizations, including Women Deliver, the Umlambo Foundation, and serves on several corporate boards, including Mercedes Benz SA and Ivanhoe Mining Company.



## Thebe Ikalafeng

Thebe Ikalafeng is a Hall of Fame global African branding authority and a leading advocate for a brand-led African agenda. With over 30 years of experience, he has played a key role in reframing the African narrative. Thebe is the founder of BLG, a multidisciplinary advisory group, and the Brand Africa movement, including the 'Brand Africa 100' initiative. His contributions have earned him multiple lifetime achievement awards.

## Dr Judy Dlamini

Dr. Judy Dlamini is the Founder and Executive Chairman of Mbekani Group, she has made significant contributions across industries like surgical equipment, facilities management, and luxury fashion retail. Judy has also held notable board positions at companies like Aspen Pharmacare, Anglo American, and Discovery Holdings. Recently appointed Chancellor of Wits University, she is a recognised advocate for both industry and education.



## Prof. PLO Lumumba

Prof. PLO Lumumba has held leadership roles, including Director of the Kenya School of Law and Director of the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission. Prof. Lumumba is also the founding trustee of the African Institute for Leaders and Leadership and the Association of Citizens Against Corruption. An accomplished author, he has written extensively on law, ethics, and integrity, and recently ventured into fiction.

# C-Suite Panel Speakers

## Leading Change in the Corporate World

## Sinenjabulo Zungu-Ntuli

Sinenjabulo Zungu is an accomplished business executive with a strong background in marketing, entrepreneurship, and corporate leadership. Sinenjabulo's career spans across various industries, including forensic auditing, biometric technology, FMCG, and outdoor advertising. She served as the CEO of Qhubeka Forensic Services from 2017 to 2021 and is currently a Non-Executive Director at the company. At AmaZulu Football Club, she drives the business strategy, sponsorships, stakeholder relations, and commercialization efforts as the Executive Director and CEO. Passionate about community development, Sinenjabulo founded the Mvuselelo Foundation to support and mentor the youth of Umlazi.



## Sitho Mdlalose

Sitho Mdlalose is the CEO of Vodacom South Africa, a position he has held since July 2022. With over 20 years of experience in finance, consulting, and management, he has led strategic transformation initiatives at Vodacom, including as Managing Director of Vodacom Tanzania. A qualified Chartered Accountant and graduate of the Harvard Business School Senior Executive Programme, Sitho's leadership continues to drive growth and innovation at Vodacom South Africa.

## Gugu Mthembu

Gugu Mthembu is the Chief Marketing Officer at Telkom, with over 20 years of experience in ICT and marketing. A visionary leader, she drives Telkom's growth strategy and focuses on diversity and inclusion. She actively contributes as a mentor, speaker at events like the Cannes Lions Festival, and an awards adjudicator. Passionate about supporting women in sports and technology, Gugu's leadership continues to shape the future of marketing in South Africa.



# Water-Saving Projects:

## A Crucial Step Towards Ensuring Water Security

By Jonathan Chatikobo

Water is an essential resource that sustains life, supports ecosystems, and drives economic activities. The largest, least expensive and most environmentally sound source of water to meet our future demands or needs is the water currently being wasted in every sector of our economy.

With increasing population growth, urbanization, and climate change, water scarcity has become a pressing global issue. In response, various water-saving projects have been implemented worldwide to enhance water efficiencies and secure water resources for future generations.

### The Importance of Water-Saving Projects

Water-saving projects are initiatives designed to reduce water consumption, improve water management, and promote sustainable use of water resources. These projects are crucial for several reasons:

- 1. Mitigating Water Scarcity:** Water-saving projects help address the growing problem of water scarcity by optimizing water use and reducing wastage. This is particularly important in regions facing severe droughts and water shortages.
- 2. Enhancing Water Quality:** Efficient water management practices can improve water quality by reducing pollution and contamination. This ensures that communities have access to clean and safe drinking water.
- 3. Supporting Agriculture:** Agriculture is a major consumer of water resources. Water-saving projects in agriculture, such as drip irrigation and rainwater harvesting, can significantly reduce water usage while maintaining crop yields.
- 4. Promoting Sustainable Development:** Sustainable water management is essential for achieving long-term development goals. Water-saving projects contribute to the sustainability of communities, economies, and ecosystems.



### Core Strategies for Enhancing Water Efficiency:

- 1. Technological Innovations:** Advances in technology have led to the development of efficient water-saving devices and systems. Smart irrigation systems, water-efficient appliances, and leak detection technologies are examples of innovations that help conserve water.
- 2. Behavioral Changes:** Encouraging individuals and communities to adopt water-saving behaviors is crucial. Simple actions such as fixing leaks, using water-efficient fixtures, and reducing water usage in daily activities can collectively make a significant impact.
- 3. Public Awareness and Education:** Raising awareness about the importance of water conservation and educating the public on water-saving techniques are essential components of successful water-saving projects. Public campaigns and educational programs can drive positive change.

