

# Top Empowerment Awards 2023 celebrates South Africa's transformation pioneers

Issued by [Topco Media](#)

3 Aug 2023

The 22nd annual [Top Empowerment Awards](#) Ceremony, presented by [Topco Media](#) in association with Impumelelo Top Empowerment Companies, was held at the Indaba Hotel in Johannesburg on the evening of 20 July 2023.



The awards ceremony celebrated and honoured South Africa's purpose-led transformers, recognising their commitment and accountability to securing a transformed and empowered future for the nation.

The event was hosted by the talented actor and comedian, Alan Committie, who set the stage for an inspiring evening of celebration and recognition. Distinguished guests, transformation captains, and industry leaders came together to acknowledge the major advancements made by businesses and individuals in boosting black-owned enterprises and empowering people from all walks of life.

“I am immensely proud to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the winners and runners-up of the Top Empowerment Awards 2023,” Ralf Fletcher, CEO of Top Media, stated. “Their remarkable achievements and unwavering commitment to transformation have made an indelible impact on South Africa's economy and society. As we celebrate the 22nd annual Top Empowerment Awards, it is evident that each of them is a catalyst for positive change, driving us toward a more inclusive and prosperous future.”

“This prestigious event brought together industry leaders, trailblazers, and visionaries who exemplify the true spirit of empowerment. Their dedication and hard work inspire us all, and I am truly honoured to witness the exceptional strides they have taken in advancing our nation.”

The top winners of the evening include:

## 1. Top Empowered Company: Fast Growth Black-Owned SMME of the Year Award

Winner: NTGR Engineering

Representative: Abednico Mkhari, Director, NTGR Engineering

Runner-up: Y-BRAND

## **2. Top Empowered Company: Sustainable Business of the Year Award**

Winner: Sun International

Representative: Anthony Leeming, Chief Executive, Sun International

Runner-up: Coca Cola Beverages South Africa

## **3. Top Empowered Company: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace of the Year Award**

Winner: Exxaro

Recipient: Dr. Nombasa Tsengwa, CEO, Exxaro

## **4. Top Empowered Company: Digital Transformation of the Year Award**

Winner: Liquid Intelligent Technologies

Recipient: Trishen Moodley, Head of Information Technology, Liquid Intelligent Technologies

## **5. Top Empowered Company: Public Sector of the Year Award**

Winner: CEF Group

Recipient: Dr. Tshepo Mokoka, Chairperson, CEF Group

## **6. Top Empowered Company: Education and Skills Development of the Year Award**

Winner: BP South Africa

Recipient: Taelo Mojaelo, CEO, BP Southern Africa

## **7. Top Empowered Company: Enterprise and Supplier Development of the Year Award**

Winner: African Bank

Recipient: Edna Montse, Group Executive Transformation & Sustainability, African Bank

Runner-up: Rennie's BCD Travel

## **8. Top Empowered Company: Socio Economic Development of the Year Award**

Winner: Sasol

Recipient: Brenda Nkosi-Bakare, Head Governance, Compliance, Planning & Management, Sasol

Runner-up: Oceana Group Limited

## **9. Top Empowered Company: Job Creation Award of the Year Award**

Winner: Schneider Electric

Recipient: Kim Naidoo, HR Lead, Schneider Electric

Runner-up: Exponent

#### **10. Top Empowered Company: Youth Development of the Year Award**

Winner: Nestlé

Recipient: Nicole Roos, Managing Director, Nestlé

#### **11. Top Empowered Company: Public Sector Leader of the Year Award**

Winner: CEF Group - Zinhle Thupana

Recipient: Zinhle Thupana, Group Executive Corporate Service, CEF Group

#### **12. Top Empowered Entrepreneur of the Year Award**

Winner: TakeNote IT - Mamela Luthuli

Recipient: Mamela Luthuli, Director and CEO, TakeNote IT

Runner-up: Mandate Molefi - Nene Molefi

#### **13. Top Empowered Young Achiever of the Year Award**

Winner: Dimension Data - Natalie Musonda

Recipient: Natalie Musonda, Head of Diversity and Sustainability, Dimension Data

Runner-up: AfroCentric Health - Dr. Abongile Qamata

#### **14. Top Empowered Business Leader of the Year Award**

Winner: Methano Group - Sereme Joel Maphaka

Recipient: Sereme Maphaka, CEO, Methano Group

#### **15. Top Empowered Business of the Year Award**

Winner: Merchants

Recipient: Sydwell Shikweni, Vice President Transformation, Merchants

The event also witnessed special recognition given to Legends of Empowerment: Nedbank, Inseta, Amis, SAB, Bathu Shoes, and PWC.

The highest accolade of the prestigious event, the Lifetime Achiever Award goes to someone who has built a legacy in the driving transformation in Africa. This award was presented to none other than Velaphi Ratshefola, the managing director of Coca Cola Beverages South Africa.

Velaphi Ratshefola was appointed Managing Director of Coca-Cola Beverages South Africa in 2016 and led the integration of six different entities to build CCBSA. Velaphi's exceptional leadership has earned CCBSA multiple global and supplier

awards. But it doesn't end there, his commitment to empowering women shines through the Women@CCBSA program, nurturing female talent and fostering representation in leadership. Velaphi's mission transcends mere profits; he's dedicated to leaving a lasting positive impact on society through economic, social, and environmental contributions.

### Transforming South Africa: Celebrating the Visionaries

The evening was graced by esteemed judges, including Noah Debeila, President & CEO of SMME Chamber of Commerce, and Tshepo Ncube, Head International Coverage at Absa, who played pivotal roles in selecting the winners.

"Together, we will continue to push boundaries, break barriers, and shape a future where equality and opportunity flourish. I have every confidence that the impact of the awards will resonate far beyond the evening, inspiring countless others to join the movement towards a more connected, inclusive, and prosperous South Africa," Fletcher said. "Congratulations once again to all the winners and runners-up. Your passion and dedication to transformation have set an example for us all. Thank you for being the driving force behind change, and I eagerly look forward to witnessing your continued success and impact on our beloved nation."

▪ **Nedbank returns as Platinum Partner for the Top Empowerment Conference marking 30 years of democracy** 21 May 2024

▪ **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

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