

# 3RD ANNUAL DLO AFRICAN WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2025

**5 AUGUST 2025**  
JOHANNESBURG,  
SOUTH AFRICA

PRESENTED BY



POWERED BY



FRAGOMEN





THE CHALLENGE

Africa has the highest number of female entrepreneurs in the world and women run over quarter of all businesses on the African continent, yet they still struggle to raise adequate funding to scale their businesses to the levels of their male counterparts. Representation, funding, and access market opportunities remain the key factors impeding diversity across various sectors of our economies



THE RESPONSE

In response to these challenges DLO launched the Women in Leadership Summit in 2023 which gathered board members, CEOs, entrepreneurs, creatives, political leadership, and civil society, with the objective of driving meaningful changes towards the representation of women across all sectors of the economy.

Over the past 2 years the Summit has provided a space for women and men to think critically around issues of inclusion. In 2023 we partnered with KPMG to produce a report to highlight how boards were



WHAT WE CAN EXPECT FROM THE SUMMIT IN 2025

Over the past 2 years we have devolved in deep critical thinking around leadership and representation across boards and key leadership positions in organizations and across various critical sectors. This year our theme is “time for tangible action” and the summit will examine critical areas around:

- 1. Funding products and their accessibility to women led enterprises.
- 2. The culture of sponsorship as opposed to mentorship in accelerating access to business opportunities for women.
- 3. Opportunities in new industries such as technology where women stand to benefit.

We will still explore themes around representation across the various sectors with an underlying focus on the enabling policies, environments and structures. In this year’s Summit the focus will be on implementation and taking the next tangible steps toward meaningful reforms.

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Testimonial

“An engaging and important Summit.”

Sitho Mdlalose  
CEO, Vodacom

The theme for this year’s Summit is “Can an AI Driven Future Make Space for Women in Leadership? AI has the potential to positively impact gender dynamics in organizations through:

- Reducing bias in recruitment
- Promoting data driven decisions
- Given women work and home life balance through flexible work arrangements

However, realizing these benefits requires careful design and implementation of AI systems to avoid perpetuating existing biases or creating new ones. This year the DLO African women in Leadership Summit will explore the various ways in which AI and diversity intersect and explore what this means for women in leadership.

TALKING POINTS:

The role of big business in fostering diversity
Opportunities for investment in the energy sector
Technology As the next frontier-opportunities and challenges
Unlocking Funding For SMMEs and entrepreneurs
Global Trade Wars and the opportunity for Intra-African trade
Building the next generation of female founders
Women in Public Office and the challenge of underrepresentation
Women in the creative Industries



## INVITED SPEAKERS

*Our Summit runs in the format of high-level panel discussions as well as curated firesides discussions with notable industry leaders. We pride ourselves in having an engaging audience of seasoned business owners, political leaders, executives, and creatives.*



**Hon Sindisiwe Chikunga**  
Minister of Women, Youth and  
People with Disabilities of  
South Africa



**Nonkululeko Nyembezi - Heita**  
Independent Non-Executive Chairman,  
Standard Bank Group and SBSA



**Kabiru Rabiou**  
Group Executive  
Director of BUA Group



**Mteto Nyati**  
Chairman of Eskom



**Boitumelo Mosako**  
CEO of DBSA



**Karabo Tshailane Nondumo**  
Deputy Chair, Harmony Gold  
Mining Company Ltd



**Forbes Padayachee**  
CEO, Yellow Door Energy  
South Africa



**Karel Cornelissen**  
CEO & Co-Founder NOA Group



**Thapelo Motlogeloa**  
Co-Founder Pele Energy



**Sarvesh Suri**  
Regional Industry Director IFC -  
International Finance Corporation

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**Zizamele Mbambo**  
Deputy Director-General for  
Nuclear Energy DMRE



**Douglas Hoernle**  
Founder & CEO Karri Payments



**Hon. Odhiam Millie Grace Akoth**  
Member of the National Assembly,  
parliamentary group Orange  
Democratic Movement



**H.E Lerato Mataboge**  
Commissioner of  
Infrastructure and energy  
Africa Union Commision



**Onyekachi Ginger Eke**  
CEO/Cofounder EightCore HR  
and Edtech Solutions



**Ahmed Nounou**  
CEO Garment IO



**Emeka Ajene**  
Africa Tech Expert



**Sandile Shabalala**  
CEO Access Bank South Africa



**Ketso Gordhan**  
SA SME Fund



**Trevor Gosling**  
Co-founder and CEO of Lula

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**Alim Ladha**  
CEO Instill Education