### Impact on Water Security

Water security refers to the availability of adequate and safe water for various uses, including drinking, sanitation, agriculture, and industry. Water-saving initiatives have a profound impact on water security in several ways:

- 1. Ensuring Availability:** By reducing water wastage and optimizing usage, water-saving projects help ensure that water resources are available for essential needs. This is particularly important in regions with limited water supply.
- 2. Reducing Conflicts:** Water scarcity can lead to conflicts over water resources. Water-saving projects can mitigate these conflicts by ensuring equitable distribution and access to water.
- 3. Building Resilience:** Water-saving projects enhance the resilience of communities to water-related challenges, such as droughts and climate change. By securing water resources, these projects help communities adapt to changing environmental conditions.



# What Individuals can do to Save Water?

Individuals can play a significant role in water conservation through various simple yet effective actions. Here are some ways you can contribute:

1. **Fix Leaks:** Regularly check for and repair leaks in faucets, pipes, and toilets. Even small leaks can waste a substantial amount of water over time.
2. **Use Water-Efficient Fixtures:** Install water-saving devices such as low-flow showerheads, faucets, and toilets. These fixtures reduce water usage without compromising performance.
3. **Turn Off the Tap:** When brushing your teeth, washing dishes, or shaving, turn off the tap to prevent unnecessary water flow.
4. **Full Loads Only:** Run dishwashers and washing machines only when they are full. This maximizes the efficiency of water usage for cleaning.
5. **Educate Others:** Share water-saving tips with friends, family, and your community. Raising awareness can inspire collective action towards water conservation.
6. **Mindful Consumption:** Be conscious of your water usage in daily activities. Small changes in habits, like using a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, can make a big difference.

By adopting these practices, individuals can significantly contribute to conserving water and ensuring its availability for future generations!

## Conclusion

**Water-saving projects are essential for addressing the global challenge of water scarcity and ensuring water security for future generations. By promoting water efficiencies through technological innovations, behavioral changes, policy and regulation, and public awareness, these projects can make a significant impact on the availability and quality of water resources. As we continue to face growing water-related challenges, it is imperative to support and expand water-saving initiatives to build a sustainable and resilient future.**

### Contact us:

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# HR Panel Speakers

## Learnings Behind HR



### Mathogonolo Mponang

Mathogonolo “Matty” Letsopa Mponang is a distinguished business executive with over 25 years of experience in Human Resources. Currently, the Group Executive Head of HR at Debswana Diamond Company, she has also held key roles at De Beers Global Sightholder Sales. Beyond her career, she is dedicated to social entrepreneurship through her Tshiamo Gotlhe Mogapi Foundation, which empowers youth across Botswana.

### Gaspar Buque

Gaspar Buque is a strategic business executive with over 25 years of experience in Human Resources, public relations, and multinational business operations in Mozambique. He is the founder and CEO of HR Country Intelligence, Vice President of the Mozambique HR Association, and Country Director for Field Ready Mozambique. Gaspar is known for his work in local workforce development and talent management, driving sustainable growth and community empowerment in diverse industries.



### Shaleenah Marie

Shaleenah Marie, Head of Learning and Development for Siemens Southern and Eastern Africa, is an award-winning advocate for women’s empowerment. She leads Siemens’ partnership with UN Women’s African Girls Can Code Initiative and developed the Siemens EmpowerHER program. Shaleenah has designed numerous award-winning programs that empower individuals and contribute to societal advancement, earning her national and international recognition.



# Break Out Room

## The Future of doing business in Africa



### Gugulethu Mfuphi



### Sophie Masipa

Sophie Mahlogonolo Masipa is the Co-Founder and CEO of MwanganoESG, Africa’s leading ESG specialist consultancy, and the Founder of Kgommu International, a sustainable infrastructure development firm. With extensive experience in marketing and communications, Sophie has held leadership roles at the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Brand South Africa, Unilever, and Nedbank. Her work focuses on ESG, sustainability, and climate change, advocating for a more inclusive economy. Sophie is recognised among the Top 100 Most Influential People of African Descent under 40.

### Amanda John-Ncube

With 16 years of experience, Amanda John-Ncube has learned that “ALWAYS BE LEARNING” is a vital mindset for career growth. Through various roles in the Financial Services sector, she has come to understand that learning is a lifelong journey. It's not just about staying current with industry developments, but also about developing essential soft skills such as emotional intelligence and adaptability. As the world grows more complex, embracing lifelong learning allows individuals to remain relevant, inspired, and motivated. In today’s fast-paced, interconnected environment—where opportunities and challenges are constantly evolving—the ability to learn and adapt is more crucial than ever.

Always Be Learning.



