



Empowering the women of South Africa

The transformation of South Africa and equally the financial services industry has brought about new and exciting possibilities for women in this country. As an equal opportunities' employer, Standard Bank realises that by employing and empowering women it not only becomes more effective in its operations, but it also attracts and retains the best talent to become more diverse, vibrant and globally competitive. Equally by acknowledging the vast, untapped female market, we take the financial services industry to a whole new level.

On the eve of the Top Women in Business and Government Awards and Conference, Standard Bank is proud to support this positive and empowering process where South Africa's top performing gender empowerment companies and top women across the public and private sectors are acknowledged.

Standard Bank acknowledges the vital part women play in business and how women have made their mark in government and at home. In celebration of National Women's Day on 9 August, Standard Bank supports women and the struggles they face in terms of women's rights, their careers, and the ongoing balancing act of homemaker and breadwinner.

Standard Bank cares about the communities it serves. For many years the group has engaged in substantial social investment programmes through the Standard Bank Foundation to contribute to the broader economic goals of education improvement, poverty relief, health and general social upliftment. In pursuit of the objectives of the Financial Sector Charter, the Foundation supports developmental projects that contribute towards transformation through job creation and the empowerment of historically disadvantaged groups.

By making use of the bank's expertise, leadership, and support, a vast number of women entrepreneurs have benefited from Standard Bank's expertise and experience in the crucial areas of Small Medium Enterprise (SME) and


Black Economic Empowerment (BEE). These women are not just successful, driven professionals today, but they have become the leaders of the new economy. Part of Standard Bank's drive to empower women is its extensive investment in educational programmes to further women's careers, skills-set and independence in the market place.

Realising the needs and the increasingly important part women play at Standard Bank, the bank has developed an environment where female staff can grow and reach their full potential. In addition to various benefits female staff members are entitled to, the bank has also facilitated special forums in support of women's dreams, aspirations and career development.

Standard Bank is proud to share in the celebrations of South Africa's best at this year's Gala Awards and Conference - recognising the need to promote the strength, dynamism and commitment of women throughout South Africa.

We invite you to join in the celebrations as we pay tribute to women in all spheres of life. Echoing the Standard Bank vision and values - it is ultimately about respecting each other, and having the highest regard for the dignity of all people.

In acknowledging the important role that our government has played in developing a non-racial, non-sexist society, we would like to congratulate President Mbeki on his appointment of Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka as the new Deputy President. We wish Ms Mlambo-Ngcuka every success as she tackles the issues of state and helps lead the way forward for our young democracy.



Jacko Maree
Chief Executive
Standard Bank