



**MINISTRY: JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**Top Women In Business and Government Publication**

South Africa's Constitution is crystal clear on its vision of a non-racist, non-sexist society free of patrimony, racism and oppression. Over the past decade a new legislative framework has been put in place that has given South Africa one of the world's best legal foundations on which to build the advancement of gender equity and women's rights in the workplace and every other aspect of our daily lives.

Government has set the pace for promoting gender equity and the recent influx of highly capable women into the public sector ensures that that women's rights remain at the top of the government agenda for the country's long-term development. Fast-tracking the migration of women into the decision-making levels of policy development and implementation is crucial to the social, economic and political wellbeing of the entire South African community.

Although much remains to be done in terms of gender equity in the workplace, significant levels of gender representivity in Parliament and the Cabinet have spearheaded the drive to empower women within the decision-making echelons of the executive and legislative spheres of government. In respect of the Judiciary, we are acutely aware that this branch of government still faces a real challenge in respect of existing imbalances in terms of race and gender representation. Various avenues are being explored to expedite and achieve greater representivity.

Coinciding as it is with South Africa's anniversary of 10 years of democracy, the publication *Top Women In Business and Government* couldn't have come at a more appropriate time to celebrate the remarkable achievements of South African women entrepreneurs, executives and professionals. As the world looks increasingly to South Africa for leadership in this regard, the global distribution of *Top Women* makes it an ideal forum to give recognition to the companies, government departments and organisations represented by these women achievers. It is a vehicle that will assist us in distinguishing between those players who are just paying lip service to the advancement of women and those who are prioritising women's empowerment in word and deed – and who are inevitably seeing the benefit in the bottom line.

This publication will assist us to learn from the top performers that the empowerment of women is good for business, good for the bottom line and good for the country. Discussions about the development of the country are meaningless unless gender equity is placed at the centre of the development agenda. It is through the development and empowerment of the most vulnerable groups in our society (women, children, the disabled and the elderly), that we will truly become a winning nation.

  
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