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# Break Out Room Wellness at work Masterclasses



## Ronald Abvaiee

Ronald is a global keynote speaker, award-winning entrepreneur, and expert in wellbeing and performance. With decades of research into the mind-body-success connection, he has transformed approaches to corporate wellness and individual achievement. As Founder & CEO of Healthy Living Consulting, he drives innovation in employee engagement, technology, and media. Named Entrepreneur and CEO of the Year at the 2023 African Business Awards, Ronald continues to redefine how wellbeing fuels success.

## Ziyanda Mavumengwana

Sinenjabulo Zungu began her career in outdoor advertising as a marketing analyst after graduating from UCT in 2010, also serving on the OHMSA marketing committee. She joined Qhubeka Forensic Services (QFS) as a marketing manager, became CEO in 2017, and now serves as a Non-Executive Director and majority shareholder. Currently, she is the Executive Director and CEO of AmaZulu Football Club, leading strategy, sponsorships, and commercialisation.



## Palesa Tlholoe

Palesa Tlholoe, a Certified Financial Planner®, serves as the Co-Founder and Wealth Manager at Imvelo Wealth Solutions, a practice she established with her partner in 2019. With extensive experience in the financial services sector, she specialises in wealth management and coaches and mentors financial advisers. Palesa is passionate about making financial education accessible to everyone, not just the privileged. She shares her expertise through platforms such as Power FM, Kaya FM, Newzroom Afrika, and print media. Additionally, she hosted a finance podcast titled "Redefining Your Money with Palesa" under the SHE segment of Your Media until March 2023.



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# Break Out Room

## Thriving in the future of Africa's Creative Economy



### Anthony Oseyemi

Anthony Oseyemi has a theatre and performing arts training background and a BA (hons) Performing arts degree. He started his career on stage as part of Lewisham youth theatre, with performances at the Riverside and Tricycle as part of the London International Festival of Theatre, with stints at The Oval Theatre as a producer, actor and playwright. His on-screen career includes hosting Survivor Africa, series Blood Legacy, In your dreams, Jacob's cross, ISONO, Agent, Red Sea Diving Resort, Dead Places, Resident Evil and Yoh Christmas, Troy, Our Girl, Strike back, The book of negroes, Wild at heart, The runaway, The Five fingers for Marseilles, Salvation, The Congo Murders, Hectors search for happiness, Darby and the Dead, Seal Team 8, and GAIA. Toronto and Johannesburg Film festival feature 'Death Of A Whistleblower'.

### Rehema Isa

Rehema Isa is focused on scaling women-owned businesses in intra-Africa trade. She co-founded Womanomics Africa™ to help women capture opportunities in Africa's Continental Free Trade Area. A certified Women Entrepreneurship Development Expert, Rehema also coaches entrepreneurs and facilitates learning at top business schools. She co-founded Oya Foods, connecting South African women farmers' products to retail stores, and curates TEDxLytteltonWomen, amplifying African women's voices globally.



### Sibu Mabena

Sibu Mabena is the Founder and Chief Creative Officer of Duma Collective, a leading creative communications agency. Under her leadership, the agency works with top FMCG brands, government departments, and production companies, offering services like brand strategy, PR, social media management, and event production. Duma Collective's impressive portfolio includes major events like the SAMAs, MTV Base Africa Music Awards, and Global Citizen.

### Lihle Nqini

Lihle Nqini is dynamic leader in the South African Luxury Fashion industry, currently serving as the Managing Director of MaXhosa Africa, where she has played an instrumental role since 2015. Her journey with the brand began even before officially joining, as she contributed to events, exhibitions, and fashion shows. Over time, she quickly became a key driver of the company's growth. With a strong background in strategic planning, Lihle combines creativity and strategic vision to excel in her role. Beyond her contribution to MaXhosa, Lihle is passionate about community development and education. She leads impactful initiatives through the newly launched Lindelwa Foundation, which focuses on these important causes. Lihle's expertise, dedication, and leadership continue to shape not only the future of MaXhosa Africa but also the broader luxury fashion industry in South Africa.



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## Save Money on Your Water Bills

- **Save 20-80% on Water Usage:** Our products, such as the One Touch Tap, Eco Shower Head, and Water-Saving Aerators, are designed to cut water consumption by up to 20-80%, depending on the product and usage.
- **Reduce Energy Costs:** By using less hot water, you can save up to 30% on energy bills with products like the Eco Shower Head.
- **Rebates & Incentives:** Many municipalities and utility companies offer rebates and incentives for upgrading to water-efficient fixtures like low-flow toilets, showerheads, and waterless urinals. Let us help you take advantage of these programs!
- **Tax Deductions:** Save even more with tax benefits for installing water-saving technologies like aerators, demand flush valves, and waterless urinal systems.

