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SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN'S INVESTMENT HOLDINGS (PTY) LTD (SAWIH)

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Highlighting the achievements of women in key decision-making positions should be a priority with all South Africans if we value a society where there will be equity between all stakeholders. There is nothing quite as powerful in spurring on aspiring achievers as the example of success already achieved. During my years of involvement in the procurement process, I have seen many examples of how companies who dared to lead in empowering capable people from previously disadvantaged communities have landed contracts and have succeeded beyond expectations in delivery. They have inspired others with their success to follow in their footsteps.

We support the initiative to put the spotlight on South Africa's women achievers in the business journal **Top Women in Business and Government**. We are looking forward to using it as a tool in empowering the many capable women in our society whose only obstacle on the road to success is a lack of believe in themselves. Not only can they be emboldened by other women who have overcome similar challenges than those they are facing, but they can learn from their ideas and their actions.

We need to highlight these issues to ensure that women also ride the new name of the Black Economic Empowerment. It is evident that to date there has not been any elevation of a single businesswoman to the level achieved by male counterparts. Best endeavors will ensure this

As women in positions of influence we have a duty to reach a supporting hand out to other women. It is a privilege for me as chairperson of Sensas Communications to act as a mentor to the group of dynamic young black women that constitutes this all-female company.

As in procurement, enabling regulatory frameworks have been put in place in the new South African business environment to provide women with equal access to business opportunities. But we all know that it also takes a change of mindset and attitude, to make economic gender equity a reality. A publication like **Top Women** can play an invaluable part in creating a higher profile for women achievers and changing attitudes about their capabilities.

Dr Danisa Baloyi (Chairperson)