

MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN IN BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT!

It was not too long ago that women were barred from political, legal and economic spheres that their modern-day counterparts take for granted.

Thankfully, owing to the perseverance and personal sacrifice of many, African women have become an economic force to be reckoned with. Today, women occupy various top managerial positions not only in the private sector, but also in government.

CEO Global long recognised the important role women play in the development of society and since the founding of the company in 2000, has promoted initiatives to recognise hardworking women. These initiatives have evolved into the ***Most Influential Women in Business and Government*** programme, which has become over the course of several years as the pre-eminent recognition platform for women.

The programme is designed to annually uplift and recognise women across the African Continent, providing a platform they can use to celebrate their achievements, while paying tribute to women who are consistently exercising a positive influence on our continent.

Empowerment of women has become a worldwide focus. MIW however, aims to sustainably celebrate and uplift women making a contribution to their communities and economies across the African continent!

KALRO not being left behind **Dr. Felister Makini, Deputy Director General Crops** was one of over 4000 nominees. Tuesday 19th September at Southern Sun Mayfair Nairobi was a historic day marked with jubilation as our own Dr. Felister Makini was among the few chosen Winners of the Award. She won two awards mainly in the Public Sector category.

Dr. Makini was the country winner of the East Africa MJW Programme award for her contribution in the Agriculture as well as the Regional (East Africa) winner. She will proceed for the competition for the Africa continental award in November 2017 **to be held in South Africa.**

The judging criteria was based on several issues mainly aspects of business or the institution one is involved in, the responsibilities, skills and experience and how one purposely influences through that profession their environment and giving back to society.

Being that KALRO has the mandate to promote, streamline, coordinate and regulate all aspects of research in agriculture and livestock development and promote the application of the research findings and technologies in Kenya. Dr. Makini was awarded for having added great value and impact to crops research whose objective is to generate and disseminate knowledge, technologies and innovations for enhanced productivity, value addition, profitability and competitiveness of food, horticultural and industrial crops, including tea, coffee and sugarcane, agricultural mechanization and genetic resources conservation.

Furthermore, she has influenced through her profession the environment around her by providing strategic leadership, building the human capital and empowering them as well as developing strategies for implementation of programmes ensuring accountability and transparency of the

resources not forgetting her overwhelming contribution in establishing strategic partnerships and prodigious contribution to policy development.



Dr. Felister Makini awarded the East Africa MJW Programme award in Agriculture PHOTO | Stephen Odipo KALRO.

Under the individual social responsibility, a category that focused into what one is doing as far as giving back to the society at a personal capacity, Dr Makini has whole heartedly supported orphans, widows and vulnerable groups. Currently she is educating 9 children who comprise of deaf, lame, blind and orphans. She has helped widows start and own businesses to earn a living. In her mission of giving back to the society she is the Founder and Patron of the KARI-DEB primary School in Kisii, Founded a Children's Christian Ministry to inculcate Christian values and morals, She is also a motivational speaker in schools, colleges and universities mostly girl's schools and women conferences. She has served at various positions as board member of several schools and university council. Generally, Dr Makini is a role model, a mentor and a counsellor to many girls and women and some boys and men.



Dr. Felister Makini pose for a photo with Prof. Margaret Kobia after receiving their awards
PHOTO | Stephen Odipo KALRO

Among the other winners, there were prominent personalities who won in different categories including from the government sector, Prof. Margaret Kobia, Chairperson Public Service Commission and Nancy Wakarima Karigithu, Principal Secretary, Maritime Commerce, Ministry of Transport, and Julie Gichuru from the Media sector. The Regional winners will proceed for the continental award competition in November 2017 to be held in South Africa.

The selection criteria were a rigorous exercise involving several steps. After receiving the nominations of possible winners which in the current year was 4000 nominees, they were sorted into various sectors/categories. The first expert panel in the relevant sector evaluated and shortlisted the best 5 nominees in each sector. A second independent expert panel evaluated the five and shortlisted the 3 best nominees. The three went through a video skype interview where they were asked the same questions and from this, the winner was identified. However, before the winner could be announced, KPMG an independent international audit firm audited the process to ensure the process was uncorrupted and the winner was deserving the award. It is out of this process, Dr Makini was selected as the Country winner in Kenya and the Regional winner in East Africa in the Agriculture sector.