## Save Water for a Sustainable Future

- **Protect Our Planet:** Every drop saved helps preserve our precious water resources for future generations.
- **Efficient Solutions:** Our advanced monitoring and management systems ensure you use water wisely, reducing waste and improving efficiency.
- **Simple Steps:** From fixing leaks to upgrading fixtures, we make it easy for you to save water every day.

## Help Others Get Access to Clean Water

- **Community Impact:** By conserving water, you're helping ensure there's enough to go around for everyone, including underserved communities.
- **Be a Hero:** Your actions today can help someone else have access to clean water tomorrow.

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- Retrofits to manage and reduce water consumption.
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- Basic assessment report
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## Specialized Services

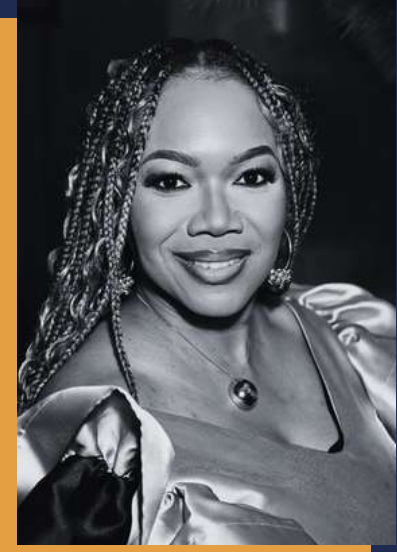


Take the First Step Toward Saving Water and Money



# Break Out Room

## Architecting your career and life



### Busie Matsiko

Busie Matsiko is an award-winning global strategist, #1 bestselling author, entrepreneur, and dynamic speaker with a strong Wall Street background, having worked at Smith Barney, Oppenheimer & Co., and Citibank. As President of the New York Africa Chamber of Commerce and co-founder of Africa Sisters NYC, she connects businesses to boost trade between Africa and global markets. She is the first African-born trustee of Berkeley College and advises major organizations like the African Union, Afreximbank, and the UN on private sector growth and development. Busie has founded and co-founded innovative ventures, including a fashion tech company and a platform for business strategy discussions during COVID-19. She leads The Africa Future Summit, fostering collaboration among investors, entrepreneurs, and leaders. Recognized internationally, she has received prestigious awards and is known for her powerful storytelling and impactful speeches worldwide.

# Break Out Room

## Coaching Circle



### Nokuthula Mahlangu

Nokuthula Mahlangu, the Woke Social Worker, is the Founder and Managing Director of Precise Interventions (Pty) Ltd, specializing in corporate wellness in South Africa. A sought-after speaker and consultant, she helps organizations advance mental health initiatives and build high-performance cultures. She has led transformative projects in mining and helped establish Ekurhuleni's first ISO office to combat Gender-Based Violence. She also empowers female leaders to break barriers in their careers. Blending research and human connection, Nokuthula creates safe spaces for growth, driving change in workplaces and communities.

### Boniswa Dladla

Boniswa Dladla is a Master Transformation Coach specialising in mindset transformation and conscious leadership. With over 12 years of experience in the mining industry, she transitioned to coaching, driven by her passion for individual achievement. A certified Master Transformation Coach, Boniswa helps clients shift mental frameworks, develop value-driven leadership, and enhance team performance. Boniswa will share her insights at the 2nd Annual Africa Career Summit & Gala Awards.



# Compliance as a Gateway:

## Reframing Regulation as a Strategic Growth Lever



### By Nastassja Pollard

When I first stepped into the world of compliance, it wasn't planned—it was personal. My husband had recently launched his company, BEE Efficient, from our tiny flat back in 2012, and we were expecting our first child. We didn't have much, but we had vision. What started as his one-man operation quickly became our shared dream: to build something that wasn't just about business, but legacy.

In those early days, I dove headfirst into the world of regulatory frameworks. From B-BBEE and the Constitution to ISO standards, ESG principles, and the King IV Report on Corporate Governance, we began seeing compliance not as a bureaucratic burden—but as an access enabler. The deeper I went, the clearer it became: compliance is not just about ticking boxes; it's a blueprint for business transformation.

Over the years, I've watched countless businesses shift from survival mode to strategic growth simply by rethinking their relationship with compliance. When you understand the spirit behind the law—not just the letter—you unlock new ways to build trust, increase credibility, and access markets previously out of reach.

Here's what many miss: compliance equals access. It's the golden key to opportunities most businesses overlook. Take B-BBEE, for instance. In South Africa, over R700 billion is earmarked for state procurement—most of which is only available to compliant businesses. Similarly, global investors are aligning with ESG standards, with ESG-driven investments projected to hit \$53 trillion by 2025. Companies that ignore this aren't just missing trends—they're excluding themselves from global opportunity.

