



# LIONESSES OF AFRICA

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## CONFERENCE 2017

Powering a new era of women's entrepreneurship in Africa.

6 September 2017 / Johannesburg / South Africa

#ThisIsMe #LibertyBlueSkies #LionessesOfAfrica

In partnership with







## WELCOME FROM LIONESSES OF AFRICA

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Welcome to the Lionesses of Africa Annual Conference 2017, it is such a pleasure and a privilege to have you with us today. We aim to bring you great conversation, fascinating insights, inspiration from some of the continent's leading women entrepreneurs and, of course, great networking. We hope you have the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and hopefully make some new and exciting business connections with your fellow women entrepreneurs who are here today.

I would like to start by saying a huge thank you to our wonderful panel of guest speakers, many of whom have travelled large distances across the continent and the globe to be part of our event. We look forward to hearing their stories and to learning from their vast experiences of building successful businesses and brands that are putting Africa on the global business map.

Staging the Lionesses of Africa Annual Conference would not be possible without the support of our valued impact partners. Standard Bank and Liberty are our lead partners for this year's event and both organisations have embarked on quite a journey with us since we first launched on the African continent, supporting the roll-out of a number of our important activities, events and communication tools for our community. A big thank you goes to both lead partners - your support and encouragement has been invaluable in realising our vision to positively impact the lives of 1 million women entrepreneurs by 2018. Our thanks also go to our other impact partners at this year's conference, IDF Capital, the Cherie Blair Foundation, and Yves Rocher. It is wonderful to have you all on board and to see your support for Africa's women entrepreneurs.

What an incredible 12 months this has been since we all gathered here for the inaugural Lionesses of Africa Annual Conference last year. We have doubled the size of our community of women entrepreneurs and we now have over 400 000 women business and brand builders in our network, in 49 African countries, and across the Diaspora. We have spent much of the year travelling across the African continent, hosting our popular Lioness Lean In events in key countries in partnership with Standard Bank Group, building our network on the ground in each country and meeting with the most inspirational women entrepreneurs along the way. We have started to inspire a new spirit of entrepreneurship amongst employees in big companies, with Liberty being the first hosts of our entrepreneur Lioness Lean In sessions this year. And, we have continued to engage with you all through our daily Good Morning Lionesses newsletter and our weekend e-magazine The Mix, plus our daily blogs which appear on all our platforms. We have so much more planned, just keep watching this space!

In line with our vision, the Lionesses of Africa Annual Conference is all about sharing, inspiring and connecting. We encourage you to make the most of this opportunity to meet fellow women entrepreneurs, to share your experiences and insights, to make new business contacts, and above all be inspired to build great businesses that can help shape a new and dynamic economic future for Africa.

Have a great day.

Yours in entrepreneurship

**Melanie Hawken**  
**Founder and CEO, Lionesses of Africa**

## WELCOME FROM STANDARD BANK



The ratio of women entrepreneurs is higher in Africa than anywhere else in the world. Women are powering the economies of the continent to a greater degree than anywhere else in the world; Sub-Saharan Africa is the only region where women make up the majority of self-employed individuals. Ever since it first employed women in 1915, Standard Bank has consistently been at the forefront of advancing opportunities for women. By 2016, its permanent workforce comprised almost 60% women; its management almost 50% (far above South Africa's average of 23%). However in addition to changes in the gender parity internally we are also committed to growing and enabling women entrepreneurs, ensuring they discover their next.

We have been embracing a focus on empowering women entrepreneurs through several strategic partnerships over the last few years including our sponsorship of the Lionesses of Africa Lean-in events in South Africa and across the continent. These events, as well as the Lionesses of Africa Conference, have allowed us to reach over 3 000 female entrepreneurs, face to face, helping us change the narrative of the women entrepreneur.

In addition to the Lionesses of Africa Accelerators, a customised growth program for Women Entrepreneurs, sponsored by Liberty we decided to increase our focus on growing Women Entrepreneurs. To achieve this goal we increased our focus on development programs and launched several new programs focusing on women. These include Female Technology Hackathons, a Women in Technology Program (targeting women owned technology businesses, a High Growth Program facilitated by Tumi Frazier as well as a High Growth Program for Women in Education sponsored by General Electric through the Londvolota Trust. In addition, all of the women on any of our growth programs have access to Masterclasses and workshops offered at no additional cost through the Incubators across the country. Every entrepreneur has also received access to a Marketplace platform (SOKO) and free Websites (GetBuild). By the end of 2017 we would have developed over 100 Women Entrepreneurs across different programs.

A targeted focus on growing women entrepreneurs allows us to create more access to market opportunities by having more women entrepreneurs that can be introduced into corporate supply chains. Last year's survey that was conducted found that 43% of the women cited Access to Markets as a key barrier to entry and 22% of them listed networking on their wish list. With this in mind we have ensured that we continue to create sufficient opportunities to address both these needs.

We are here to help women entrepreneurs to move forward and we want emphasize that advancing women is good for business, good for society and great for Africa's future prospects. Africa is our home and we drive her growth.

Enjoy the conference and happy networking.

**Jayshree Naidoo**

**Head: Standard Bank Incubator and Interim CEO: Feenix Trust**

## WELCOME FROM LIBERTY

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No man is an island entire of itself. No business is an Island entire of itself. Every business is a piece of our society, a part of the man. We survive as a business based on the wellbeing, the social inclusion of communities. Liberty understands that sustainable business models require us to not only understand social constructs, but to contribute to and to help develop them, we cannot offer competitive returns for investors and customers without providing sustainable solutions to our social challenges. In South Africa unemployment sits at 27.1%; our unemployment rate is at a 13 year high, most affected being the youth and women. Many a woman-owned business will talk about being placed on a preferred supplier list, but true access to markets is a rarity. Despite the challenges our continent faces, women are set to be key drivers in driving growth through entrepreneurship in Africa. Focusing on including women entrepreneurs in our Blue Skies Programme is thus strategically important and it makes sense for the country and the continent.

The Liberty Blue Skies Enterprise and Supplier Development Programme has been purposefully scoped to provide meaningful impact for all stakeholders. The programme was developed on the principle of changing realities by helping people achieve financial freedom, be it in their personal capacity or in their business. A year ago, Liberty and Standard Bank joined forces by committing their financial muscle and expertise to growing and developing entrepreneurship on the continent. Thus far, over 100 women-owned businesses have been supported through targeted accelerator programmes, as well as youth-owned entrepreneurs being advanced in the technology and innovation space. As we progress on this journey to support these women, we recognise that it is important that we invest in new ideas to encourage innovation, start-ups to drive sustainability and established businesses to accelerate growth.

Our partnerships in the industry include the provision of funding and business development support with the Association of Savings and Investments of South Africa. Over the last year we have supported the Association for Savings and Investment South Africa (ASISA)'s first stockbroker programme in partnership with members of ASISA. We also expanded the Blue Skies Programme to support a further 19 supply-chain linked businesses. Ten of these suppliers will also get the opportunity to exhibit at the Smart Procurement Summit in order to increase their networking and access to market opportunities.

While we are in the business of looking after our customers at their point of vulnerability, we are also there to look after their hopes and dreams. For 60 Years, Liberty has been changing realities in society. Liberty is not just our name. It's what we do. We believe that collective action is required to build a sustainable society and entrepreneurship is the key to shifting the dial in order for society to thrive. As a proudly South African company with a rich heritage, we will continue to invest in entrepreneurship so we can continue changing realities.

Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi.

**Amanda Khoza**

**Head: Transformation and Inclusion, Liberty**

## LEAD SPONSORS



**Standard Bank**

As Standard Bank, we are excited to share the amazing line-up of inspirational women entrepreneurs who will tell their stories about how they have built their businesses and discuss some of the big issues and challenges facing women entrepreneurs on the continent.

It is through our current 'What's your next?' integrated campaign, that Standard Bank also seeks to reconnect with our customers. This will be achieved in a way that acknowledges that our customers are unique individuals with their own unique aspirations and ambitions, in an effort to partner with them on their journey to step up to their 'next'. As a brand, we see Africa as our home and we play an active role in driving her growth. We are passionate about fulfilling aspirations and changing lives. Enabling one's progress is at the heart of why we exist because when one succeeds (whether it's an individual or a business), there is a positive multiplication impact on those around them.

Our support of the Lionesses of Africa conference is but one way of adding momentum to the difference that women entrepreneurs make to society. It's a perfect way to celebrate these inspirational women and a culmination of the monthly Lean In events we have hosted throughout the country and continent for the past few years.



**LIBERTY**

Liberty was founded in 1957 by Sir Donald Gordon who watched his father work hard all his life, yet reap little financial reward for his efforts. This struggle ignited a belief that is captured in our name and our flame, taken from the Statue of Liberty and imbued with the same meaning of freedom and opportunity. Nearly 60 years later, and with a presence in 18 African countries, we have grown from being a

South African life insurer to a Pan-African financial services company, offering asset management, investment, insurance and health products to 3.2 million people. Our vision is to be the trusted leader in insurance and investment in Africa and our chosen markets. We are an organisation that understands the value of knowledge and its power to change realities, that is why we have invested over R480 million in supporting various educational initiatives and projects within our communities. Liberty is not just our name. It's what we do.

# IMPACT PARTNERS



IDF Capital was established to profitably invest in high growth entrepreneurial businesses by providing appropriate financial and non-financial solutions to unlock value in the SME sector. The team possesses over 50 years of combined experience in the African entrepreneurial landscape and financial services sector. The collaborative approach to supporting entrepreneurs has made IDF Capital a trusted name in entrepreneurial finance. Through the deployment of intelligent capital, IDF Capital is committed to the continued growth of Africa's entrepreneurs by unlocking their potential to expand their businesses not only locally, but regionally and beyond. In addition to finance solutions, IDF Capital offers bespoke value add solutions aimed at ensuring optimal performance, growth and sustainability of the investee companies. IDF Advisors is a subsidiary of IDF Capital and provides advisory services that augment IDF Capital's core fund management offering, to corporates, fund managers and other investors looking to create value for entrepreneurial businesses across the African continent. IDF Advisors links ready suppliers with competencies to deliver high quality products and services with corporate supply chains, thus creating market access opportunities and delivering value for money. IDF Advisory leverages IDF Capital's existing institutional knowledge and experience, infrastructure, and skills from in-house consulting and finance professionals to supply corporates and other fund managers with fund management, strategy, capacity building and back office services.



Yves Rocher is a leading French cosmetics brand, embodied by a family since 3 generations. Mr Yves Rocher, born in the village of La Gacilly, discovered the potential of plants and set up his first Botanical Beauty Laboratory in 1959. His grandson, Bris Rocher, is the CEO of the Group since 2010. The brand is present on the international stage with 30 million customers around the world and a presence in 90 countries, including almost 6 000 points of sale in the world. Yves Rocher has a unique chain of 150 experts, and for the past 50 years, our in-house scientists have been deciphering and studying the Botanical Genius to optimize the Assimilation of the Vegetal active matters by the skin. Natural Assimilation Technology (N.A.T.) brings more efficacy. This exclusive revolution only exists in Botanical Beauty. Yves Rocher is the only International cosmetics Brand which manages all product lifecycles. It is also a brand respectful of the planet. 50 million trees have already been planted all over the world by the Yves Rocher Foundation - Institut de France. La Gacilly, in France, is a unique model of Eco-friendly development. 100% of our packaging has an eco-design approach. Yves Rocher's beauty offering is natural, global and feminine. FACE CARE: highest Efficacy and Expertise. HAIR CARE: Beauty and Health. BODY CARE: Well-being and Naturality. MAKE-UP: Colors inspired by the Botanical World and trends. FRAGRANCE: French Haute Parfumerie and Femininity. PERSONAL CARE: Pleasure and Naturality. Retailing is the heartbeat of this botanical brand. Yves Rocher brings a retail concept that reflects the Botanical Beauty expertise: laboratory symbols to highlight the fusion of Nature and Science. A sensorial and tactile retail space dedicated to women's beauty. A digital customer trail: skin diagnosis, interactive presentation of the products, beauty programs... with Ipads and QR codes. And L'Institut, a Wellness area for efficient and sensorial beauty treatments.



The Cherie Blair Foundation for Women was established in 2008, with the mission of empowering women entrepreneurs in developing and emerging economies. Its vision is a world where women have equal opportunities to establish and grow businesses, resulting in a brighter future for women and their communities. The Cherie Blair Foundation for Women supports women entrepreneurs in developing and emerging markets to access the skills, technology, networks and financial services they need to become successful small and growing business owners, contribute to their economies and have a stronger voice in their societies. To date, the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women has reached over 136 000 women in more than 90 countries. Working in partnership with local and international non-profit organisations, the private and public sector, the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women channels its projects through three programmes: the Enterprise Development Programme, the Mobile Technology Programme and the Mentoring Women in Business Programme. Since it was piloted in 2010, the Cherie Blair Foundation for Women's Mentoring Women in Business Programme has carved out a unique space in the online mentoring field. It has supported over 2 000 women entrepreneurs in 90 developing and emerging markets, and has recruited and trained over 2 000 mentors from over 45 countries.

# PROGRAMME OF EVENT

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08:00 Delegate Arrival

08:45 **Welcome:** Melanie Hawken, Founder and CEO, Lionesses of Africa

09:00 **Speaker:** Angela Mhlanga, Head of Insurance-Wealth, Standard Bank (South Africa)

09:10 **Speaker:** Lulu Rasebotsa, Managing Director, Liberty Life (Botswana)

09:20 **Panel 1: TRAILBLAZING WOMEN IN MANUFACTURING**

Africa has an urgent need to develop a strong value-add manufacturing base and to address the under-representation of women in manufacturing. Meet 5 pioneering women who are tackling this challenge head on. They have launched their businesses against the odds, taking on previously male dominated industries, and are succeeding in building great manufacturing companies.

**Panel Moderator:**

- Melanie Hawken, Founder and CEO, Lionesses of Africa

**Panellists:**

- Kofo Akinkugbe, Founder, Secure ID (Nigeria)
- Kate Quartey-Papafio, Founder, Reroy Cables (Ghana)
- Mayleen Kyster, Founder & Executive Chairman, Africa Steel Holdings (South Africa)
- Ally Angula, Group Managing Director and Co-founder, Leap Holdings (Pty) Ltd (Namibia)
- Flora Mutahi, Founder and CEO, Melvin Marsh International & Chairperson, Kenya Association of Manufacturers (Kenya)

10:15 **Speaker:** Tara Fela-Durotoye, Founder & CEO, House of Tara International (Nigeria)

Tara is a lawyer turned Africa's leading beauty and makeup entrepreneur who launched House of Tara at the age of 20, from her living room, whilst an undergraduate at university back in 1998. She has since gone on to build her company into the leading beauty and make-up brand in Nigeria and West Africa. Today, Tara has 19 makeup studios and over 5,600 representatives across Nigeria and she remains steadfastly dedicated to realising her vision for building a globally respected beauty company of African origin. Hear Tara share the story of how she built her company and how she is empowering the next generation of women entrepreneurs in the beauty industry.

