



WINLPG

Women in LPG



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Meet the Role Models

WINLPG Role Models introduce successful individuals in the LPG industry and gives an insight into their career path, their challenges and their advice to fellow WINLPG members.

I am the first female Managing Director at LPGSA, since it was formed in 1987, and overall an oil and gas industry professional, with over 16 years in the industry. My experience ranges from price risk management, performance analysis, strategy, and regulatory compliance. My early experience was of a cost and management accountant in the mining and manufacturing industries.

I am a self-motivated individual with keen and demonstrated interest in industries and business transformation initiatives, skills development, coaching and mentorship not only for herself but young people. I believe that the universal access to energy can be achieved through different energy technologies and looks forward to ensuring that LPG is an energy source of choice for both rural and urban South African households, while also contributing to the development of small business in the communities.

I hold an MBA from Henley Business School where her research dissertation topic investigated the development of natural gas industry in RSA. In addition, I hold other accounting and business qualifications from Australian and South African institutions.

“ Gender equality matters, if LPG sector development is to contribute to nation’s economic growth and broader development goals. Investing in women’s economic empowerment sets a direct path towards gender equality, poverty eradication and inclusive economic growth.”

Ms Gadi Dihlabi

SIX KEY QUESTIONS

What is your goal today, this can be personal or professional?

My goal is to build a safe and inclusive LPG industry in South Africa (SA). LPG Industry in SA is still old white male dominated, and I want this change that narrative. In a country of 76% black population and over 50% female population, and about 66% youth unemployment, we cannot continue with old white male dominated narrative. My goal is to change this while promoting the safe use of LPG.

Did you have a mentor and how did they help mold your business style?

I have had the same informal mentor since I was 19 years old. I would not say they moulded my business or leadership style; on the contrary we have always discussed forming one's own business and leadership style. I am more of a servant leader, and I would say my mentor had an influence in me identifying this. Our personalities, values and beliefs do not clash, and this has helped along the way.

Describe your pathway (your career path)

I started out as an accountant, and for 5 years I was not happy with my job. After self-evaluation I applied for a role in price risk management and performance analysis in the Petroleum Industry. This set the path to my current role. I progressed into strategy roles and regulatory compliance in the past 10 years. The last 5 years included LPG regulations and policies, representing the petroleum industry in regulations and policies settings. I was part of the team that was instrumental in changing the LPG regulatory pricing in South Africa in 2020.

What does leadership mean to you?

To me leadership means the ability to serve others, allow yourself to be led while you're leading. I believe a leader should be able to identify potential in others and be able derive a plan to enhance that potential, in consultation with her constituencies. Leader needs to always be ready to roll up their sleeves and put in hard work and time.

What any specific challenges do believe face women in our industry?

LPG industry in SA is male dominated, women face gender and racial discrimination on daily basis. In 2022 I still get men who think they're allowed to call me derogatory names and I'm not an exception.

Women lack support, from all spheres, be government policy, financing, etc. As a result, they stay away from participating in the industry.

What three pieces of advice would you give to someone embarking on their career with LPG?

Despite its challenges the industry holds lots of potential, therefore don't be discouraged and continue with your interest of the industry.

Like any career path be sure to plan your career before entry and ensure that you understand the LPG value chain to identify opportunities.

Don't be afraid to ask for help, there are great local and global networks to lean on.



#WINLPG

Women in LPG Global Network

www.wlpga.org