Yes, compliance can feel costly and complex. But it's also a catalyst. I've seen mining companies gain critical funding through environmental compliance. I've helped ICT businesses land game-changing contracts by meeting transformation and data protection standards. In construction, aligning with safety and procurement regulations has opened doors to major public and private projects. The common thread? They stopped treating compliance as an obstacle—and started using it as a strategic tool.

There's a mindset shift needed here. Passive compliance—doing the bare minimum—won't cut it anymore. Strategic compliance, on the other hand, integrates regulation into business models. It drives differentiation, fosters investor confidence, and positions companies to expand locally and globally.

As South Africa moves toward Vision 2030, inclusive growth will depend on businesses embracing the evolving regulatory environment. Compliance isn't just about legality—it's about accountability, transparency, and long-term sustainability.

On a personal level, my journey through compliance has been transformative. What started as a support role in my husband's business grew into a deep passion for integrating compliance with strategy. Today, I don't just see regulation—I see possibility.

My message to fellow entrepreneurs and business leaders is simple: stop seeing compliance as red tape. Start seeing it as a roadmap. A growth lever. A trust builder. A market unlocker. Because when you reframe compliance through a lens of opportunity, it stops being a box to tick exercise — and becomes the bridge to everything you've been working for.



# Top Finalists 2025

## CEO of the Year



Kobus Nel



Ayanda  
Mafuleka



Catherine  
Wijnberg



Harry Scherzer

## Rising Star Of the Year Award



Shamim  
Walusimbi



Gee Motsepe



Matthew  
Ainembabazi



Zanele Njapha

## Executive of the Year



Shada Francis



Gugulethu Sithole



Stanley Grau



Pamela Niemand

# Top Finalists 2025



## Education and Training Award



## Company of the Year

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# Winners



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**CEO of the Year**



**Zanele Njapha**  
**Rising Star Of the  
Year Award**



**Stanley Grau**  
**Executive of  
the Year**



**Education and Training  
Award**

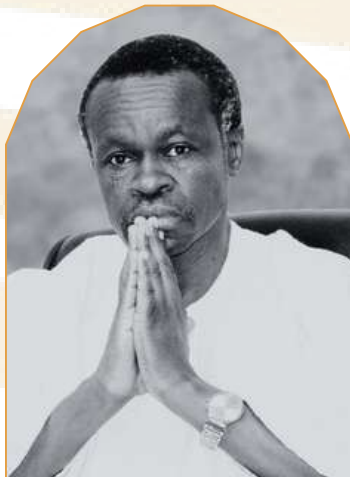


**Company of the Year**

# Special Recognition Awards



**Gugu Mthembu**  
Leadership Excellence for  
Innovation in  
Telecommunications



**Prof. PLO Lumumba**  
Pan African Leader  
Of the Year Award



**Phokeng Mogase**  
Visionary Digital  
Leadership  
Award



**Anthony Oseyimi**  
Special Recognition  
in Film



**Amanda Zungu**  
Special Recognition in  
Non-Government  
Organisations



**Ronald Abvajee**  
Special  
Recognition in  
Wellness



**Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ncuka**  
Lifetime Achievement  
Award

# Judges



**Roswitha Natasha  
Katjipu**



**Prince Adewole  
Adebayo**



**Pheona  
Nabasa-Wall**



**Dr. Bada  
Akintunde-Johnson**



**Christine Orono**



**Lionel T.  
Marumahoko**



**Khensani  
Nobanda**



**Aurelien Bakehe**



**Mmoloki Mmolotsi**



**Ndaba Mandela**

# Meet The Team



## Dr. Vumi Msweli

Vumile Msweli is a renowned career coach and international speaker. Vumile has worked in Europe; Asia and across the African continent for reputable multinational institutions including Barclays, Investec, Nedbank, First National Bank and Vodafone. She is an award winning business woman who has received honours such as the Women's Economic Forum's Woman of Excellence Award, being named 34th Most Influential Young South African by Avance Media, the Mail and Guardian Top 200 most influential Young South Africans and awarded the Elle Boss of the Year in the Corporate Category. She has been featured in numerous publications and is a regular contributor in South Africa's SA FM; Botswana's DUMA FM and Career columnist in Nigeria's The Business Day Newspaper. She holds an MBA from the University of London, Post graduate from New York University and Harvard University respectively.



## Thomas Taylor Zitha

Thomas is a highly skilled and ethical professional, renowned for his leadership, optimism, and unwavering commitment to excellence. With extensive experience in Research, Project Management, Business Coaching, Facilitation, and Commitment to Public Service, Thomas has consistently demonstrated a strong ability to drive meaningful impact in diverse sectors. His academic achievements including a Master's in Business Administration, Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration, BTech Degree in Project Management, BTech Degree in Tourism Management, and a National Diploma in Tourism Management, reflecting his dedication to continuous learning and professional development. A natural optimist, He thrives on challenges, always approaching complex problems with a solution-driven mindset. His leadership is characterised by integrity, resilience, and a deep commitment to making a lasting difference in the lives of those they work with.

