

3rd ANNUAL
SEKHUKHUNE
WOMEN
SUMMIT
& COMMUNITY
AWARDS 2026

NOMINATE THAT OUTSTANDING
WOMAN WHO DESERVES TO
WALK AWAY WITH

R20 000

CASH AND OTHER PRIZES

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Who We Are.

Building Women. Transforming Communities.
Creating a Legacy.



Established in 2024, the **Sekhukhune Women's Summit & Community Awards** was founded by Fihla Joey Maroga a former beauty queen, businesswoman, and community builder born and raised in Rathoke Village, Sekhukhune Region, Limpopo. Inspired by a vision to celebrate, empower, inspire, and develop women and girls, the platform recognises those making meaningful contributions in their communities, businesses, professions, and society.

From its inception, the Summit has grown into one of Limpopo's most inspiring platforms dedicated to recognizing female excellence while creating opportunities for leadership development, entrepreneurship, networking, mentorship, and community transformation.

Rather than simply hosting an annual awards ceremony, the Summit has become a movement that encourages women to believe in their potential, celebrate one another's achievements, and inspire future generations of female leaders.

Our Journey Since 2024

The inaugural Summit in 2024 laid a strong foundation by bringing together women from diverse sectors including business, education, healthcare, public service, community development, media, arts, youth leadership, and entrepreneurship.

The event successfully established a platform where women could:

- Share knowledge and experiences.
- Build valuable professional networks.
- Inspire young women and girls.
- Promote women-owned businesses.
- Recognize unsung community heroes.
- Encourage collaboration between communities, government, and the private sector.

The overwhelming response demonstrated the need for a platform that genuinely celebrates women's achievements while creating opportunities for growth and empowerment.



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The Remarkable Growth of the 2025 Summit

Building on the success of the inaugural event, the **2025 Sekhukhune Women's Summit & Community Awards** elevated the experience to an entirely new level by introducing an expanded awards programme that celebrated women across multiple sectors.

The event attracted greater participation from community leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, government representatives, sponsors, media, and supporters who all shared one common purpose to honour excellence and inspire change.

One of the defining highlights of the 2025 event was the introduction of the **Woman of the Year Award**, which included a **R10,000** cash prize awarded to the deserving winner. This landmark initiative demonstrated the organisers' commitment to not only recognising excellence but also investing directly in women who continue to make a positive impact in society.

The awards celebrated outstanding women whose dedication has transformed families, businesses, organisations, and communities throughout the Sekhukhune District and beyond.

The success of the 2025 event significantly elevated the Summit's reputation and positioned it as one of Limpop's growing platforms for recognising female excellence and community leadership.

Impact Beyond the Awards

The Sekhukhune Women's Summit & Community Awards continues to create lasting impact by:

- Celebrating women whose work often goes unnoticed.
- Encouraging women to pursue leadership positions.
- Inspiring young girls to dream bigger and become future leaders.
- Promoting entrepreneurship and economic participation.
- Strengthening community development initiatives.
- Creating meaningful networking opportunities.
- Building partnerships between government, businesses, NGOs, and community organisations.
- Encouraging mentorship and knowledge sharing across generations.
- Recognising role models who inspire positive social change.

Each year, the Summit contributes to building stronger communities by recognising women who lead with integrity, compassion, innovation, and resilience.



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Looking Ahead: The 2026 Summit

The 2026 edition promises to be the biggest, most prestigious, and most impactful event since the Summit's establishment.

Inspired by the remarkable success of previous years, this year's organising committee is committed to delivering a **world-class experience** that exceeds every expectation.

Among the exciting developments for 2026 are:

- An enhanced Women's Summit programme featuring influential keynote speakers.
- Expanded networking and business development opportunities.
- More prestigious recognition categories.
- Greater community participation.
- Increased corporate partnerships and sponsorships.
- Enhanced entertainment and production value.
- Exclusive empowerment sessions for women and girls.
- Exciting prize giveaways for attendees and award recipients.

Most notably, the **Woman of the Year Award** has been increased from **R10,000 to R20,000**, reflecting the organisers' continued commitment to rewarding excellence and investing in women who are making extraordinary contributions to society.

Additional exciting prizes and recognition opportunities will further enhance the prestige of the awards and celebrate excellence on an even greater scale.

