



Wendy Luhabe



BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

Wendy holds a portfolio of activities and interests which have ranged from corporate employment, social entrepreneurship and boardrooms of diverse industries, with bridging the gap between women and the economy being a common thread in most of her endeavours. She has been a Social Entrepreneur and economic activist since 1991 after 10 years in corporate marketing of a luxury brand and the cosmetics industry, where she started her career after qualifying in Commerce.

Her first business enterprise was Bridging the Gap, to equip Black graduates with corporate skills. She is the Author of *Defining Moments*, a book that shares corporate experiences from three generations and assists generations after her to take greater responsibility for their career management and development. She is a founder member of Wiphold which was founded in 1993, founded South Africa's first Private Equity Fund for Women in 2003, invested in initiatives to develop community micro Enterprises. (Mama Mimi's and Amadlelo Aluhlaza) and is currently building a new initiative to involve women in Infrastructure development through WINDE (www.winde.africa).

BOARD EXPERIENCE

Wendy has extensive Board experience of more than 26 years in diverse Industries which include FMCG, Telecommunications, Industrial Development, Private Equity, Country Brand Development and Education. She is the previous Chairman of Vodacom, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), the International Marketing Council (IMC) responsible for Brand South Africa, and Director of the Johannesburg Securities Exchange. She was a Trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Foundation to equip young people for life, and the founding Chancellor of the University of Johannesburg during its transition from Rand Afrikaans University. She has been on the board of the International Institute of Management Development Business School in Switzerland for more than 8 years and also sits on the International Advisory Board of Essec Business School in France. Wendy currently serves on the Boards of Abraaj (in Dubai), BMW (in South Africa), World Rugby, Libstar, African Leadership Group and Social Justice Initiative (South Africa). She has extensive experience in Corporate Governance, Succession Planning, Strategy, reputation management and Marketing.

RECOGNITION / AWARDS

Wendy is a recipient of four Honorary Doctorates (University of Fort Hare, Durban University of Technology, Stellenbosch University, University of KwaZulu-Natal) in commerce for her pioneering contributions to the Economic empowerment of women. Over the past 20 years she has received International recognition from the World Economic Forum in Switzerland as a Global Leader for Tomorrow, the Osaka Junior Chamber in Japan as an Outstanding Young Person, Leadership in Practise by Unisa Business School in South Africa, Woman of Worth from the Jewish Achievers Awards in South Africa and Woman of Substance by AWCA (African Women Chartered Accountants). She is featured regularly in various media as one of South Africa's most accomplished women. Wendy was a founder member of the International Council of Women Business Leaders, an initiative by the State Department which was established in 2012 by Ms Hilary Clinton. In 2013 she was appointed to be an Honorary Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian order (LVO) by the Queen of England.

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