



# Women in the Built Environment Conference 2023

# Event Report

Event Theme :

**IDEAS & PARTNERSHIPS**  
**'POWER BRUNCH'**

Presented By :

**Botswana Women in Construction Organisation**  
**And**  
**Minnacle Properties**

Organised  
by:



Botswana  
**WOMEN IN  
CONSTRUCTION**  
Organisation



## Event Goals

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# MESSAGE FROM OUR LEADERS

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For so long it has been considered that the Construction Industry is a Man's world, and yet women all around the world have contributed in so many ways to the development of Buildings and Infrastructure. It is to this end that we have seen it fit to begin an association that recognises, encourages and supports the endeavours of all women in the entire value-chain of construction.

The Women in the Built Environment, "Ideas and Partnerships Power Brunch" sought to promote, encourage, facilitate, empower women within the built environment.

From the BOWICO EXCO and Minnacle Academy we say, 'To all women in the Construction Industry, regardless of age, race, creed and circumstances ....we salute you.' Let us continue to build our nation.

**"There is no limit to what we, as women can accomplish".**

Michelle Obama



# Our Vision

## THE BIG IDEA

The Thematic Goal serves as a response to:  
The National Policy on Gender and  
Development in Botswana

# Our Mission

1

Increase the active participation and involvement of women in the Built environment.

2

To create a beneficial networking forum for women in the industry to gather.

3

To provide women in the built environment an opportunity to partake in industry conversations that matter.



# BACKGROUND

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## The Women in the Built Environment Conference

The first Women in the Built Environment Conference was held in May 2019 hosted by Minnacle Academy (Pty) Ltd. It is through this conference where Botswana Women in Construction organisation (BOWICO) and Minnacle Academy (PTY) LTD established the need to merge their thematic goals of gathering women under one roof and decided to form a partnership of jointly organising the event. During the Covid-Era the two organisation organised a series of online webinars.

This year (2023) we are proud to announce that the second physical conference was jointly organised by;

- Minnacle Academy (Pty) Ltd, a BQA accredited education and training provider
- Botswana Women in Construction organisation (BOWICO), a non-profit organisation with a vision to encourage an all-inclusive and active participation of women in the Built Environment.

This year's conference was held under the Theme; **'Ideas and Partnerships Power Brunch'** with an aim to solicit innovative ideas and stimulate partnerships between professionals.

- **Ideas** are the lifeblood of Innovation and they have the power to change the world.
- **Partnership** gives women an opportunity to access a broader range of expertise for different parts of their business, including extra complementary skills, which is critical for career development and business growth.

This not only aroused a greater interest of working together amongst professionals, but solidified the conference as a platform for innovative ideas.

The conference has over a period successfully given female practitioners an opportunity to identify and acknowledge each other's strengths and capabilities in order to build formidable partnerships.

## Event Goals

# PRIORITY/ OBJECTIVES

**There are 17 SDGs and 169 targets in total.**



The Women in the Built Environment Conference is currently the largest networking multi-disciplinary event within the Built Environment with priorities as below.

While the SDGs are all important, the highlighted SDGs were the focus of the conference.



### **PRIORITY 1 (SDG 17) PARTNERSHIPS**

- Establish ways in which women can work together to create a more inclusive environment in the workforce.
- Strengthen partnerships and synergy between professionals.



### **PRIORITY 2 (SDG 5) GENDER EQUALITY**

- Create a conducive networking Environment for female practitioners in the Built Environment, to promote equality and empowerment of women and girls.



### **PRIORITY 3 (SDG 9) INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Provide platform of active participation and engagements of Industry Matters
- Encouraging innovation, ideation and creativity in the built environment industry.



# TARGET GROUP

- ENGINEERS
- ARTISANS
- INTERIOR DESIGNERS
- CONTRACTORS
- REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS
- SURVEYORS
- ARCHITECTS
- CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS
- ENVIROMENTALISTS
- PROJECT MANAGERS
- PLANNERS



# About the Conference

## PRE-SEMINAR ACTIVITIES

- Awareness/Publicity Campaign

Videos:

<https://youtu.be/JFmY6-yD4y8>

<https://fb.watch/j1h4PRgvR1/?mibextid=2Rb1fB>

## SEMINAR THEMES:

**Partnerships through PPP or Financing a Development**

- Deal Structuring

**Ideas in Entrepreneurship**

- Birthing an enterprise
- How to harness an idea and Commercialize it

**Trade and Opportunities**

- Trade protocols and opportunities beyond Botswana

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## The conference key topics, aims and performance:

The Conference aimed to bring together Women from the built disciplines under one roof to discuss issues pertinent to the Woman in the Built Environment, as well as topics relevant in the industry. Following the theme, IDEAS & PARTNERSHIPS, these topics were discussed through interactive panel discussions and expert speaker presentations.