"The Sekhukhune Women's Summit is more than an annual event it is a movement that celebrates resilience, inspires leadership, and creates opportunities for women to learn, collaborate, and grow. Through this platform, we aim to honour those who are transforming lives while encouraging the next generation of women leaders to pursue their ambitions with confidence."

Brightdot Media invites government departments, municipalities, traditional leaders, corporate organisations, development agencies, financial institutions, educational institutions, civil society organisations, and community stakeholders to partner in making the 2026 summit a landmark event for women's empowerment and sustainable development.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Exhibition, Category Sponsor, and In-Kind Partner levels, offering organisations valuable opportunities to demonstrate their commitment to women's empowerment while gaining meaningful brand visibility and engagement.

Further information regarding delegate registration, speaker announcements, exhibition bookings, award nominations, and sponsorship opportunities will be released in the coming months.

Together, the summit will celebrate achievements, inspire future leaders, strengthen partnerships, and reinforce the message that we are stronger and more powerful than before.



Fihla Jocy Maroga
Chief Visionary Officer



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Our Vision

Our vision is to establish the Sekhukhune Women's Summit & Community Awards as one of South Africa's leading platforms for women's empowerment, leadership, entrepreneurship, and community transformation.

We aspire to create an internationally respected celebration that recognises women whose achievements inspire generations and contribute meaningfully to social and economic development.

Our Mission

Our mission is to:

- Build confident women leaders.
- Empower girls to become future leaders.
- Promote entrepreneurship and economic inclusion.
- Celebrate excellence and innovation.
- Encourage mentorship and lifelong learning.
- Strengthen communities through women-led initiatives.
- Inspire positive social change through recognition and opportunity.

Our Purpose

We believe that when women are empowered, communities prosper.

By investing in women and girls today, we cultivate stronger families, more resilient communities, thriving businesses, and future generations of ethical leaders. The Sekhukhune Women's Summit & Community Awards exists to honour achievement, unlock potential, and create opportunities that enable women to lead with confidence, purpose, and impact.

As we prepare for the 2026 edition, we remain committed to delivering a world-class platform that celebrates the very best of women recognising those who lead, innovate, uplift others, and inspire lasting change. Together, we are shaping a future where empowered women build stronger communities and a more prosperous South Africa.



2025 SWS Award Categories WINNERS



2025 SWS Award Categories WINNERS



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2026 Award Categories

This year marks a historic milestone with the introduction of the inaugural Sekhukhune Women's Awards, celebrating outstanding women in leadership, business, community service, education, arts, health, science, technology, and innovation who are shaping the future of society and the economy.

LEADERSHIP & INFLUENCE

- Woman of the Year Award – Overall outstanding contribution to the community.
- Community Leadership Award – Recognising women leading initiatives that create positive change.
- Young Leader Award – For young women (e.g., under 35) showing great leadership potential.
- Rising StartUp Award – This award celebrates young or newly-formed businesses that are disrupting markets through innovative products or services showing excellence in leadership, resilience, and scalability.
- The Change Maker Award – The award honors an individual or organization that has demonstrated outstanding leadership in driving transformative change through innovative ideas, advocacy, or initiatives that create lasting benefits for communities or society at large.

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Entrepreneurship Excellence Award – Women who have built successful businesses.
- Small Business Champion – For women running impactful small or medium enterprises (SMEs).
- Mining Leadership Award – Celebrates women who inspire progress, drive transformation, and uphold the highest standards of integrity and excellence within the mining sector.
- Agricultural Excellence Award – Award recognizes an individual, organization, farm, or agricultural enterprise with positive contribution to the communities and agricultural sector.
- Customer Experience Award – Recognizes women delivering exceptional customer services in retail, healthcare, banking and public sector.

SOCIAL IMPACT & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Community Service Award – Women making significant contributions to social welfare.
- Best NGO Award – For exceptional efforts in humanitarian aid or crisis response.
- Volunteer of the Year – Recognising consistent voluntary service.
- Warrior Award – Recognising the work done for those living with disability.
- Homebase Care Award – This award honors frontline caregivers who provide essential health and support services in communities.

EDUCATION & MENTORSHIP

- Education Champion Award – Women advancing education in the community.
- STEM Innovator Award – Women excelling in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths.
- High School of the Year – The award celebrates schools that deliver holistic education and make a significant contribution to the success and future development of their learners.
- Youth Empowerment Award – For women inspiring or supporting youth development.
- Early Childhood Education Excellence Award – Recognizes an individual, centre, school, or organization that lays foundation for lifelong learning and creating safe spaces for young minds.