10:45 Refreshment Break



# PROGRAMME

## OF EVENT (CONTINUED)

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### 11:00 **Panel 2: THE CHANGE MAKERS - AFRICA'S WOMEN ECO-WARRIORS**

Africa's critical environmental challenges require immediate and effective solutions. Women across the continent are showing themselves capable of rising to this challenge by building innovative green businesses capable of addressing environmental problems, whilst at the same time creating jobs and opportunities for communities to thrive. Meet 5 award winning women entrepreneurs who have built game-changing businesses that are helping to save the planet.

#### **Panel Moderator:**

- Jayshree Naidoo, Head:Standard Bank Incubator & Interim CEO: Feenix Trust (South Africa)

#### **Panellists:**

- Dr Gladys Kalema Zikusoka, Founder & CEO, Gorilla Conservation Coffee (Uganda)
- Chioma Ukonu, Co-founder and COO, RecyclePoints (Nigeria)
- Vere Shaba, Founder & Director, Shaba & Ramplin Green Building Solutions (South Africa)
- Lorna Rutto, Founder & CEO, EcoPost (Kenya)
- Salma Abdulai, Founder, Unique Quality Product (Ghana)

### 11:45 **Panel 3: FUNDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS**

It is almost impossible to sustain or grow a business without access to capital. The World Bank estimates women-owned entities represent over thirty percent of formal, registered businesses worldwide. Yet, seventy percent of formal women-owned SMEs in developing countries are either shut out by financial institutions, or are unable to receive financial services on adequate terms to meet their needs. This results in a nearly \$300 billion annual credit deficit to formal women-owned SMEs. Where are the solutions to plug this funding gap going to come from? How can women improve their prospects for attracting funding? Hear 5 experts discuss the latest developments in the funding landscape from their unique perspectives, and learn how each of them is contributing to advancing the cause.

#### **Panel Moderator:**

- Polo Leteka, Co-founder and Executive Director, IDF Capital (South Africa)

#### **Panellists:**

- Phuti Mahanyele, Executive Chairperson, Sigma Capital (South Africa)
- Andrea Bohmert, Partner, Knife Capital (South Africa)
- Heather Sonn, Managing Director, Gamiro Investment Group (South Africa)
- Juliana Rotich, Advisor, African Technology Ventures (Kenya)

12:45 Lunch

# PROGRAMME

## OF EVENT (CONTINUED)

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13:30 **Speaker:** Dr Victoria Kisyombe, Founder, SELFINA (Tanzania)

Victoria is the founder of SELFINA, a company in Tanzania that provides micro-leasing to mostly widows and young girls. Victoria is a leader who has used innovation, initiative, and determination to empower women in Tanzania to become economically self-sufficient. Her pioneering micro-leasing model, as an alternative way to financing women, has generated praise beyond Tanzania and efforts are under way to expand the model to other countries in the region. SELFINA has gone on to directly economically empower more than 25 000 women and over 200 000 lives have been impacted through the benefits accrued.

14:00 **Panel 4: THE BRAND BUILDERS GOING GLOBAL**

'Made In Africa' products are making waves with buyers across the globe like never before. And, Africa's women entrepreneurs are showing themselves to be savvy brand builders capable of connecting with consumers in global markets. Hear insights from 5 inspiring African women brand builders on how they have built their companies from the ground up and are successfully making their mark around the world.

**Panel Moderator:**

- Monalisa Zwambila, Founder and Group CEO, Riverbed (South Africa)

**Panellists:**

- Ntsiki Biyela, Founder, Aslina Wines (South Africa)
- Renchia Droganis, Founder, Africology (South Africa)
- Yodit Eklund, Founder, Bantu Wax (Senegal)
- Lilly Alfonso, Founder, CEO and Head Designer, Lilly Alfonso (Malawi)

15:00 Refreshment Break

# PROGRAMME

## OF EVENT (CONTINUED)

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### 15:20 **Panel 5: LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY FOR SOCIAL GOOD**

African women entrepreneurs are increasingly building businesses for achieving scalable social impact through technology. Meet 5 women who are at the forefront of this trend and who are leveraging technology for social innovation. They are demonstrating how technology can make a huge impact on the lives of Africa's citizens by harnessing the power of technology for good.

#### **Panel Moderator:**

- Ellie Hagopian, Head of Wi-Fi Strategy, Liquid Telecom and Entrepreneur-in-Residence, CSIR (USA/South Africa)

#### **Panellists:**

- Rapelang Rabana, Founder, Rekindle Learning (South Africa)
- Juliana Rotich, Co-founder, Ushahidi and BRCK Inc (Kenya)
- Nkemdilim Begho, Founder, Future Software Resources (Nigeria)
- Catherine Mahugu, Founder, Soko (Kenya)
- Suzana Moreira, Founder, moWoza (Mozambique)

16.20 Lionesses of Africa New Initiatives Launch Presentation

16.40 Conference Close and Networking

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# SPEAKER PROFILES

## (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

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**Melanie Hawken** is founder and CEO of Lionesses of Africa, the digital home for Africa's women entrepreneurs. This social entrepreneur is on a mission to positively impact 1 million African women entrepreneurs by 2018. An entrepreneur most of her life, Melanie has over 35 years experience in global media, publishing and communications and is harnessing this expertise to build a powerful network of women entrepreneurs committed to sharing, inspiring and connecting with one another for accelerated success. Melanie is passionate about providing the support, the business tools and inspiration to ensure the next generation of women-led businesses in Africa can flourish and fulfill their potential. She believes that meaningful and sustainable solutions for advancing women's entrepreneurship should be identified by women, and championed by women.

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**Angela Mhlanga** is Head: Insurance-Wealth, Standard Bank. She is a qualified Chartered Accountant CA(SA) and served her articles at KPMG. In her formative years she worked in treasury and investments, private equity and development funding. She co-founded a private equity business called Mahogany Capital together with a private partner and Nedbank and started working there in 2005. Whilst at Mahogany Capital she was headhunted to run Compass Insurance, a specialist insurance company. She was instrumental in the growth of revenue from R500m to over R1bn within 5 years. The company was re-rated by Global Credit Ratings from an A rating to an A+. She also rebranded the company to achieve a better profile in the market. She joined Standard Bank in 2010, looking after the financial planning business as well as the Standard Trust business. In 2014 she headed up the Bancassurance Business in

South Africa for Standard Bank, a portfolio which has a R1.5bn contribution to earnings. That portfolio comprised short-term and long-term insurance, investments and health products distributed directly or via advice through the financial planning network and the insurance brokerage. She now sits on the Standard Bank Group Wealth Exco and serves as Head of Insurance. Angela was also appointed Deputy Chairperson of the South African Insurance Association in August 2017.