**Zouera Youssoufou**  
CEO Dangote  
Foundation



**William Asiko**  
Vice President and head of the  
Africa Regional Office for The  
Rockefeller Foundation



**Marumo Nkomo**  
Economic Counsellor in the South  
Africa Permanent Mission WTO



**Kanayo Awani**  
Executive Vice President, Intra-  
African Trade and Export  
Development Afreximbank



**Ayo Sopitan**  
Founder Metalex  
Commodities Inc



**Wallace Ngige**  
Founder Afrionline Group



**Dr Ese Owie**  
International Trade Policy Lawyer



**L.T. Makhode**  
Director General of the Department of  
Home Affairs South Africa



**Dupe Killa-Kafidipe**  
Founder & CEO Platinum  
Fisheries



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**Gugu Sepamla**  
Governance Director ·  
MACQUARIE Asset Finance  
Holdings Limited



**Iness Elamine**  
Co Founder Prodigia &  
Yazine



**Elizabeth Biney-Amissah**  
Board Member AECF



**Teniola Stuffman**  
CEO Lebara Nigeria



**H.E. Bertha Peace Mabe**  
Deputy Minister of Sport, Arts and  
Culture



**Hon S.E. Zanele Makina**  
Ambassador of SA to Argentina



**Cynthia Muffuh**  
Senior Advisor, Africa Regional  
Programming - United Nations Global  
Compact



**Patricia Profil**  
Regional advisor delegate to Regional  
cooperation of culture and sport  
policy of La Reunion



**Nompandolo Thobile Mkhathshwa**  
Spokesperson for the Ministry in  
the Presidency for Women, Youth  
and Persons with Disabilities



**Taelo Mojapelo**  
CEO, BP South Africa

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**Koyo Kouoh**  
Executive Director and Chief  
Curator of Zeitz Museum of  
Contemporary Art Africa



**Jocelyne Muhutu-Rémy**  
Managing Director of Spotify  
in Sub-Saharan Africa



**Roberta Coci**  
Co-founder and Director  
at Latitudes Online



**Pulane Kingston**  
Founder and Managing  
Director of Mirai Rail



**Clara Nshyraba Pinkrah - Sam**  
Founder of Clatural



**Mandla Sibeki**  
Entrepreneur & Founder of  
FNB Art Joburg



**Same Mdluli**  
Artist, Arts Administrator and  
Writer.



**Sarah Makumbe**  
Head of Sustainability:  
Operations at Spirax Group



**Martina Biene**  
Chairperson & MD  
Volkswagen Group Africa



**Katarina Kunert**  
Senior Manager Projects &  
Partnerships German-African  
Business association

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**Estelle Fafa Akue Komlan**  
Managing Director Togo



**Maira Koutsoudakis**  
CEO & Founder LIFE Interiors I  
Architecture I Strategic Design



**Veronique Savigne**  
Artist



**Shaakira Karolia**  
Ministerial Adviser  
Ministry of Energy & Electricity  
in South Africa



**Jo Opot**  
Founding Director  
Gather Ventures



**Kanini Mutooni**  
Regional Managing Director  
Africa Draper Richards Kaplan  
Foundation



**Unathi Mtya**  
Group Chief  
Information Officer  
African Bank



**Hon. Savanna Maziya**  
Minister of ICT



## 2024 PARTNERS & SPONSORS

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RESOURCES GROUP (PTY) LTD

**FRAGOMEN**



**PRIMEDIA**  
OUT OF HOME



**GREAT DOMAINES**  
Gateway to the finest wines of the world



*Jody*

## TESTIMONIALS

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“DLO was able to pull together data driven Summit that managed to drill down to the core challenges around diversity.”

**Mritunjay Kapur**  
Director, Head of  
Advisory, KPMG



”

“The Summit spread light and empowered women with practical solutions with the aim of making a positive contribution to the African continent.”

**Zizipho Nyanga**  
Managing  
Executive, Grindrod  
Bank



”

“The Summit was interesting and insightful. Intimate enough to have deep, meaningful engagement and large enough to get a diversity of views”

**Yogavelli Nambiar**  
Regional Board  
Member, YPO



”

“I enjoyed how the summit was able to pull together a high caliber of female entrepreneurs and business leaders, but more importantly the quality of the conversations.”

**Xolisile Nene**  
Coverage Banker:  
Resources and  
Energy, ABSA



”

“ DLO has done a stellar job in trying to open the door for new entrants in the energy sector and this summit is an extension of the work they have been doing over the years.”

**Elizabeth Marabwa**  
Chief Director, DMRE



## 2024 GALLERY