Key Topics	Topic/Subject	Speakers
Session 1: PARTNERSHIPS: PPP and Project Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract Law, enforceability of contracts, types of legal formations for partnerships.</li> <li>Project Financing/Business Case Development</li> <li>Successful management of projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesego Keitsile,</li> <li>Bonzo Makgalemele,</li> <li>Katso Gaobakwe,</li> <li>Chabo Mbikiwa,</li> </ul>
Session 2: IDEAS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unleashing your potential through exposure and Collaboration</li> <li>The journey of transitioning: From Interior Design Consultancy to Retail and Manufacturing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thandeka Palai</li> <li>Nomsa Moyo</li> </ul>
Session 3: TRADE & OPPORTUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trade from Stanbic: Products and services solutions to leverage on AfCFTA.</li> <li>Investment Opportunities from SEZA:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Akofang Kebonye,</li> <li>Orekolotse Koloj,</li> </ul>

# The Speakers



**Kamogelo  
Mowaneng**

LLR CEO



**katso Gaobakwe**

INVESTMENT &  
DEVELOPMENT  
FINANCE EXPERT



**Lesego Keitsile**

HEAD OF  
INVESTMENT



**Chabo Mbikiwa**

PROJECT  
MANAGER



**Bonzo  
Makgalemela**

LAWYER



**Thandeka Palai**

ARCHITECT &  
FASHION  
ENTREPRENEUR



**Nomsa Moyo**

INTERIOR  
DESIGNER



**Orekolotse Koloji**

STRATEGY  
CONSULTANT



**Akofang Kebonye**

HSTANBIC REP.



**Andries Petsoane**

SA EMBASSY REP.

# ACHIEVEMENTS

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The Power Brunch achievements and highlights cover both the intended outcomes that the organisers planned to achieve and the perspective from delegates.



## HIGHLIGHT

- The conference managed to reach out to the targeted professionals and they turned out in large numbers.

## HIGHLIGHT

- Professionals in the supportive industries to the Built Environment such as Finance, Law, as well as male colleagues in the industry, attended.



## HIGHLIGHT

The speakers were able to deliver topics clearly within a limited time, allowing time for discussions and networking, and sharing of ideas, as well as forging new partnerships.



# ACHIEVEMENTS

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## HIGHLIGHT

The WIBE conference was acknowledged by attendees as a key platform for networking and exchange of high-quality ideas for women in the Built Environment.

## HIGHLIGHT

The conference provided opportunities for delegates to engage with new businesses and professionals that will improve their services and contribute to the sector.



## HIGHLIGHT

Solidified relationship between the Built Environment Professionals and supportive industries such as Finance and law, with an endeavour to close the operational gaps.



Announcing the next conference date at the conference gives stakeholders an opportunity to schedule the next conference well in advance. The next conference will be held in 14th August 2024. Themed: **HER-DRIVE TOWARDS SUSTAINILITY**  
**#unlocking opportunities**

# NEXT STEPS

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## Where do you go from here?

The next steps highlight the progress that will be made beyond the conference in-line with the with the conference theme, Ideas and Partnerships. The next steps provide a strategy of activities that the organising team shall engage in, as well as track progress.

# 1

### **COLLABORATIONS**

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Organise masterclass to deliberate on Contracts, highlighting key aspects of contract modalities.

# 2

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

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Initiate an MOU with Educational Training Provider to engage on Mentorship & Training programmes. for BOWICO members.

# 3

### **ACTION OR COMMITMENT**

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Initiate partnership with a Financier for the next WIBE conference and negotiate women focused facilities.

# 4

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

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Negotiate opportunities for women in the built environment with investors and prospective business partners through SEZA, and embassies such as South Africa business forum.

# Planning Team

The composition of the planning team consisted of the BOWICO Executive Committee and representatives of Minnacle Properties. These are all women in the Built Environment, from private sector to public sector and international organisations. The team is brought together by sheer passion to support women at all stages of their careers in the built environment.



**Matshidiso Moile**

BOWICO CHAIR



**Renee Yezo**

DEPUTY CHAIR



**Mphoentle Mathodi**

SECRETARY



**June Seisa**

MARKETING



**Boineelo Masuku**

PUBLIC RELATIONS



**Karen Ngada**

ADD MEMBER



**Chanda Masendu  
- Kusane**

MINNACLE REP

# SPONSORS

**THANK YOU**  
FOR BEING PART OF  
OUR JOURNEY

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

## SPONSORS



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## Contact

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:**  
**LETLOLE LA RONA LIMITED**  
(Main Sponsor and Partner)



## ORGANISATION SPONSORED TICKETS

Ba Isago University. Kgare Insurance. Original Minds. REIB. REAC. IBQS . Women in Architecture. BIH. BHC. SEEFF. FMCE. Kalahari Floor Tiles. UNICAF. HOLLARD. Sea Corn . Khumo Properties . Ba Isago University. Kgare Insurance. Original Minds. Chibanda Makgalemele and Associates. Mphetolang Legal. Brown and Company. REIB .REAC. IBQS

**We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to contribute to the Built Environment and development of women and girls in the industry!**

## Contact

P.O. Box 60534, Gaborone

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[www.facebook.com/WIBEBW](http://www.facebook.com/WIBEBW)

[www.youtube.com/@womeninthebuiltenvironment7958](http://www.youtube.com/@womeninthebuiltenvironment7958)

[www.instagram.com/women\\_in\\_the\\_envirion\\_bw](http://www.instagram.com/women_in_the_envirion_bw)

[www.wibe.bw](http://www.wibe.bw)

# FEEDBACK



What joy it was to be part of this -  
Kesego Kebelaele Okie (MC)



Environments that gives a meaning -  
Tebogo Maureen Habana



This conference reignited something in me  
that got buried in a pile of life somewhere -  
Keletso Maroba

Oh what an eventful day it was! Oh  
what a team of inspiring women. Soo  
much was learnt. It was indeed a great  
experience. - Gaone Bashapi



Thank you for birthing and executing such  
an important and impactful meet up! Your  
genuine intention and passion to see  
women progress and better position  
themselves in society not only in the built  
environment came through. You could just  
tell by the energy in the room - Thandeka  
Palai



# THANK YOU

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