

Raymond Mhlaba Centre for Governance and Leadership Masterclass Speakers

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Ms Sonja De Bruyn is a member of President Ramaphosa's Advisory Council on Investment, and she was previously a member of the Presidential Working Group on B-BBEE in President Mbeki's administration. She was appointed to National Treasury's Jobs Fund in 2025 by Minister Godongwana. In 2019, Sonja was appointed to JP Morgan's EMEA Advisory Council, which recently wound up its activities. She has almost 30 years of transacting and corporate finance advisory experience in Mergers and Acquisitions in South Africa and internationally, as well as latterly, in Private Equity since 2016. She is the Founder and Principal Partner of Identity Capital Partners, a women-led investment firm based in Johannesburg.

She was previously Executive Director of Women's Development Bank Investment Holdings (2002 – 2007) and before that, Vice President at Deutsche Bank, primarily based in South Africa and working in their London and Tokyo offices as well (1997 – 2002).

Over the last 25 years, Sonja has served in various Board roles initially as a shareholder representative and since 2005 also as an Independent NED. In the listed space, she is on the Board of RMB Holdings (previous Chair), and she is the Deputy Chairman and Lead Independent Director of Remgro Group. In the unlisted space, Sonja is Chairman of Total Energies Southern Africa. She retired from the Boards of Rand Merchant Insurance and Discovery Group in 2021 and was previously on the boards of Ethos Private Equity, FirstRand, Anglo American Platinum, Mr Price Group, Nestle South Africa, and the National Empowerment Fund (a South African DFI).

In 2010, Sonja was named one of the Class of Young Global Leaders by the World Economic Forum and has been awarded and recognised by the Black Management Forum and by the Association of Black Securities and Investment Professionals (ABSIP Woman of the Year 2014).

STUDENT RESPONDENT



Tasmin Jones is a PhD candidate in the Department of Public Management and Leadership at Nelson Mandela University. Her doctoral research is on governance and co-production in the public sector's response to organised crime in Nelson Mandela Bay. In 2024-2025, she was awarded a Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) internship at Rhodes University. Tasmin's research interests include ethical leadership, collaborative governance, and public policy.