## Wendy Akoth

Wendy is a dynamic Chief of Staff at Hesed Consulting (Pty) Ltd, based in Nairobi, Kenya. She leads and manages teams across multiple African countries, ensuring operational efficiency and strategic alignment. Wendy is at the forefront of planning the Africa Career Summit & Expo 2025, expanding these platforms to drive human capital development and leadership across the continent. Her background includes key roles in finance, business development, and strategic operations, blending analytical expertise with visionary leadership. She played a pivotal role in organizing the Africa Career Summit 2024 and continues to shape impactful career initiatives for African youth and professionals. Beyond her corporate work, Wendy is passionate about charity and community development, dedicating her time to initiatives that foster education, economic empowerment, and career growth. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Statistics from Mount Kenya University and is recognized for her expertise in strategic planning, operations leadership, and business innovation.



## Sarah Mokgadi Mabokane

Sarah is a dynamic professional with 6+ years of experience in administration, sales, customer service, and digital marketing. She excels in streamlining operations, stakeholder engagement, and business support, with a keen ability to adapt and multitask in fast-paced environments. Passionate about efficiency and problem-solving, Sarah is a proactive and results-driven team player ready to contribute to business success.



## Asanda Magudumana

Marketing, Psychology, and International Relations Student at Wits University | Aspiring Marketing Professional

As a dedicated second-year student at Wits University majoring in Marketing, Psychology, and International Relations, She is passionate about understanding consumer behaviour, developing innovative marketing strategies, and making a positive impact in the business world. Her academic journey, combined with practical experience, has equipped her with a diverse skill set and a keen eye for market trends. She is actively seeking mentorship or any career opportunities in the marketing field to further develop my skills and gain hands-on experience. She is particularly interested in roles that allow her to apply my knowledge in consumer psychology and marketing to create effective campaigns and strategies.

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# Meet The Team

## Tseko Mphuthi

Tseko is a dynamic and results-driven professional with a strong background in sales, marketing, customer service, and administrative support. With a Diploma in Business Management from IIE Rosebank College, Tseko has cultivated a deep understanding of business operations, client engagement, and sales optimization. Currently serving as a Business Development Executive at Hesed Consulting, Tseko excels in market research, and administrative coordination to support business growth. His experience as a Call Centre Agent at Merchants (Cell C Campaign) and a Shop Assistant at Kappa Worldwear has honed his ability to provide exceptional customer service, resolve inquiries efficiently, and drive sales. Skilled in CRM tools, Microsoft 365, and strategic problem-solving, Tseko thrives in fast-paced environments where he can foster meaningful relationships and contribute to business success. Passionate about helping individuals and organizations grow, he is also involved with Hesed Consulting, supporting recruitment, coaching, and training initiatives.



## Noxol Twala

Experienced regional manager within the retail industry with a proven track record in managing and optimizing business systems across multiple regions. Demonstrated expertise in project management, team leadership, system implementation, and process improvement. Proven ability to lead cross-functional teams, manage budgets, and drive strategic initiatives to enhance operational efficiency. Adept at vendor management, data analysis, and ensuring compliance with industry standards. Strong communicator with a track record of delivering high-quality technical support and training, fostering a culture of continuous improvement and excellence. Skilled in risk management and strategic planning, committed to aligning strategies with business goals to drive growth and innovation. She is also a boy mom of one who loves being outdoors. She has two dogs and they all love hiking together.



## Otsile Tilsetso Mojafi

Graphic Designer | Brand & Marketing Specialist  
Otsile Tilsetso Mojafi is a versatile marketing professional with a passion for building brands and delivering creative solutions. Currently a member of the Marketing and Brand Management Team at Hesed Consulting, he plays a key role in strategic brand development, market research, and visual communication as a Graphic Designer. His expertise spans Brand Management, stakeholder engagement, and value-based selling, bolstered by certifications in Stakeholder Management and Value-Based Selling (Pre-Sales Collective) and Basics of Business Consulting (Alison Academy). With a strong foundation in Marketing Management, Central Johannesburg College, he combines creativity with analytical thinking to achieve measurable impact. Outside of his professional work, he is an avid sports enthusiast and lifelong learner, driven by curiosity and a commitment to personal growth.



## Sophia Chitemere

Sophia Chitemere is a marketing, communications, and project management professional with over a decade of experience across corporate, advertising, entertainment, property, FMCG, telecoms, and NGOs. She holds a Diploma in Digital Management, a BCom in Marketing Management, and a BA Honours in Strategic Brand Communications. Specialising in brand visibility and engagement, she has led projects for organisations like Higherlife Foundation, WestProp Holdings, African Union, and Paramount Media Network Africa. Her work with Maps Maponyane, Nomalanga Shozi, and brands like Mercedes Benz, Lexus, Moët & Chandon, Samsung, and Netflix highlights her expertise in brand and talent management. Recognised for leading events like the MTV Base Africa Benefit Concert hosted by Idris Elba, she has also earned accolades such as Female Professional of the Year at the Zimbabwe Achievers Awards SA Edition and recognition in Samsung's "Do Good With Your Galaxy" competition for her social impact efforts.



