



THE
SPEAKERS FIRM™

OUR VOICE, DRIVING EXPONENTIAL GROWTH

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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS FIRM



Simphiwe Masiza
FOUNDER & DIRECTOR: THE SPEAKERS FIRM

Director of The Speakers Firm, **Simphiwe Masiza** is also the founder and CEO of Empowaworx a high-end strategic creative marketing agency. Simphiwe sits on a number of boards, and is also a sought-after inspirational speaker, author and charismatic MC.

One of South Africa's largest talent bureaus, The Speakers Firm represents the country's leading thought engineers that include professional key-note orators, facilitators, motivational speakers, academics, coaches, consultants, best-selling authors, CEO's and executives of multi-national corporations, internationally acclaimed thought leaders, entrepreneurs, celebrities, comedians, economists and analysts.

The Speakers Firm is a level 1 BBBEE agency, delivering the very best talent this country has to offer, as well as exceptional service to our many clients. For all your speaker needs – from year-end functions and key note addresses to seminars, small-group facilitation, graduations, endorsements and more, The Speaker's Firm is the go-to choice. The Speakers Firm represents numerous high-ranking individuals whose experience and knowledge is used to deliver creative business solutions at boardroom and management level.

The wealth of knowledge at our finger-tips is encapsulated by the people we represent, from Nobel Laureates, leading sports celebrities, and sought-after thought leaders – all with the ability to speak with authority and credibility on a vast range of topics – tailored specifically for your needs and budget.

With a 24/7 service, The Speaker's Firm is your partner in creating a memorable event that is highly valuable to all who attend.

We deliver. Whatever you need.

From world renowned motivational, professional, keynote, celebrity and business speakers and entertainers for events, conferences, board and strategy meetings, product launches, team-building, road shows, year-end functions, graduations and even endorsements.

We're big on diversity

giving you the ability to host an event that truly reflects today's world, and more specifically, today's South African world, within a global context.

Our team is made up of exceptionally motivated professionals that include clinical psychologists, MBAs, PhDs; ensuring that what you want to achieve with your event is done seamlessly, intellectually and designed to have the greatest impact and positive outcomes.

The Speakers Firm team are all meticulous problem solvers and idea generators, bringing intellectual curiosity and a passion for world-shaping impact to each new challenge. This enables The Speakers Firm to adapt and configure events suited for your culture, aspirations and priorities. We pursue your objective by helping you address your toughest challenges and developing ground-breaking knowledge sessions, assisting attendees to get the most out of any event.

Using laughter as an effective learning tool, The Speakers Firm represents some of this country's best talent, ensuring that your event is not just memorable, but also a truly enlightening experience for all involved.

Additionally, we represent some of South Africa's hottest entertainers, who will absolutely delight and dazzle audiences, creating the appropriate mood and ensuring an environment of openness, communication and the desire to interact.

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Meet some of our esteemed panel of inspirational world renowned MCs from our Speakers Bureau

Master of Ceremonies

The role of an MC is to warm up the crowd, to prepare them for the program ahead. The MC sets the tone and makes the main stars of the show (guests) look good and makes sure there are smooth transitions between different segments of the program so that it flows smoothly.

A corporate MC plays a crucial role in the success of any corporate event. They help to represent the conference or event as a whole, while keeping the show on schedule and keeping the audience engaged. The MC needs to be a quick thinker who is able to respond to audience moods and needs as they arise, as well as have a sense of humour and a good grasp of the event's overriding subject matter and theme.

We represent a vast array of MCs who all work tirelessly to ensure your event is professionally executed.

Thami Ngubeni
BUSINESSWOMAN & MEDIA PERSONALITY



We have numerous well-known and highly regarded public speakers, MCs and entertainers on board, here are just a few who are available to take your event to the next level

Motivation & Keynote

Events, seminars and conferences almost always require a Keynote speaker. It's essential that the right person is found for the audience and event type. With the world focusing on niche and specialisation, as opposed to generalisation, Keynote speakers are becoming a high-demand commodity. This isn't about rah-rah speeches anymore – it's about delving deep with clarity into a topic that is relevant and useful to the audience.

If you think of an orchestra, where numerous instruments are playing, it becomes a great analogy for a conference, seminar or event. The Keynote speech sets the tone, the timbre and the cadence, which is vital for getting the audience into the right mood and moving the event along the right trajectory. A great Keynote speaker is able to understand and fully outline the overarching theme, setting the scene for all that will follow. This is done by building up the audience and making them think about a topic in a way they may not have done before. The Keynote speaker's job is to leave the audience inspired and excited about the information they'll be hearing during the rest of the conference or seminar.

The Speakers Firm has a plethora of excellent keynote and motivational speakers to suit any audience or topic.

