

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa crowned at the 16th Oliver Top Empowerment Awards

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Last week, esteemed leaders from some of South Africa's biggest companies, along with prominent government figures, turned up in their most elegant evening gowns and distinguished suits for the 16th Oliver Top Empowerment Awards, hosted at the Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conference Centre in Johannesburg.

The evening carried a sense of celebration yet, also, food for thought. Keynote speaker Dr Mathews Phosa's heartfelt speech on former President Nelson Mandela's vision of nation-building will be long remembered by all present.

"If there are dreams about a beautiful South Africa, there are also roads that lead to their goal. Two of these roads could be named 'Goodness and Forgiveness' I want to say to you the young people here, the next generation, our future: be proud of who you are; take a leaf from Madiba's book and be fulfilled with who you are," Phosa said.

Then it was on to the eagerly awaited award handovers; with well-known entertainer Soli Philander leading proceedings as charismatic Master of Ceremonies. Volkswagen SA took home the Socio-Economic Development award, while entrepreneurial Brodwen Koen, from Koen & Associates Architecture, won the Top Empowered: Young Achiever (under 40 years) Award. The honorary Lifetime Achiever of the Year was announced as Cyril Ramaphosa, while the Public Service Award (sponsored by Arms Audit) went to the South African Civil Aviation Authority. It was Travel with Flair, though, which took the evening's most high-profile accolade: Business of the Year, a Nedbank- sponsored award.

The 2017 Top Empowerment Awards once again underscored the importance of sustainable economic transformation in bringing substance, and measurable progress, to the cherished vision of Mandela.

Full list of the 2017 Oliver Top Empowerment Award Winners:



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Fast Growth Black-Owned SMME Award

Top Empowered Diversity Award

Top Empowered Skills Development Award

Top Empowered Enterprise & Supplier Development Award

Top Empowered Socioeconomic Development Award

Top Empowered Public Service Award - Sponsored by Arms Audit

Top Empowered Job Creation Award

Top Empowered Entrepreneur of 2017 Award

Calvin and Family Group

Isilumko Staffing

Digital Generation

Multichoice South Africa Holdings

Volkswagen South Africa

South African Civil Aviation Authority

Isilumko Staffing

Connie Mdladla - Khaas Logistics

Top Empowered Public Service Leader of the Year Award -
Sponsored by Public Sector Manager

Top Empowered Young Achiever under 40 years Award

Top Empowered: Business Leader of the Year Award

Top Empowered Business of the Year Award - Sponsored by
Nedbank

Lifetime Achievement Award

Honorary Award: Legends of Empowerment

Mothobi Edward Mothobi - North West Parks
Board

Brodwen Koen - Koen & Associates
Architecture

Khalid Abdulla - African Equity Empowerment
Investments

Travel with Flair

Deputy President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa

Bidvest Group, Aspen, South African
Breweries, Vodacom, Nedbank, Old Mutual,
Life Assurance, Liberty Holdings, Alexander
Forbes Group Holdings, MMI Holdings, Basil
Read, Group Five

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