

# Dikeledi the most powerful woman on the Continent

Palabora Mining Company's (PMC) Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Dikeledi Nakene was nominated as the most powerful woman on the Continent during "Africa's Most Influential Women in Business and Government Awards" which were held in Johannesburg in November 2017. The Continental winner was selected from contestants from all 54 African countries who would have won their countries and regional awards in various categories.

In August 2017, Nakene scooped the country (South Africa) and Regional (SADC-South) awards for women working in the mining industry and automatically became a Continental contestant. Africa's Most Influential Women in Business and Government Award's programme is a twelve months programme wherein a panel of judges monitor contestants and engage with them throughout the year in different topics which include; leadership, personal development and life-long learning. The objectives of the Awards are to provide a platform to celebrate Continental women who continue to exercise positive influences as role models and continuously improve their skills for the benefit of their countries and Continent. Previous winners include women such as Elize Joubert, CEO of the Cancer Association of South Africa (CANSA) and Eskom's Group Executive for Customer Services, Ayanda Noah.

The awards boost Life Time Achievers such as; Dr Nokugcina Mhlophe (anti-apartheid activists, author and director), Prof. Glenda Gray (CEO and President of the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC), Graca Machel, Raymond Ackerman (Founder of Pick 'n Pay), Hugh Masekela, Dr Ishmael Sooliman (founder of the Gift of the Givers Foundation), Prof Hellicy Ngambi (Vice Chancellor of the University of Zambia) and many other notable male and females.

Nakene says that 'she is humbled by the awards as they are recognition not only of



Palabora Mining Company's (PMC) Chief Financial Officer (CFO), Dikeledi Nakene was nominated as the most powerful woman on the Continent.

her abilities but the abilities of all women of Africa, particularly South Africa. "I did not make the journey here alone; there are numerous people who have supported me. These people include my family, friends and colleagues. Above all, it is through the mercy that God continues to place on me. I am humbled by these awards because I am aware that all contestants were equally deserving. I ask other women and young girls to look at these awards as motivation that they too can achieve anything they put their minds to".

Nakene serves as PMC Ex Officio Board member and is a Chartered Accountant (CA), and a Certified Internal Auditor (CIA). She holds various qualifications from different universities including B.Com Accounting (Cum Laude) from the University of the North, B.Com Honours from the University of South Africa and post-graduate Diploma in Taxation from the University of the Witwatersrand.

Nakene has held numerous senior positions in different organisations before joining PMC.