



BUSINESSWOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

*A platform for the inspiration
and empowerment of women*

BWA
FACT
SHEET





The BWA is the largest single association of business and professional women in South Africa. Members consist of some of the most senior decision makers in the country, as well as entrepreneurs, corporate professionals, employers and the employed within the South African context.

The BWA encourages businesswomen from all business sectors to become a member of the Association, in order to recognise and promote their skills as businesswomen, as well as to develop their professional and personal networks.

The BWA was formed in 2000 as the result of the merger of the EWC (Executive Women's Club), NAWBO (National Association of Women Business Owners) and PROWOLDO (Professional Women's Leadership Development Organisation). The BWA is a united, non-racial business organisation open to women and men at all stages of their careers. There are currently over 3500 individual members and 26 corporate members, totalling nearly 5000.

The BWA is a non-profit organisation, sponsored by Nedbank and committed to offering real value in the form of leading and training, connecting and supporting members and South African business.

As a national association with regional branches in Cape Town, Durban, East London, Free State, Johannesburg, Soweto, Phokeng, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria and Zululand, the BWA also provides local and national forums where members can exchange ideas, be informed about topical issues and create business and learning opportunities.

The BWA also acts as a lobby group on women's business issues, highlighting and publicising not only the barriers to success that may still exist but also the many opportunities available to women in South Africa today.

Through strategic partnerships with sponsors, non-profit organisations, leading companies, business schools and local and international associations, it provides ongoing opportunities to advance the interests of women in business.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- BWA Website
- BWA Magazine
- BWA Membership Directory
- BWA Loyalty Card
 - Imperial Car Rental
- BWA Monthly Newsletters
- BWA Events Calendar
- Nedbank Group Schemes Offering
- Nedbank Preferential Banking Offers
- Preferential Rates on various Seminars, Conferences and Training offered at various BWA partner institutions

Businesswoman of the Year Award

Since its inception in 1980, the *BWA Businesswoman of the Year Award*, sponsored by Nedbank has become South Africa's most prestigious award for women in business.

The Award has a number of purposes, which have remained consistent over the years. It recognises and honours the achievements of South African women business leaders and helps to create a cadre of women role models. The Award also makes a tangible contribution to the next generation of women business leaders, by having all proceeds of the annual event go to the *BWA Bursary Fund*.

BWA Bursary Fund

BWA bursaries are awarded to women students across the country for post-graduate qualifications at a tertiary learning institution. Bursaries can also be awarded to a woman pursuing a research topic of importance to women in business.

Bursary amounts vary every year, since the funds for bursaries are determined by the annual profits of the Businesswoman of the Year Award. Since 1988, over R1 000 000.00 has been distributed to 79 women.

Regional Business Achievers Awards

The *BWA Regional Business Achiever Awards*, (RBAA) sponsored by Nedbank, recognize outstanding South African businesswomen for

their valuable contribution to the South African economy. The Awards celebrate business success and promote the focus on development of business women. They recognise the success of women leaders in business, thereby creating a cadre of female role models whose achievements will inspire other women to raise their sights and reach their goals.

Furthermore the RBAA serve to identify women that embody the values and success that the BWA stands for and to leverage their successes as a platform for the inspiration and empowerment of other women.

These enterprising and successful women, are nominated by their peers for the fact that they have not only had the courage to establish their own business, but also the skills to operate these businesses successfully. It is now the premier event of its kind in the country and a notable part of the South African business calendar.

South African Women in Corporate Leadership Census

The Census, commissioned by the Businesswomen's Association (BWA) and sponsored by Nedbank, is based on methodology developed by Catalyst to track the trends of women in business. The Census establishes accurate statistics in order to create a way in which to use the standard practice of benchmarking to promote women's advancement. The South African census is conducted by the BWA.



Angie Makvetla – CEO



Yvette Montalbano – COO



Basetsana Kumalo – President

DIAMOND SPONSOR

Nedbank is the Diamond sponsor of the BWA and through this sponsorship supports a number of events, including:

- The Businesswoman of the Year Award
- The South African Women in Corporate Leadership Census
- Regional Business Achievers Awards
- Nedbank sponsored seminars through the year to assist in financial education including topics such as the economy, national budget and Black Economic Empowerment



BWA Circle of Champions

The BWA has established a Circle of Champions which will be made up of past presidents of BWA, past winners of the Businesswoman of the Year Award (BWOYA) and a few friends of the organisation.

The purpose of the BWA Circle of Champions is to ensure that our role models remain within the organisation in order to give our members the pride of associating with women of calibre and status. We also want to encourage each of our Champions to adopt a project that will contribute towards the empowerment of the women of South Africa, thus adding impetus to our government's efforts to create opportunities that will change the face of business in our country.

The BWA's work in the South African Women in Corporate Leadership Census has revealed that the statistics are, once again, shocking to say the least. We all thus need to work together in ensuring that future generations of women are prepared and ready to take on leadership positions in South African corporates. Together with the BWA, the members of the BWA's Circle of Champions will add impetus to the BWA's efforts to make South Africa a better place for future generations.

The Businesswomen of Tomorrow Initiative

The BWA of South Africa has initiated a project aimed at young secondary school girls, grades 8 – 12, called Businesswomen of Tomorrow. The focus of this project is on developing under-represented discipline skills in our previously disadvantaged female youth and to equip them with the knowledge of different career choices.

By doing this the BWA intends to harness the potential of young women by economically and emotionally empowering them to make creative, informed life and career choices through integrated interventions focused on creating a South African society with balanced female representation in business leadership and direct contribution to economic sustainability.

The probability of a woman becoming an entrepreneur, or advancing in business, is increased by exposure of the individual to formal learning experiences. This exposure is accomplished through mentors or role models, career guidance, internships and cooperative education programmes.

Thus for sustainable development to succeed in Africa, the participation of women in the economy needs to be promoted by reducing poverty amongst females, increasing their access to educational opportunities and enhancing their access to power and decision-making.



For more information, or to join the BWA, visit www.bwasa.co.za

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