



Palesa Phili

Short Bio

Palesa has over 20 years' experience in the information and communication technology (ICT) and Telecommunications sector working for leading multinational companies within the ICT sector. She has 10 years' experience in executive positions within the sector with added experience in board-level positions within the manufacturing and incubation sectors. Her specialties range from strong operational experience to strategic growth and market penetration into various customer environments. She has worked for organisations such as Hewlett Packard, IBM and EMC Computers. Her most recent role was at MTN SA where she was the Regional Head for MTN Business in KZN. Palesa holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of Johannesburg (UJ), an advanced Business Management Programme Certificate and is a member of the esteemed South African Institute of Directors (IOD) and sits on various boards including SmartXchange and Invotech incubators.

Long Bio

Palesa has over 20 years' experience in the information and communication technology (ICT) and Telecommunications sector working for leading multinational companies within the ICT sector as well exposure and practical experience in government and Public Sector. Moreover, she has been active in working with non-governmental organisations and social initiatives especially in projects that affect in the outlying areas in KwaZulu-Natal. Palesa is currently the CEO of the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry and her key function is to drive and implement the core objectives of the Durban Chamber. She joined the Durban Chamber from MTN where she was the Regional Head for MTN Business in KwaZulu-Natal and prior to that she was also the executive Head of Vodacom Business in KwaZulu-Natal. Additionally, she has worked for multinationals and large corporates such as EMC Computers, Hewlett Packard, IBM, Dell, and Intel.

Her core competencies and functional expertise range from executive management; operations and strategic planning and management; business development and sales leadership; financial management (P&L management); resource management including project management; high-level government and private sector negotiations; corporate governance advisory role at board level; and mentoring and motivational talks.

Palesa career highlights include was voted as Computer Reseller News (CRN) Top Women in IT for 2009 and she was the 1st runner up of the IT Business Woman of the year in 2009. At EMC Computers, Palesa increased productivity efficiencies and revenue generated by the Services Business and successfully set up a Public-Sector division, an area which EMC had no prior presence in.

She holds a Master's in Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of Johannesburg (UJ), an advanced Business Management Programme Certificate. She is a member of the esteemed South African Institute of Directors (IOD) and sits on various boards including SmartXchange and Invotech incubators.

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