## Mpumelelo Nxumalo

A seasoned area manager with over a decade of experience in retail. Proficient in alignment of business strategy and operational execution. Experienced in leading teams that run industry compliant branches, while optimising sales and brand awareness. She has a certificate in Retail Management from UJ. Mpume also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Arts (unisa), with Communication and Psychology majors. A qualification used as a foundation, along with certification as a Teencoach for her teencoaching practice.



## Deidre Daniels

Deidre is a dedicated professional with over 23 years of experience in bookkeeping. After being retrenched, She was invited to assist with Achievement Alley Group, a company specializing in corporate awards and summits. Initially unfamiliar with the industry, she embraced the challenge, discovering not only the essence of the brand but also her own strengths and the power of recognizing excellence. Today, she is more than an assistant—she is a proud owner of her work, passionate about celebrating success and giving back to companies and individuals. She plays a key role in curating meaningful gifts for all events, ensuring each recipient feels valued and appreciated. Her dedication to creating unforgettable experiences shines through in every award ceremony and summit. Seeing the joy on the faces of award winners and speakers fuels my passion, making me proud to be part of this inspiring journey.



# Meet The Team



## Noel Chikonga

Noel Chikonga is a dynamic videographer and photographer with 5 years of experience contributing to movie projects, music videos, online shows, and content creation. He excels at creating marketing content and demonstrates strong creative skills. Noel is also passionate about digital marketing and its endless possibilities. Noel has done work with the likes of oppo, food forward sa and a countless number of SMEs and is working on doing more by using digital marketing and videography in sync.



## Temi

Temi is a passionate entrepreneur, international relations student, and a proud advocate for African identity. She is the owner of Limepage Medical Tourism, a business dedicated to connecting individuals with top-tier medical care abroad. She is also the founder of Tilèwa, a clothing brand inspired by traditional African influences. Temi's professional journey began in the field of accounting, where she held various roles, including that of an accountant and a consular accountant, before fully stepping into entrepreneurship. Her deep interest in medical tourism has inspired her long-term goal of establishing an NGO focused on providing access to affordable healthcare globally. Currently, Temi is pursuing a master's degree in international relations and political studies, specializing in Global Health Diplomacy and Policy. Her work is rooted in a commitment to wellness, entrepreneurship, and global health, all driven by a strong desire to uplift others and bring about meaningful, lasting change in her community and beyond.

## Virpier Barnes

Virpier Barnes is a seasoned Supplier Development Specialist at Innovator Trust, where she has supported Black-owned businesses since 2014 through training initiatives sponsored by Vodacom. Her work promotes economic growth, diversity, and inclusion. Beyond her professional role, she is actively involved in Women's Connect, a platform for women to share experiences and support each other in living out their purpose. Virpier is also a certified Purpose Life Coach (NPL) and a qualified Holistic Massage Therapist, offering both individual and group sessions. A passionate hiker, she enjoys connecting with nature and people from all walks of life. Her dedication to empowerment, wellness, and community upliftment defines both her career and personal life.



Former Business Intelligence Analyst with over three years of combined experience in business intelligence and data analytics. Strong proficiency in data modelling, reporting, and visualisation with experience in the banking and insurance industries. Skilled in leveraging data-driven insights to optimise decision-making processes. With a further 2 years of administration experience in the retail sector. Highest level of education attained is a NSC (matric) and I'm in the final year of study towards a BCom business management Degree.

## Ntsika Hlubi



## Nkanyeziyothando Hlubi

Nkanyeziyothando Hlubi is a dedicated Training and Development professional with over a decade of experience crafting effective learning solutions tailored to employee and client needs. Passionate about fostering growth, she is particularly driven by youth and women's empowerment initiatives. Throughout her career, she has successfully led diverse teams across various industries. Notably, she managed the implementation of national training interventions for major fast food services brand. Her leadership and commitment to excellence were recognised in 2023 with organisational awards for both customer service excellence and leading the outstanding team of the year. As a mother of two, she brings not only professional expertise but also a deep sense of responsibility and dedication to her work. She values being in environments where she can make meaningful and impactful contributions, continuously seeking opportunities for growth and development.