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**Lulu Rasebotsa** is the Managing Director for Liberty Life Botswana, a position she has held since June 2011. Lulu holds a BSc Honours in Maths and Statistics from the University of Kent; she also has a COP in Life Insurance and an ICiBS, both from the Insurance Institute of South Africa. She has over 18 years of experience in the financial services industry. Her experience has been as both an Underwriter and a Broker. Lulu has also diversified her experience to Pension Fund Administration, having headed up fund administration services in Botswana and South African markets. As Managing Director, her role is that of broad management, to the extent that she manages staff, the budget, Liberty's assets and all other resources to make optimal use of them and increase LLB's profitability so that shareholders can derive value and equally so can the customers. Since joining Liberty Life Botswana in 2011, the business has seen the earnings more

than double. There has also been a significant diversification of the business which at inception was 100% dependent on the Stanbic Bank Bancassurance relationship. The growth in the business has resulted in new jobs being created whilst maintaining agreed levels of the cost to income ratio. Lulu has been through the Liberty Pioneers Program, an Executive Development Program which was delivered in conjunction with DUKE University, through its Corporate Education. Of the 20 Liberty participants on the program, she was the only executive outside of South Africa who was nominated and selected to participate.

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# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Kofo Akinkugbe** is Founder/CEO, Secure ID (Nigeria). She is a prize-winning graduate of Mathematics of the University of Lagos, spent 12 years in banking, first at International Merchant Bank (local affiliate of the First National Bank of Chicago) and then as a pioneer staff member of Chartered Bank. During this time, she received the British Government Chevening Scholarship to study for an MBA at the Strathclyde Graduate Business School, Scotland, UK. Kofo is the founder of Interface Technologies (1998), SecureID Limited (2005) and SecureCard Manufacturing (2012). She currently serves as the Managing Director/CEO of SecureID Group (comprising of SecureID and SecureCard Manufacturing). SecureID is a MasterCard, VISA and Verve certified Smartcard Personalization bureau and digital technology company whilst SecureCard Manufacturing is the first polycarbonate Smartcard manufacturing plant producing

high security identity cards and documents for the Banks, Telecoms and Public sectors. Mrs Akinkugbe is a passionate and bold entrepreneur as both companies are the first of their kind in Africa. Both companies, recognised and respected in the global Smartcard industry, provide high-end digital security solutions to organisations and governments across Africa and beyond. As a passionate and innovative real sector entrepreneur, Mrs. Akinkugbe has taken both companies through a number of strategic partnerships into the international market by attaining the most pre-requisite International certifications. She possesses a rare combination of entrepreneurship, manufacturing, personalization and technology acumen, and also sits on the board of a number of local and multinational corporate, philanthropic and humanitarian organizations.



**Kate Quartey-Papafio** is Founder, Reroy Cables (Ghana). A brave Ghanaian Industrialist, she is a firm, proactive and resourceful leader who sees risks and challenges as opportunities for growth and development. To her, gender cannot be an excuse for non-performance. She founded Reroy Group Ltd in 1992 to distribute high quality electrical cables and as at today, Reroy Cables represents the repositioning of one of the iconic brand names in Ghana's cable manufacturing and Aluminium application industry which goes beyond its basic power cables business to deliver complete power solution. As a major player in the production and distribution of power cables, conductors, provision of electrical power distribution system and strategic contract services to the electricity sector, its business is also linked to the electricity distribution and transmission. Reroy has expanded its manufacturing capabilities in Ghana to

optimize its global business portfolio, and is exploring further other geographic deployments and business ventures across Sub region. Over the last two decades, Kate has led Reroy to build a brand, which has now become synonymous with its core values of excellence, integrity and continuous improvement. She has been recognised with numerous awards including: Africa's most influential Women in Business and Government Awards 2013; Ernst & Young West Africa Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2013; Chartered Institute of Marketing Ghana (CIMG) Marketing Woman of the Year 2014 & 2013; she was inducted into the Hall of Fame by Entrepreneur Foundation Ghana 2015; Winner in the Entrepreneurship category at the maiden edition of the Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah African Genius Award 2016; The European Business Assembly in 2016 adjudged her the best Manager. At the same ceremony her company Reroy Cables Ltd was named the Best Enterprise. The Europe Business Assembly in 2015 adjudged her as the Best Manager for West Africa; The Ghana Economic Forum at the Excellence Awards 2016 again honored her as the Business Woman of the Year 2016. Reroy was enlisted into the Ghana Club 100 in 2016 and in that same year she was honored at the Ghana Property Awards.

# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Mayleen Kyster** is the Founder and Executive Chairman, Africa Steel Holdings (South Africa) which is a 100% black-women owned business operating in Africa from South Africa. The business was established by Mayleen and was named with her vision for Africa Steel Holdings in mind. Mayleen envisions Africa Steel Holdings as a significant player on the African Continent within the steel (metals) industry and as a diversified boutique and value-adding investment holding company which also owns and manages its own plants and assets. Mayleen holds an MBA from the University of the North-West, as well as a BComm (Accounting) and Certificate in Project Management from the University of the Witwatersrand. She was recruited into the steel industry as a graduate-in-training and has had employment experience across the steel value-chain. Mayleen sits on the boards of Steel and Engineering Federation of Southern

Africa (Seifsa), RSH Mining, RSC Avelo, Northern Cape Metals Industrial Cluster and is the Executive Chairman of Africa Steel Holdings. She leads a strong team of ambitious people eager to impact the lives of those around them.



**Ally Angula** is Group Managing Director and Co-Founder, Leap Holdings (Pty) Ltd and its subsidiaries. She is a B.Acc, B.Acc (Hons), CA (SA), Entrepreneur, Young Global Leader (WEF), Archbishop Desmond Tutu Fellow, and a Dangote Fellow. Ally is a Chartered Accountant. She was admitted to the KPMG Partnership in Namibia (part of the Southern African cluster) as an Assurance Partner on 1 September 2006 and retired from the KPMG Partnership in early 2013, to form the Leap Group in Namibia, which she heads as Group Managing Director. Ally serves as non-executive director for the Bank of Namibia (The Reserve and Central Bank of Namibia), Chairman for Namibia Post and Telecom Holdings Limited, Oryx Properties Limited (a NSX primary listed company) and Pupkewitz Holdings (Pty) Ltd. Ally served as a Council Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Namibia (ICAN) and as a Board member

of the National Qualifications Authority appointed by the Minister of Education, Rio Tinto's Rossing Uranium Limited Mine in Namibia, Old Mutual Life Assurance Company of Namibia, as Vice Chairperson for Namibia's National Petroleum Company - Namcor and is Chairman of Namcor Trading. During 2015, Ally was announced as Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum, and is the Founding Curator for the World Economic Forum Global Shapers Windhoek Hub.



**Flora Mutahi** is Founder and CEO, Melvin Marsh International (Kenya). She has extensive local and international experience in strategic leadership, business development, market penetration and marketing. Flora has a proven ability to innovate, conceptualize, and implement business solutions and to lead and mentor others to achieve company and personal goals. She is a seasoned entrepreneur serving in both private and public sector, and is the current Chairperson of the Kenya Association of Manufacturers and the First Lady Chairperson in 57 years. Flora is also the Vice Chairperson COMESA Business Council, Board Member Export Promotion Center, Jubilee insurance Ltd, Kenya Private Alliance and SBM Bank Kenya. She is passionate about business, especially growing Kenyan and particularly women entrepreneurs being very conversant with the challenges they face. She holds an MBA from the University of Cape Town and a B.Sc Finance and Accounts (UK).

# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Tara Fela-Durotoye** is Founder and CEO, House of Tara International (Nigeria). She is a lawyer turned beauty entrepreneur who started the trend of the bridal make up profession in Nigeria. In a series of firsts, she launched the first bridal directory in Nigeria in 1999, she set up the first make up studio in 2004 and established the country's first make up school in 2005, launched the Tara Product Line and hosted Nigeria's first Make-Up Conference in 2014. She has empowered over 5 000 young ladies with the Tara beauty representatives' initiative that makes them economically independent while building their entrepreneurial skills for national transformation. House of Tara has become a national brand with 22 branches and over 150 employees and presence in most major cities across the country with distribution channels in Kenya and Rwanda and with a plan to expand to other cities in Africa, Europe and

North America. Under her leadership, House of Tara business case study was researched and written by Stanford University and is currently being used by Ivy League Institutions. She has received several national and international Awards for her contribution to the industry and active role in Entrepreneurship and Empowerment, the most recent award being the Inspirational woman of the year 2016 by the Committee of Wives of Lagos State Officials (COWLSO) and Leadership Award for Entrepreneurship by Harvard Business School Association of Nigeria (HBSAN). She sits on the advisory board of Awesome Treasures Foundation, YouWin connect and Bridge International Academies which is the world's largest education innovation company. She was recognized by the World Economic Forum as a young global leader 2013; Forbes list of 20 young power women in Africa 2013; and Choiseul Institute of France Top 100 young African business leaders under 40, 2014.



**Jayshree Naidoo** is currently the Head of the Standard Bank Incubator and the interim CEO of Feenix Trust. She was previously identified as one of the Top 25 Global Fintech Influencers. Her previous leadership roles included the Head of Strategy Management and Innovation at the Development Bank of Southern Africa, ex CEO of DaVinci Design as well as leadership positions at Discovery, ABSA and Internet Solutions. She has local and international experience in strategy, consulting, innovation and e-commerce. Her experience within the private sector spans over a period of 25 years, within various industries including retail, education, manufacturing, health insurance and development finance and financial services. She has held several board roles which include the chairperson of SAINe (The Southern African Innovation Network), and held a seat on NACI (The National Advisory Council of Innovation for SA).

Jayshree is a professional speaker at both local and international conferences. Her more recent talks include presenting a paper at the World Bank in Washington on the Incubator Model she developed as well as the Thriving Entrepreneur Conference earlier this year at Vodaworld.

# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Dr Gladys Kalema Zikusoka** is Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Gorilla Conservation Coffee (Uganda) established in 2015, which is a social enterprise of a 14-year-old award winning NGO and non-profit, called Conservation Through Public Health (CTPH). CTPH implements and champions integrated approaches to conservation, health and community development, with field programs at Bwindi Impenetrable National Park - home to the critically endangered mountain gorillas, and in other protected areas in Africa. GCCoffee promotes livelihoods of coffee farmers around Bwindi reducing their dependence on the gorillas' habitat to meet their basic needs for food and fuel wood. A donation for every coffee bag sold to primarily LOHAS (Lifestyle of Health and Sustainability) consumers is given to CTPH to continue the critical health and conservation programs. A renowned veterinarian and conservationist, her masters

research on disease issues at the human/wildlife/livestock interface led her to found CTPH in 2003. She is an Ashoka Fellow recognised for leading social entrepreneurs and merging Uganda's wildlife management and rural public health programs to create common resources for both people and animals. In 2015, Gladys won a scholarship to a joint University of Milan and Tangaza University College in Nairobi and obtained an MBA in Global Business and Sustainability - Social Entrepreneurship Track. She has won numerous awards, the latest being a World Wildlife Day Award from the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities and the Golden Jubilee Award from the President of Uganda for outstanding service to the nation as a veterinarian and conservationist.



**Chioma Ukonu** is Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer, RecyclePoints (Nigeria). She is a Certified Social Sector Manager and Social Entrepreneur with a focus on environmental sustainability, poverty eradication, women empowerment, youth employment and community engagement. She is a member of the African Youth Initiative on Climate Change, a YALI "Green Champion", a Mandela Washington Fellow, a LEAP Africa Social Innovators Fellow, Tony Elumelu Entrepreneurship Program (TEEP) Alumna and she is most recently the recipient of the Chivas Venture Nigeria now representing Nigeria in the Chivas Venture competition for social enterprises who have solutions for pressing social issues. She holds a Bachelor of Technology Degree in Industrial Physics (Electronics Option), a certificate in Social Sector Management from the Pan Atlantic University and a certificate in Business Leadership from LEAP Africa. She

is sought after for her passion in Customer Relationship Management with over six years of experience in the Telecoms and Banking sectors. Chioma stands for sustainable development, local content development and is a firm believer of a better Nigeria; where Nigerians are integral to the solutions for Nigeria's problems.



# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Vere Shaba** is Founder and Director: Green Buildings & Certifications at Shaba & Ramplin Green Building Solutions in South Africa. She holds a BScEng (Hons) Mechanical Engineering degree from the University of Cape Town and is a Green Star SA Accredited Professional with the Green Building Council of South Africa, Green Building Council of Australia, and a LEED Accredited Professional with the United States Green Building Council. Vere has worked for multi-national engineering consulting firms as a mechanical engineer in building services specialising in green building engineering designs which led to her passion and specialist green building experience in office, retail, healthcare, education and hospitality project in South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda and Uganda. In 2013, she was selected as one of SA's Top 100 Women in Business in the "Top Women in Business and Government 10th Edition" publication, featuring as one of the ten Top Women in Engineering. In 2017, she was selected as one of the Inspiring Fifty women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics in South Africa by the Kingdom of Netherlands and as one of Mail & Guardian's 200 Young South Africans for Environment. Vere is a faculty member and assessor for the Green Building Council of South Africa where, as a mechanical engineer, she facilitates Green Star courses and assesses Green Star submissions for New Buildings, Existing Building Performance and Interiors and is a founder of the Green Building Institute of Africa.



**Lorna Rutto** is Founder and CEO, EcoPost (Kenya). She is a multi-passionate social entrepreneur with a vision to have a Green Africa free from poverty. She is a World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, and her EcoPost Social Enterprise has created thousands of sustainable jobs for people in the marginalised communities while conserving the environment. Lorna has been a recipient of various local and international awards for providing exceptional and exemplary community service through her social enterprise.

She was featured on the elite Forbes List among the 20 Youngest Power Women in Africa and nominated among Africa's top women achievers.



**Salma Abdulai** is Founder, Unique Quality Product (Ghana). She completed UDS with a BSc in Agricultural technology and majored in economics and extension, going on to achieve her postgraduate degree in MPhil Agricultural Economics from the Kwame Nkrumah University of science and Technology. She has 9 years experience working on different projects in an international non-profit organization. With extensive experience in the agriculture sector, particularly working with small scale rural farmers and women groups, she set up Unique Quality Product Enterprise, a company that is a reflection of her experience and passion for agriculture and social consciousness. Based in Northern Ghana it aims to become the leading processor of high quality nutritious Fonio products in the West Africa sub region, reviving this important crop in Ghana by setting up a processing unit that will process Fonio into fine texture

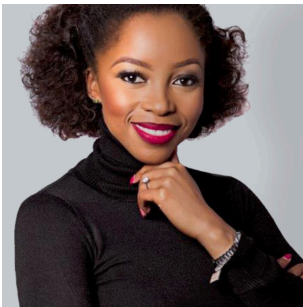
for sale. This approach will motivate farmers to get into the production of these crops, to revive and consume them, and also allow millions of people to benefit through sales. Salma was honoured this year as the winner of the prestigious 2017 Cartier Women's Initiative Award for sub-Saharan Africa.

# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Polo Leteka** is a highly accomplished and experienced entrepreneur and private equity investor. She is the Executive Director and co-Founder of IDF Capital - a South African based entrepreneurial financier and advisory firm. Through IDF Capital, Polo has contributed towards channeling investments into women-owned SMEs across South Africa. In 2015, she co-founded Alitheia Identity to continue investing in high growth businesses across Sub-Saharan Africa that are women owned and led. She was also part of South Africa's version of the Dragons Den show and is co-Author of a book called ".....and for all these reasons, I'M IN.....", which seeks to assist entrepreneurs to become investor ready. She is the Managing Partner at Alitheia Identity, Executive Director and co-Founder at IDF Capital, co-Founder Identity Partners.



**Phuti Mahanyele** is Executive Chairperson, Sigma Capital (South Africa). Phuti Mahanyele is the former CEO of Shanduka Group, a multi-billion rand diversified African investment holding company. She joined Shanduka in 2004 as the Managing Director of Shanduka Energy. Ms Mahanyele was previously Head of the Project Finance South Africa business unit at the Development Bank of Southern Africa. Prior to that she was Vice President at Fieldstone, an international firm specialising in the financing of infrastructure assets. She joined them in New York in 1997 and later transferred to the South African office. In her tenure as CEO of Shanduka Group, she held directorships with a number of companies, including inter alia Lonmin Plc, Mondi, McDonalds SA, Coca Cola Shanduka Beverages, Macsteel and Helios Towers (Nigeria).

Her numerous awards include: Forbes Woman Africa Business Woman of the Year Award and the

Platinum Award by Motlekar Holdings BBQ Awards 2014; Distinguished Achievement" by The Douglass Society 2013; Africa Investors recognised Phuti as a "Leading Africa Woman in Business of the Year" "Most Influential Woman in Government and Business by Financial Services 2009; Wall Street Journal "Top 50 women in the world to watch 2008"; World Economic Forum Global Young Leader 2007; "Top in Project Finance, 2003" by the Association of Black Securities & Investment Professionals (ABSIP). She is involved in a number of activities with youth in her personal capacity. She is currently mentoring young professionals and students. She is involved with the "Dignity Day" programme which is led by Young Global Leaders of the World Economic Forum and is focused on re-enforcing the values of dignity in young people. She is also a Patron of NEET (National Education Empowerment Trust). She is currently a non-executive director on the boards of Blue Label Telecoms Limited, Comair Limited and Reunert Limited. She holds a BA Economics from Rutgers University, USA, and an MBA from De Montfort University in Leicester, UK. Phuti completed the Kennedy School of Government Executive Education program 'Global Leadership and Public Policy for the 21st Century' at Harvard University in 2008.

# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Juliana Rotich** is Advisor, African Technology Ventures (Kenya). She is a technologist, strategic advisor, entrepreneur, and keynote speaker. She is a Venture Partner in Africa Technology Ventures (ATV) which is raising a fund to invest in and support the growth of tech enabled start-ups in key sectors in East and West Africa. Juliana serves as an advisor to the councils of BASF, Risk Cooperative, and the Lemelson Foundation. She is also a trustee of the iHub in Kenya and Bankinter Foundation for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Spain, and is on the Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Board. Juliana co-founded Ushahidi Inc., a non-profit tech company, born in Africa, which specializes in developing free and open source software for changing how information flows in the world. She was Executive Director from Jan 2011 to September 2015, strategically spearheading Ushahidi to be translated into over 30 languages, over 90 000

deployments and a 20 million populations reach. She was instrumental in expanding business development revenue and raising philanthropic capital into Ushahidi and its related initiatives and offshoots like iHub. Before Ushahidi, she worked in the telecommunications and data warehousing industry with over 10 years of experience. She is on the founding team of BRCK Inc, a hardware company that had developed the BRCK–designed and engineered as a rugged, self powered, mobile Wi-Fi device which connects people and things to the Internet in areas of the world with poor infrastructure. The company also makes other rugged solutions for emerging markets. Her mission is to make things, fix problems and help others. Wherever technology can help to do these three things, she enjoys figuring out that intersection and adding constructive value. She is a champion for internet connectivity and is fascinated by technology ecosystems globally. She works to support entrepreneurs to scale their work and impact.



**Andrea Bohmert** is Partner, Knife Capital (South Africa), a Cape Town based Venture Capital Fund Manager. Before joining Knife Capital Andrea was Founder and Co-Managing Partner of Hasso Plattner Ventures Africa. Passionate about entrepreneurship and thriving on seeing companies grow, Andrea is actively involved in numerous initiatives aiming to accelerate the African entrepreneurial ecosystem. In 2013 Knife Capital launched its own Growth Accelerator, Grindstone, a later-stage business accelerator in Cape Town to assist entrepreneurs to solve the problems common to scale-ups. She has been a mentor and judge in numerous initiatives such as Seedcamp, IBM SmartCamp in Silicon Valley, Barcelona and Cape Town and the Global Innovation Competition in Barcelona and is a regular speaker on investment opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa. Andrea holds an MBA from Henley Management College and an M.Com from Technical University Aachen, Germany.

# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Heather Sonn** is a Co-Founder and Managing Director, Gamiro Investment Holdings, a company that invests in and grows businesses in the Energy, Water, Marketing & Advertising and Financial Services sectors. The company is committed to creating successful sustainable legacy businesses based in South Africa through sound commercial practices, as well as delivering positive social returns. Educated in South Africa and the United States of America, Heather holds a BA from Smith College in Massachusetts and an MSc (International Affairs) from Georgetown University (Washington). She is a fellow of the Africa Leadership Initiative of Aspen Global Leadership Network, part of the Aspen Institute based in Aspen Colorado and is a global Moderator for the Institute. Heather began her 20-year career as an Investment Banking Analyst at Merrill Lynch in New York focused on global branded consumer goods and leveraged buy-out

transactions. During her tenure as CEO of a stock-broking firm the training, employment and promotion of women professionals were actively pursued and implemented. The business also supported the launch of a successful hedge fund business, women-owned and run. She has held senior executive positions in investment management, stock-broking and the banking industry in South Africa. As deputy CEO of the largest women's investment company in South Africa, WIPCapital that served over 200,000 women beneficiaries via its Trusts, Heather was instrumental in the execution of a number of empowerment transactions, and as a senior executive of Barclays in London she was responsible for formulating the commercial banking strategy for global philanthropy organisations and testing the globally-integrated banking model. She currently holds directorships on a number of listed and unlisted company boards and is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades.



**Dr Victoria Kisyombe** is Founder of SELFINA (Tanzania). She is a leader who has used innovation, initiative, and determination to impact lives of more than 250,000 people in Tanzania. Given women's lack of collateral and resulting lack of access to capital, Victoria also began pioneering micro-leasing as a solution. SELFINA, her company has specialized in lease finance by adding value in agriculture and agri-business machines like tractors, milling machines, sunflower machines, and solar energy. Victoria's work has generated praise beyond Tanzania by the World Entrepreneurship Forum, IFC/World Bank, World Economic Forum, The International Alliance for Women, Vital Voices whose Founder is Hon. Hillary Clinton, and many more.

# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Monalisa Zwambila** is Founder and Group CEO, Riverbed (South Africa), the winner of the 2017 BWA Gauteng Business Achievers Award in the Entrepreneur category. Riverbed was borne out of her vision to build a black female owned best of breed organisation and Riverbed is a now one of the largest black female owned agencies in South Africa and provides integrated communication services to big name brands that include Microsoft, KFC, P&G and Bayer to name a few. With a solid track record spanning close to over 15 years across the marketing communications supply chain, Monalisa is responsible for driving the company's business strategy, and has positioned the agency to take advantage of the ever-changing business environment underpinned by what clients want and what consumers demand. She is passionate about doing great things for good and recently set up the GREATER GOOD Initiative,

a programme that seeks to make a positive impact on society by leveraging the power of big brands. Through this initiative Monalisa drives several projects close to her heart that play a part in building South Africa's future leaders. Prior to Riverbed, Monalisa was Managing Director of The Communications Firm. In addition, she produced and was the television host of Small Business, a weekly business programme that provided financial advice to small businesses on Summit TV. She is a called upon as an industry commentator and is currently completing her Masters' in Business Administration through Henley Business School.



**Ntsiki Biyela** is Founder and Owner, Aslina Wines (South Africa), and also a consultant winemaker. She is the first black woman winemaker in South Africa. She grew up in Mahlabathini, a rural village in Kwazulu-Natal, and matriculated from high school in 1996. Having spent a year as a domestic worker, she was awarded a scholarship to study winemaking in 1999. She graduated in 2003 with a BSc in Agriculture (Viticulture and Oenology) at Stellenbosch University and joined Stellegaya the following year. Ntsiki was crowned Woman Winemaker of the Year in 2009 and has been the finalist for two consecutive years for The Most Influential Women in Business and Government award.

# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Renchia Droganis** is Founder, Africology, a natural and ethical skincare range that is designed to create harmony between skin, body and mind. The Africology range is completely chemical-free and can be found in some of the most luxurious spas around the world. Renchia has got four adult children and all of them are involved in the business, which makes Africology a true family affair. Having worked for 15 years as a metaphysical counsellor, Renchia has a profound understanding of the interaction between body and mind. She started her career as a life coach and holistic healer for leading companies, including AIG, The Compass Group and DCL Foods, and also worked together with state prosecutors to help empower victims to find the mental strength to testify in court. After she trained as a Reiki master and aromatherapist, she incorporated homemade, bespoke skincare products containing essential oils in her therapies,

which proved to be very beneficial to her clients. When a spa approached her to make a body wrap, she took on the challenge. Miracles happened and from this Africology has grown steadily since its beginnings in 2001. Renchia is deeply committed to empowering consumers and helping them make conscious choices, while honouring the universe, nature and its intelligence. Based on years of research, she has an in-depth knowledge about the chemicals used in cosmetics and the effect they have on the human body. For that reason, she started Africology, a brand that only contains natural ingredients, which are locally sourced when possible, and essential oils, which align skin, body and mind. From her humble beginnings mixing her blends in her kitchen, Renchia's team now produces well over 10 tons of certain product lines. With passion in her heart and a clear, powerful vision for the future, Africology now distributes to over 350 five-star spas. Africology continues to be Africa's leading natural beauty and skincare brand.



**Yodit Eklund** is Founder, Bantu Wax (Senegal), an African Surf and Beach lifestyle brand. Eklund, the daughter of an American diplomat and Ethiopian Mother, grew up in Ghana, Sudan, Kenya, Ivory Coast, and Egypt. Following graduation from UC Berkeley, Eklund started Bantu Wax to create a sustainable business that would not only employ Africans, but also elevate peoples' views of a misunderstood continent, and add value and importance to protecting Africa's beaches. Bantu celebrates Africa while leveraging Africa's rich art and textile history, under-appreciated coastline, and under-utilized manufacturing base to spur sustainable economic development on the continent. Bantu has been sold at pinnacle surf shops, as well as stores like Barneys New York, Saks Fifth Avenue, JCrew, Four Seasons and W hotels, also winning media support from publications including Vogue, Vanity Fair, New York Times, Jeune

Afrique and Surfer. Today, Bantu has stores in Cape Town, South Africa, Dakar, Senegal and Taghazout, Morocco and has proven the concept that Africa is suitable not only for manufacturing but also as an attractive lifestyle proposition.

# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Lilly Alfonso** is the renowned Founder, CEO and Head Designer of Lilly Alfonso (Malawi), the fashion label that bears her name. Her unique creations have graced the runways of London Fashion Week and African Fashion Reception. Besides her passion for fashion, she has embarked on a journey to mentor and inspire people. She has been involved in a number of projects which focus on empowering young women. Lilly Alfonso advocates for people to believe in and embrace their talents. As an inspirational example, she has succeeded in business and life, building her leading fashion business against all the odds.



**Ellie Hagopian** holds a number of positions across both the public and private sector, with a focus on telecommunications and commercialisation of new technologies. These include looking after Wi-Fi strategy for Liquid Telecom Group and as an Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the CSIR. The former Chairperson of the Wireless Access Providers' Association of South Africa (WAPA), Ellie is also closely involved in the industry development space in a variety of volunteer capacities. Her specific areas of interest and expertise are identifying new ideas and the commercial modelling and technical assessment required to deliver on those ideas. She holds an MBA from Babson College.



**Rapelang Rabana** is Founder, Rekindle Learning (South Africa). Recently honoured by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader for 2017 and featured on the cover of Forbes Africa by the age of 30, Rapelang Rabana is an entrepreneur and thought leader in the burgeoning technology industry and founding member of Yeigo Communications, one of the first VOIP applications. Her latest project, Rekindle Learning, has been profiled as a striking innovation in mobile learning for both academia and corporate training environments. Selected as a Fast Company Maverick, as well as named Entrepreneur for the World 2014 by the World Entrepreneurship Forum, Rapelang has extensive experience in tech and business from fintech as a board member for Moro Group, green tech as a board member for Meniko Records Management Services, financial advisory and private equity as a director of Nisela Capital, to trend analysis as part of World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council for Software and Society. Rapelang also serves on the Advisory Board of Project Literacy, a campaign founded and convened by Pearson to address global illiteracy levels. As an internationally lauded speaker, Rapelang has shared the stage with the likes of the president of Rwanda, Paul Kagame and Professor Mohammed Yunus of Grameen Bank.

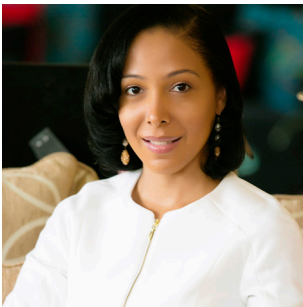
# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Juliana Rotich** is the Co-founder of Ushahidi and BRCK Inc (Kenya). Juliana is a technologist, strategic advisor, entrepreneur, and keynote speaker. She is a Venture Partner in Africa Technology Ventures (ATV) which is raising a fund to invest in and support the growth of tech enabled start-ups in key sectors in East and West Africa. Juliana serves as an advisor to the councils of BASF, Risk Cooperative, and the Lemelson Foundation. She is also a trustee of the iHub in Kenya and Bankinter Foundation for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Spain, and is on the Kenya Vision 2030 Delivery Board. Juliana co-founded Ushahidi Inc., a non-profit tech company, born in Africa, which specializes in developing free and open source software for changing how information flows in the world. She was Executive Director from Jan 2011 to September 2015, strategically spearheading Ushahidi to be translated into over 30 languages,

over 90 000 deployments and a 20 million populations reach. She was instrumental in expanding business development revenue and raising philanthropic capital into Ushahidi and its related initiatives and offshoots like iHub. Before Ushahidi, she worked in the telecommunications and data warehousing industry with over 10 years of experience. She is on the founding team of BRCK Inc, a hardware company that had developed the BRCK - designed and engineered as a rugged, self-powered, mobile Wi-Fi device which connects people and things to the internet in areas of the world with poor infrastructure. The company also makes other rugged solutions for emerging markets. Her mission is to make things, fix problems and help others. Wherever technology can help to do these three things, she enjoys figuring out that intersection and adding constructive value. She is a champion for internet connectivity and is fascinated by technology ecosystems globally. She works to support entrepreneurs to scale their work and impact.