Prof Bonang Mohale

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE, PROFESSOR OF PRACTICE IN THE JOHANNESBURG BUSINESS SCHOOL (JBS) COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS, CHAIRMAN OF BOTH THE BIDVEST GROUP LIMITED AND SBV SERVICES. PAST PRESIDENT OF THE BMF AND AUTHOR OF THE BEST SELLING BOOK, "LIFT AS YOU RISE".

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Facilitators & Panel Chairpersons

Business has changed over the years – a more inclusive, less formal way of conducting business has become the norm, along with transparency and a deeper understanding of people as individuals.

Communication is a way of building and maintaining relationships. Without effective communication skills, it is difficult to properly construct and foster productive relationships. It is also a facilitator for innovation – when employees feel comfortable in openly communicating new ideas, cooperation and innovation will be at an all-time high. Effective team building is only done through open communication. When employees feel that they are well informed of the company's direction and vision, they will feel more secure within their role. Regular internal communication can also lead to an improved work ethic if staff are reminded of achievements and feel that they are working towards a common goal.

Good and effective communication is an essential tool in achieving productivity and maintaining strong, lasting working relationships at all levels of an organisation. Employers who invest time and energy into delivering clear lines of communication will rapidly build trust amongst employees, leading to increases in productivity, output, and morale in general.

Poor communication in the workplace will inevitably lead to unmotivated, ill-informed staff that may begin to question confidence in their abilities and eventually the organisation as a whole.

Get your organisation on track with effective communication – whether for an event, a boardroom session or a change-management programme. The Speakers Firm represents a pool of highly effective facilitators and chairpersons who can ensure your goals and information is succinctly communicated.

Cathy Mohlahlana
NEWZROOM AFRIKA'S LEAD ANCHOR,
SPEAKER & MC

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4IR & THE FUTURE OF WORK

New forces are transforming the world of work: Technological development, environmental crisis, demographic shifts, globalisation and economic insecurity. While some jobs will be lost, and many others created, almost all will change. South Africa has a youth population of 20.6 million making up 35.7 per cent of the country's total population. However, with the unemployment rate reaching its highest since 2003 and the fact that many South African citizens lack the skills to cope with the demand of The Fourth Industrial Revolution; **it begs the question of whether South Africa is prepared for the future of work.**

To 'future proof' their investments in re-skilling and hiring, and maximise the productivity of their workforces, companies will need to adapt to evolving employee expectations and ways of working. Those include greater focus on meaningful work, flexibility and autonomy, continuous growth and connection.

Do you know how to keep your business on a growth trajectory in today's climate? Do you want to inspire your staff and management to creatively innovate and find solutions to the challenges and opportunities faced by the 4th Industrial Revolution? We have a selection of speakers who will inform, inspire and educate you and your audience on the latest trends and solutions.

Prof Tshilidzi Marwala

VICE CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG

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Media Reputation & Branding

Reputation has always been a cherished quality. However, it has arguably never been more volatile. The internet, consumer generated feedback and social media has created an environment in which seemingly modest transgressions can have widespread consequences, and where a single, serious incident can cause long-term or perhaps terminal damage to an individual, organisation or nation. Today's news is no longer yesterday's chip paper - the online testament lasts a great deal longer.

We are in the midst of a new economy, in which reputation and trust are burning platforms, and powerful drivers of economic and strategic change. Consumers and community interests are armed with social media tools and instant ratings platforms. They expose and vote with their fingers; and can buy elsewhere with a simple tap. Meanwhile, for individuals, an online ledger in the form of social media can serve as a list of publicly accessible transgressions. The Speakers Firm represents professionals within this space who can assist in informing and educating your audience on best practices within the realm of reputation management and effective branding.



Sylvester Chauke

SELF-CONFESSED MADONNA CRAZY, MULTI-WARD WINNING ENTREPRENEUR
& FOUNDER OF DNA BRAND ARCHITECTS

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GENDER, HIV AIDS & SEXUALITY

Despite the movement towards gender equality around the world, there is still a long way to go. The world is geared towards patriarchy and change will take time. However, conversations that are taking place on a global level are making headway towards changing the narrative. The issue is systemic and as with most deep-seated systems, change is slow.

Gender inequality and HIV and AIDS are interconnected phenomena. The workplace is an important entry point to address both. In order to be effective, workplace initiatives on HIV must address gender issues including related and underlying HIV and AIDS vulnerabilities, as well as the specific needs of both women and men.

A big focus in recruiting today is workplace diversity, which can be defined as: understanding, accepting, and valuing differences between people of different races, ethnicities, genders, ages, religions, disabilities, and sexual orientations, as well as differences in personalities, skill sets, experiences, and knowledge bases.