## Galaletsang Mashi

Galaletsang Mashi is currently a marketing intern at Henley Business School. She embarked on her professional journey during her first year of college with a role at an HR company which significantly influenced her development into the skilled and versatile professional she is today. Having completed her Commerce in Marketing Management qualification from Rosebank College, she also holds a certificate from the University of Witwatersrand in Employment Practices Business Management. She is driven by a deep belief in the power of exposure and the importance of simply being brave. She believes that this commitment to continuous learning and bravery makes her a truly inspiring figure and a rising star in the marketing world. Her journey is a testament to the strength found in vulnerability and the growth that comes from facing fears head-on. Galaletsang volunteered to help with the Speakers needs during the Africa Career Summit and Awards 2024.

# Meet The Team

## Ayesha Salie

Ayesha is a seasoned expert in corporate awards and summits, with over 20 years of experience in curating prestigious events that recognize excellence across industries. Her journey began in the hospitality industry, where she spent years refining her expertise in customer experience, and high-level corporate engagements. Passionate about honoring achievements and showcasing success, Ayesha has dedicated her career to creating platforms that celebrate companies and individuals who excel in their fields. Seeing businesses and professionals receive the recognition they deserve fuels her commitment was to become an entrepreneur and establish her own brand. Today, she proudly stands as the Founder of Achievement Alley Group, a newly launched venture built on years of experience, industry insights, and a deep passion for recognizing excellence. Through Achievement Alley Group, Ayesha's vision is to continue elevating brands, honoring outstanding contributions, and setting new benchmarks for success in the corporate world.



## Anele Ndlovu

Anele Ndlovu is a dynamic and compassionate leader known for her work in women empowerment, mental health advocacy, and leadership development. She is the founder and CEO of The Tea with Anele Ndlovu, an organization launched in August 2021 during South Africa's Women's Month, dedicated to inspiring women through critical conversations and promoting mental health awareness. With a strong background in leadership across diverse sectors, Anele brings ethical, empathetic, and resilient qualities to all her roles. She uses her personal journey with mental health challenges to support others in healing and recovery, aiming to eliminate stigma and foster empowerment. Anele is also a sought-after public speaker, coach, and moderator, having spoken at corporate, educational, and community events across South Africa and internationally. She regularly contributes to media as a commentator and advocate for social change.



## Athandiwe Liba

Athi is a purpose-driven student with a passion for neurosurgery, theology, and transforming lives through service. I've taken on leadership roles as a soccer team captain and served as a youth leader at my church's holiday club for kids. Academically, I strive for excellence with aspirations of studying at an Ivy League University. Currently, I'm volunteering at the Africa Career Summit 2025, where I'm gaining insight and experience to prepare for a future of saving lives, building communities, and living as an example of Christ.



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# Meet The Team

## Oscar Cele

Oscar Cele is a seasoned Technical Marketing Specialist with over eight years of experience across the gaming and hospitality, finance, and IT industries. A qualified Public Relations Practitioner and Advertising expert, Oscar blends strategic insight with creative flair to deliver impactful marketing solutions. He has a strong command of Digital Marketing, using data-driven strategies and cutting-edge tools to boost brand growth and engagement. His skills span content creation, campaign and social media management, SEO, and performance analysis. Oscar's cross-industry experience enables him to tailor strategies for diverse audiences, particularly excelling in enhancing customer experiences and brand visibility in the gaming and hospitality sector. In finance and IT, he bridges technical products with market needs through clear, compelling communication.

With deep expertise in public relations and advertising, Oscar effectively manages brand reputation and executes high-impact campaigns. A forward-thinking leader committed to innovation and continuous learning, he is a valuable asset to any organisation aiming to elevate its marketing strategy and drive lasting success.



## Carmen Atkinson

Carmen a creative and driven marketer with a BCom in Marketing Management, passionate about bringing brands to life through engaging content, social media, and strategic campaigns. She thrives in fast-paced environments and enjoys the challenge of collaborating with teams to bring ideas to life. Having hands-on experience in content creation, graphic design, and market research, she has successfully planned, executed, and analysed marketing initiatives aligning with business objectives. She is passionate about leveraging data-driven insights to create meaningful connections with audiences, enhancing brand visibility, and making a lasting impact through strategic marketing efforts. Whether it's developing compelling content for social media platforms or working with teams to execute large-scale campaigns, she is always looking for ways to push creative boundaries and achieve marketing excellence.

## Dare Oluwasanmi

Dare is a creative by training, currently working as an Artist, Brand and Marketing Strategist, Training Facilitator (Digital Marketing / Creative Thinking and Innovation). His professional experience of over 20 years cuts across a number of sectors in both traditional and digital media. He worked in brand management, TV/Film content production as well as an educator and corporate trainer. His media expertise has been enjoyed by broadcasters, corporate, government and NGOs. His fascination for the art of storytelling, through art, film, photography, and enhanced reality (AR/VR technology) as means of achieving effective storytelling and brand communication has been the main driver for his career and professional engagements. He is currently focused on producing art, brand strategy, and seeking new ways of using technology as a means of cultural storytelling.



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