

7 Oct 2020

The collage features several key moments from the Standard Bank Top Women Awards 2020:

- Central Image:** The main title 'TOP WOMEN AWARDS' in large, stylized letters on a blue stage background.
- Top Left:** A screenshot of a woman in a red traditional outfit on stage.
- Top Right:** A screenshot of a man in a suit speaking at a podium.
- Middle Right:** A screenshot of a woman standing on a stage, with text indicating 'TOP GENDER EMPOWERMENT COMPANIES WINNER: Catalina Margo La Pina'.
- Bottom Center:** A screenshot of a woman smiling, with text indicating 'TOP YOUNG WOMAN ACHIEVER AWARD WINNER: Charmé Karapolis'.
- Bottom Right:** A screenshot of a woman standing on a stage, with text indicating 'TOP WOMEN IN FINANCE AWARD WINNER: Gemphele Mawofa'.
- Surrounding Screenshots:** Numerous smaller images showing various attendees, speakers, and award presentations throughout the event.

Business woman of the year was awarded to Natasha Parmanand, Managing Director Legal, Regulatory Affairs and Labour Relations for FedEx Express Sub Saharan Africa, Middle East, India Subcontinent and Africa (MEISA), "This award means so much to me because it wouldn't have been possible without my team," remarked Parmanand. Further she explained that FedEx's comprehensive employee training program is one of the best parts of working with the renowned company.

Altogether the awards recognise women across a broad spectrum of industries including property, tourism and finance. The Top Woman in Property Award was awarded to Yael Geffen, a powerhouse force in the industry, "when my grandmother, Aïda Geffen, first started out in property, her and Pam Golding changed the way that people perceived women in property. I'm so glad that there's a shift yet again which is bringing female talent to the forefront of the property industry." says Geffen.

Judged by the crème de la crème of corporate South Africa including De Beers Managing Director, Mpumi Zikalala and GirlCode founder, Zandile Mkwanazi the awards consider several criteria including successful policy implementation and representation within the business.

Top Gender-empowered organisation: Business of the Year Award which was the most coveted award of the evening was awarded to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. As a company that actively promotes women Donald Khumalo, HR Director, further explained, "we don't just have representation in terms of percentages at all levels of the business, we also work to implement programs so that women can thrive in our organisation particularly during these unprecedented times."

Overall the awards were the culmination of the two day conference that saw mavens such as Peggy-Sue Khumalo, CEO Standard Bank Wealth South Africa, Advocate Thuli Madonsela, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, Prime Minister of Namibia and even Miss Universe Zozibini Tunzi come together to tackle issues around gender empowerment. The keynote address given by Swati Mandela set the tone for the conference and awards where she eloquently explained that power of women coming together drawing on inspiration from her grandmother Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, "I found that women who are strangers to me have also been a source of strength and I think coming around and rallying around each other is something that we all need to do more now than ever. I've found that finding wisdom from the older generation and tapping into a lot of those value systems and those principles has really helped me kind of just reflect on my own personal life and just decide what it is and how do I want to live my life going forward."

The discussions and insights shared set the groundwork for next year's conference and awards. For the full list of 2020 winners click here: <https://bit.ly/3iyg4oP>.

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