The Speakers Firm represents highly qualified speakers who are all professionals within the sphere of gender, HIV/AIDS and Sexuality, enabling you to learn how to embrace the changing work of gender identity, as well as address issues such as diversity as well as HIV/AIDS in the context of the workplace.



Mbuyiselo Botha

COMMISSIONER, COMMISSION FOR GENDER EQUALITY, SPEAKER & MC

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Strategy, People & Governance

Studies have shown that the most effective leadership initiatives are those that are appropriately directed. They also describe successful companies as being able to adapt their leadership development practices according to their business goals, needs or challenges.

When leaders take personal accountability, they are willing to answer for the outcomes of their choices, their behaviours, and their actions in all situations in which they are involved. Accountable leaders do not blame others when things go topsy-turvy. Rather, they make things right – they are fixers. Accountable leaders build an accurate understanding of their organization – where it excels and where it has opportunity. Accountable leaders step up to champion opportunities to succeed. Accountable leaders question the decisions and processes that shape your organization. They ask questions and they find answers – the best answers.

The Speakers Firm can tap into a vast pool of speakers with exceptional experience and knowledge of the issues faced by leaders in today's world, expounding on how to lead, what good governance really means and how to maximise people potential through effective culture building.



Siphwe Moyo
SPEAKER | FACILITATOR | AUTHOR

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

Today's workforce is multi-generational, with both Millennials and Generation Z's as the driving force behind conversations about health and wellness in the workplace. According to research just published by ClassPass, "Seventy-five percent of professionals surveyed believe it is their employer's responsibility to contribute to their health and wellbeing, ideally in part by providing wellness benefits to employees."

Wellness is all-encompassing, covering every aspect of human health, from mental to physical wellbeing. The medical versus the wellness model stresses the importance of educating not only health care givers, but also patients on how to manage wellness, as opposed to merely addressing symptoms.

Non-communicable (or, lifestyle) diseases account for 71% of all deaths globally. And yet, these are preventable. In their report, Mortality and causes of death in South Africa, 2016: Findings from death notification, Stats SA says, "Notably, the top 3 leading natural causes of death for males had a combination of communicable and noncommunicable diseases, while for females there were only non-communicable diseases."

Discover, with the input from our pool of highly qualified speakers, how to navigate employee wellness as well as what the trends are in both the health and wellness industries as well as business wellness.



Dr Victor Ramathesele
DOCTOR, MEDIA PERSONALITY, MC & SPEAKER

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Economics & Politics

Economics is concerned with studying and influencing the economy. Politics is the theory and practice of influencing people through the exercise of power, e.g. governments, elections and political parties.

In theory, economics could be non-political. An ideal economist should ignore any political bias or prejudice to give neutral, unbiased information and recommendations on how to improve the economic performance of a country. Elected politicians could then weigh up this economic information and decide.

In practice there is a strong relationship between economics and politics because the performance of the economy is one of the key political battlegrounds. Many economic issues are inherently political because they lend themselves to different opinions.

The Speakers Firm represents numerous highly informed and talented experts who can help you navigate how politics and economics can affect your business as well as the way in which you need to lead into the future.

Prof Tinyiko Maluleke
POLICY AND POLITICAL ANALYST

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TRENDS, DISRUPTION, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

The Fourth Industrial Revolution's technologies, such as artificial intelligence, genome editing, augmented reality, robotics, and 3-D printing, are rapidly changing the way humans create, exchange, and distribute value. As occurred in the previous revolutions, this will profoundly transform institutions, industries, and individuals. More importantly, this revolution will be guided by the choices that people make today: the world in 50 to 100 years from now will owe a lot of its character to how we think about, invest in, and deploy these powerful new technologies.

Companies today are scrambling to catch up with the technology speed train; The Speakers Firm has access to some of South Africa's foremost experts on disruptive technology, innovation and the impact of the 4th Industrial Revolution.

