

business firmament

Businesswoman of the Year Award. **Nalisha Kalideen** spoke to them.



INGRID DIESEL
CEO and GM, Fancourt Estate

Diesel is now head of Fancourt, rated best in the world, but 10 years ago her biggest obstacle was being a woman in a male-dominated environment.

"Sure there have been moments when things were tough but I've actually haven't ever had second thoughts about what I do. I've been part of growing the product from the start and developing our product into something which is really exclusive."

Her biggest problem has been holding on to good staff in the fluid sector.

Diesel runs the entire resort and oversees all of Fancourt's operations, which cover a hotel, a world-class golf course and real estate.

"There is only one way in business and that is right down the middle. It means being straightforward and being able to operate honestly," she says.

"The people who work for you learn through that. In the end, we have a product that is really exclusive."



SINDI MABASO
Chief financial officer, Transnet

Mabaso heads the continent's leading transport and logistics organisation, with assets of more than R70-billion.

Among her achievements has been leading the team that crafted a solution to the R6-billion hedgebook loss that resulted from the rand's strengthening.

She has been in charge of fine-tuning funding mechanisms for the refurbishment and modernisation of the Transnet Group infrastructure to the amount of R15-billion.

"What keeps me going is my own inner spiritual belief, to know there is more out there than what I do on a given day."

Mabaso is regarded as a leader in the field of corporate financial management.

She has been named one of the 20 most powerful businesswomen by the *Financial Mail* and featured prominently on the JSE's list of the 100 Most Powerful Businesswomen.



SUZANNE RAVENALL
CEO, IDCS Beyond Outsourcing

Born in the UK, Ravenall completed school at 16 and by 20 was sales manager for a ferry company and training university graduates for the working environment.

She came to South Africa because of her interest in the cellphone industry. After working for Vodacom for four years, she left in 1997 to start her own business, IDCS Beyond Outsourcing, an outsourcing operational implementation company.

IDCS has been recognised as one of the Best Companies to Work For two years in a row, as one of the Top 300 Companies in SA two years in a row, and one of the Most Promising Companies in the country.

"Brutal honesty has to be a key value of any business wanting to sustain success. Asking the right questions of your own business and sometimes those that people don't want to hear is critical," she says.