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Sindi Mabaso congratulates Futhi Mtoba (centre) who won the Nedbank Businesswoman of the Year 2004 award last night. Suzanne Ravenall (second from left), Ann Nurock (second from right) and Ingrid Diesel (far right) were finalists in the competition.

PHOTO: LEN KUMALO

Mtoba makes her mark

By Shane Dladla

DEBUTY chairwoman of Deloitte & Touche Futhi Mtoba last night won the 25th Business Woman of the year award in Sandton, Johannesburg.

"Mtoba is a winner who heralds great things, given what she has achieved and all she represent about the country and its women," said Dr Namane Magoro, president of Business

Women's Association.

She said apart from recognising the success of women in business, the award was also a celebration of women's contribution in the country's economy.

"Mtoba is truly a remarkable person. What strikes somebody about her is that she is an incredible, modest and unassuming person with a great sense of humour,"

said Richard Buchholz the MD for

Nedbank business banking.

Buchholz, who was also one of the judges, said the high calibre of the candidates made it difficult to select the winner.

Mtoba's professional career began in Umhata at the accounting firm W L Nkubhu and company in association with Hoek and Wiehlem.

She joined Deloitte & Touche in 1988, where she was the first black woman to be appointed as a partner.