**Nkemdilim Uwaje Begho** is Founder, Future Software Resources (Nigeria), and is a seasoned serial entrepreneur who has been running businesses for almost 10 years. In 2008 she started her first venture, Future Software Resources Ltd., and has turned it into one of Nigeria's leading IT Service companies. Futuresoft is focused on digital solutions for SMEs, E-learning and IT Security. In the last three years, she has co-founded three new businesses – Always Me by Anne Li, a baby, fashion and lifestyle brand; Compare Insurance Nigeria, an online insurance platform; and Aspire Luxury Magazine, an online magazine focused on all things luxury with a special focus on Africa.



# SPEAKER PROFILES

(CONTINUED)



**Catherine Mahugu** is a seasoned techpreneur, change-maker, sustainable luxury enthusiast, and a strong advocate of gender equality and equity. She is the founder of Soko, an ethical fashion brand that expands access to economic opportunity for artisans in emerging economies. At Soko, she has effectively overseen the end-to-end operational execution and delivery of products to over 450 international retailers, several large brands such as Nordstrom, Fossil, QVC, TJMaxx, Edun, Esprit, Anthropologie and global e-commerce consumers. Notable press that has featured Soko products include Vogue and Glamour magazine. Celebrities such as Lupita Nyong'o, Nicole Kidman, Oprah Winfrey and Emma Watson have been styled with Soko's jewellery. Her international achievements have made her a global thought leader in matters pertaining to Africa, international trade, next generation leaders and the role ICT and

women play in the entrepreneurship realm. An in-demand speaker, she has spoken at the Economist 2016 conference and Harvard 2017 conference. She was featured in Forbes Magazine-June Issue 2015 and Jan issue 2016 as one of the top 30 entrepreneurs (2015 and 2016) and highlighted as top 100 women by BBC. She has also been featured on CNN, CNBC, Marie Claire, South Africa Airways in-flight magazine, World Bank and other mainstream media.



**Suzana Moreira** is Founder of moWoza (Mozambique) a company providing informal cross-border traders in Southern Africa with a mobile information service on pricing and access to goods. Originally from South Africa, Suzana Moreira moved to Mozambique to launch the mobile commerce platform, moWoza. MoWoza is the contraction of the word "mobile" and the Zulu word "woza", meaning "to come" or "to run", as the service is about running for its customers. In addition to its employees, the company works with delivery men and women operating on a commission basis. Retailers in rural or semi-urban communities in Mozambique usually travel to South Africa to replenish their stock – this requires carrying large amounts of cash. The vast majority of informal cross-border traders are women who leave their families to make this long and risky journey. Many of these ladies manage to spend one or two weekends

only with their families because they are always on the road. The moWoza mobile commerce platform offers access to products without having to travel. Store owners order the inventory they need by simply sending an SMS and the moWoza team then source the goods and deliver them directly to the shops. Suzana was a 2015 Cartier Women's Initiative Awards Sub-Saharan Finalist.

# MEET THE AUTHORS

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**Africa's women entrepreneurs need access to a wide variety of business support, advice, inspiration and motivation from others who have been there and got the proverbial t-shirt in the world of business building. There are an increasing number of inspirational women authors across the African continent and globally who are publishing fascinating books to fulfill this need, and at this year's Lionesses of Africa Conference we are introducing five of them, all based in South Africa. These highly knowledgeable writers will be showcasing their latest books, offering their insights and expert knowledge, and of course, networking to help you all to greater success.**

## **Lori Milner**

Lori Milner is the engaging facilitator, thought leader and mentor known for her insightful approach to being a modern corporate woman. Her brainchild, the successful initiative Beyond the Dress, is the embodiment of her passion to empower women. Beyond the Dress has worked with South Africa's leading corporates and empowered hundreds of women with valuable insight on how to bridge the gap between work and personal life. Clients include FNB, Siemens, Unilever, Massmart, Alexander Forbes and Life Healthcare. Her new book, co-authored with Nadia Bilchick, is Own Your Space.

## **Tumi Frazier**

Tumi Frazier is a South African entrepreneur, professional speaker, author, TV personality, consultant, and founder of Tumi Frazier International, Tumi Leadership Academy, and Tumi Foundation. Tumi is an internationally acclaimed Leadership and Change Management expert who has worked with high profile clients and organizations across Africa, United States and Europe. Tumi has authored 4 books: Courageous Stories of Inspiration; In the Midst of the Storm; Stepping Stones to Success; and Your Moment.

## **Shirley Anthony**

Shirley Anthony is an author, speaker and owner of Marketing Breakthroughs, a marketing consultancy operating for over 20 years. Having initially gained corporate experience in fast moving consumer goods branding, she has consulted in over 24 industries including cellular, information technology, travel, engineering, food, cosmetics, architecture and banking. This diverse

experience, together with managing her own consulting practice, has given her first hand insight into the challenges business owners face and possible solutions for overcoming them. She shares her own learnings and those from many other entrepreneurs, in an entertaining style in her new book The New Entrepreneur: A Practical Marketing Guide for Growing Your Business.

## **Anna Shilina**

Anna Shilina is an insightful author, engaging speaker and entrepreneur. She was born in Ukraine and grew up in South Africa. Over the past decade, Anna has amassed a wealth of experience in various business sectors, which is a testament to her entrepreneurial spirit and flexible resolve to make any business a success. Anna is an ever-evolving entity, eager to add value to people's personal as well as professional capacities. She is a dynamic speaker and trainer on various business and personal topics. Her experience ensures that the knowledge she imparts is practical and can be applied with ease. She shares her passion for personal development and entrepreneurship in an explosive way, leaving you energized and wanting more. She loves adding value to businesses and people's lives, as well as exceeding expectations and raising the standard in an industry. She is inspired by people who are true to themselves, follow their hearts, and enjoy life. Her new book is The Business Tango: Embracing Entrepreneurship and Intrapreneurship.

## **Mulenga Kasoma**

Mulenga Kasoma is an author, speaker, teacher and entrepreneur and the founder and managing editor of Estrogen, the magazine for women who dare to succeed. She is also the passion and driving force behind the women's empowerment DARE seminars, workshops and networking breakfasts. Mulenga has authored six books, including the highly acclaimed Dare to Become a Success and Worthy Woman Confessions, and has produced two personal development CDs. Her mission is to inspire, inform, instruct and empower her audiences with the tools to unapologetically pursue and accomplish their dreams; and also to discover, develop and realize their highest potential in life and business. Mulenga is a highly gifted, inspirational and effective communicator, speaking at conferences and seminars, and has been featured on both television and radio.



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### **Contact:**

[www.lionessesofafrica.com](http://www.lionessesofafrica.com)

[incubator@standardbank.co.za](mailto:incubator@standardbank.co.za)

[blueskies@liberty.co.za](mailto:blueskies@liberty.co.za)



[www.lionessesofafrica.com](http://www.lionessesofafrica.com)