ARTS, CULTURE & MEDIA

- Heritage Award - Recognizes an individual, organization, or initiative that has made an outstanding contribution to the preservation, promotion, and celebration of cultural heritage.
- Tourism Award - Recognition for individuals or organizations that promote local culture, heritage, and economic growth through tourism.
- Cultural Leader of the Year - The award celebrates individuals who inspire communities, champion cultural diversity, protect traditions, and drive meaningful cultural development.
- Community Arts Initiative - It recognizes initiatives that bring communities together, celebrate cultural diversity, nurture creativity, and create lasting social and cultural value.
- Craftswoman of the Year - Honoring fashion designers, beadwork artists, traditional craftswomen, weavers, woodworkers and indigenous knowledge practitioners whose creativity, skill, and dedication preserve our cultural heritage.

SPORTS, HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Health Champion Award – For contributions to healthcare, wellness, or public health.
- Mental Health Advocate Award – Recognising women promoting mental well-being.
- Sports and Fitness Award – For achievements in sports or promoting active lifestyles.
- Nurse of the Year Award - Award honors nurses whose excellence, compassion, and leadership make a lasting impact on patients, healthcare teams, and communities.
- Community Impact Award - Recognizes an individual, organization, team, or initiative that has made an exceptional contribution to improving community well-being through sport, physical activity, health promotion, and wellness programs.

MEDIA, INNOVATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

- Creative Excellence Award – The award celebrates excellence in creative thinking, artistic expression, design and storytelling.
- Best Community Media Award – Honors community-focused media platforms and professionals that strengthen communities through trusted information, inclusive storytelling, and meaningful engagement.
- Influencer of the Year – Recognition for using their voice, platform and influence to inspire positive change, amplify community stories, and empower others.
- Best Artist Award – Celebrating outstanding talent and recognizing creative women artists including DJs, Comedians, MCs, Producers, Filmmakers, photographers and those contributing to the growth of the creative sector.
- Best Podcast – Honors creators who use audio and digital storytelling to inform, entertain, and inspire audiences.



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HOW TO ENTER THE AWARDS:

Eligibility Criteria

The Awards are open to women who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, innovation, entrepreneurship, community service, or professional excellence within Sekhukhune District, Limpopo, and across South Africa.

Applicants or nominees should demonstrate:

- Proven impact in their profession, business, organisation, or community.
- Strong leadership, integrity, and commitment to empowering others.
- Meaningful contributions to social or economic development.
- A positive reputation with no serious unresolved legal or ethical matters.

Award Categories

Each nominee may enter **one primary award category** that best reflects their achievements. Categories include:

- Leadership & Influence
- Business & Entrepreneurship
- Community Service & Social Impact
- Education & Mentorship
- Arts, Culture & Media
- Health & Wellness
- Science, Technology & Innovation
- Youth Leadership
- Woman of the Year

Judging Criteria

An independent panel of judges will assess all entries using the following weighted criteria:

- **20%** – Personal leadership, integrity, and achievements.
- **40%** – Measurable impact on communities, businesses, or organisations.
- **40%** – Motivation, innovation, sustainability, and future vision.

Successful Entries Will Receive

- Official confirmation of entry.
- Recognition across the Summit's digital platforms.
- Professional review by an independent judging panel.
- Opportunities for networking and collaboration with influential leaders.

Finalists Will Receive

- Official Finalist Certificate.
- Finalist digital badge for professional and business use.
- Recognition through media and social media promotions.
- Invitation to attend the prestigious Sekhukhune Women's Summit & Community Awards Gala.
- The opportunity to compete for major prizes, including the **R20,000 Woman of the Year Award** and other exciting awards and giveaways.

Our Awards Team will contact all shortlisted finalists with further information regarding judging and the awards ceremony.

2026 | SWS Awards Entry Form

ENTER NOW

3rd ANNUAL SEKHUKHUNE WOMEN SUMMIT & COMMUNITY AWARDS 2026

Become One of Sekhukhune's Most Inspiring Women.

Scan the **QR code** to nominate yourself or an inspiring woman making a difference through leadership, business, entrepreneurship, or community services. Celebrate excellence, gain the recognition you deserve, and join a movement empowering women and girls to lead and transform communities. Your journey starts here.

14 Nov 2026
Limpopo

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