John Sanei

TREND SPECIALIST, BUSINESS INNOVATION
STRATEGIST AND FUTURIST

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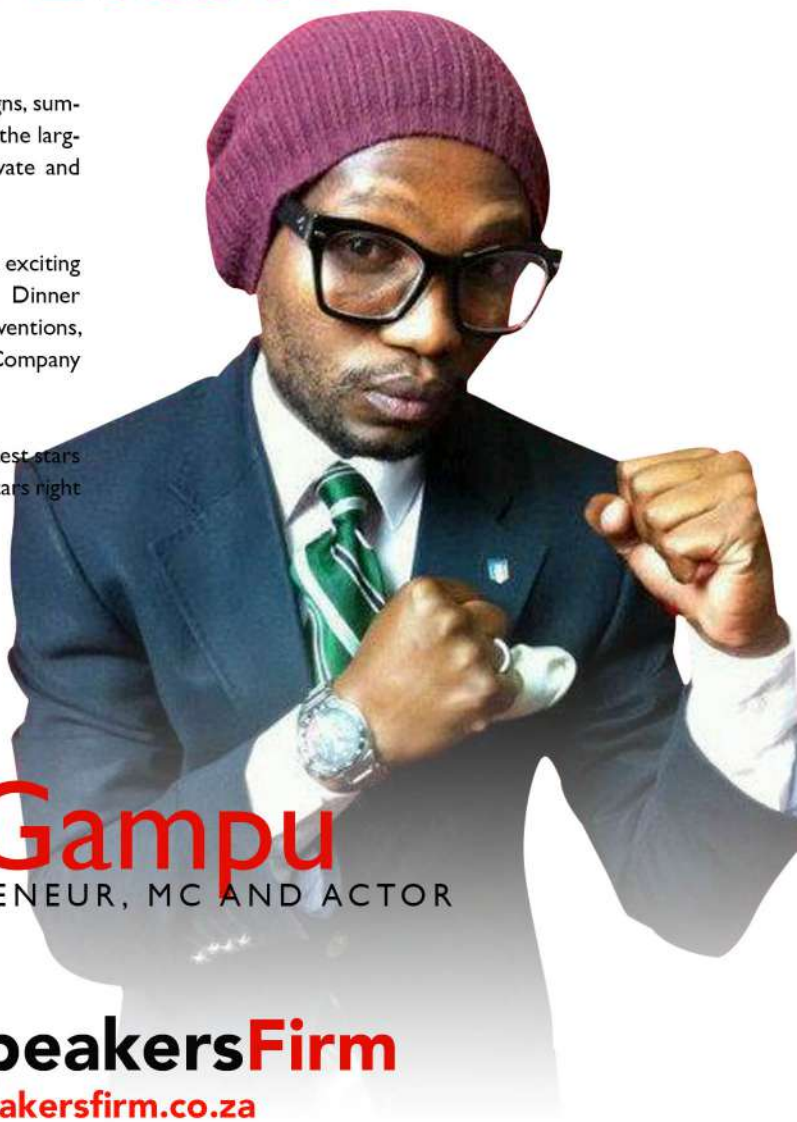
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Leading Comedians

The Speakers Firm manages comedy talent for brand campaigns, summits, dinners events and Empowaworx has grown into one of the largest suppliers of comedians and humorous speakers for private and public organizations.

Our corporate event comedians provide some of the most exciting corporate entertainment choices available for After Dinner Entertainment, Sales Meetings, Award Banquets, Conventions, Conferences, Awards Banquets, Trade Shows or the Annual Company Holiday Party.

As The Speakers Firm, we have access to the biggest and brightest stars in comedy and entertainment, from stand-up legends and TV stars right through to some of the most exciting rising stars of today.



Isaac Gampu

COMEDIAN, ENTREPRENEUR, MC AND ACTOR

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TEAM BUILDING

“None of us is as smart as all of us.”

– Ken Blanchard

Today's world revolves around interaction and collaboration – it's a knowledge economy, which is why effective teamwork is critical to the success of any business. Creating a cohesive team encourages multi-disciplinary work and fosters flexibility, responsiveness and people's ability to adapt to change. By working in a team, all members of that team are able to input and derive value from the collective; this means that the team as a whole can celebrate successes and overcome challenges together, giving each individual a better opportunity to grow and learn.

Working in a team also ensures that the best person for the task is present to do it – instead of working as individuals and in silos, there is a sense of collaboration and getting the job done; there is also a greater sense of accountability in teams, with members able to both encourage and regulate each other. Innovation and creative thinking also happen more efficiently and abundantly in a team – the brainstorm or 'spit-balling' approach to problems or challenges in a team brings about numerous different approaches and angles, based on the teams varied life and work experiences.



Steve Khompela

SENIOR COACH AT MAMELODI SUNDOWS FC
FOOTBALL ANALYST

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Meet some our esteemed panel of world renowned female speakers from our Speakers Bureau

Leading **Female** Speakers

We represent the **best female keynote speakers** to deliver hard-hitting, inspirational and **knowledgeable** keynote addresses to make any event a success.



Thami **Nkadimeng**

MESSAGE ARCHITECT, COMMUNICATION STRATEGIST, HOST,
MODERATOR, SPEAKER & BRAND AMBASSADOR

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FACILITATORS « MCS « COMEDIANS « KEYNOTE SPEAKERS « INFLUENCERS « THOUGHT LEADERS

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