

Dr. Judy Dlamini- Founder and Chairman of Mbekani Group & Author of Equal but Different

Dr. Judy Dlamini, has had a rich career starting with medicine, followed by owning and running businesses in various sectors from health operations, surgical equipment, luxury fashion retail, commercial property, facilities management, to name but a few. She received her medical degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, her MBA from the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg and her diploma in occupational health from the University of the Free State. She obtained her Doctorate in Business Leadership from UNISA. Her thesis investigated the intersection of race, gender and social class and its impact on women leaders' career progression. She used life stories to come up with strategies for gender transformation at leadership. She has since turned her thesis into a book, titled *Equal but Different: Women Leaders' life journeys*. She was selected to the 2017 Exclusive Books' Homebru list in the business category, after the launch of the book in March 2017.

Judy worked as a medical doctor for thirteen years and as an occupational health practitioner for four years before deciding to build her business career. After spending two years at HSBC, specialising in transport and energy corporate finance, she began to develop her entrepreneurial interests. In 1996, she founded Mbekani Group, a company which houses operational and investment companies, including the luxury multi-brand chain of stores, Luminance and Jimmy Choo.

She has extensive experience in serving on numerous boards; she is currently the Chairman of Mbekani Investment Holdings Ltd, previously Chairman of the Board of Aspen Pharmicare Holdings Limited, Independent Non Executive Director of Northam Platinum Ltd, Imithi Investments (Pty) Ltd, GijimaAst Ltd, Anglo American plc, Woolworths Holdings Ltd, Discovery Holdings Ltd.

She is a recipient of various awards, including Woman The Brand (2009), The African Economy Builder Lifetime Achiever Award for 2016 from African Economy Builder Forum; The Global CEO's 2016 Africa's Most Influential Women in Business and Government SADC South award for the Business and Professional Services sector at regional and national level, and Fabulous Woman Award 2016.