

Women as Gatekeepers of Society

By Meg Ubarieke

“Educate a woman, you educate a nation”

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka.



Through the ages, women have always been pillars of every society known to man. They occupy positions both high and low and their contributions to their family, community, state and country has stood the test of time. Sometimes it is subtle and unsung but other times, seen by all around.

African women continue to impact their society at every level, no matter how small or unseen. They are daughters who never forget their roots and look out for family

at great cost to themselves. They are a support base to their spouses and are often seen toiling and working to support family, be it through trading, farming in rural areas, or working in offices and all facet of human endeavour. They function alongside their male counterparts, working nine to five jobs, earning a living and most times, coming home to continue as mothers who have to satisfy the needs of their children as well as fulfilling their roles as wives. These women toil day in and out; under the

sun or in the rain, they just keep going. Just look around you... Sometimes they are even the sole providers as widows and single parents.

Women as gatekeepers of the family, continue to partner with their husbands to establish a healthy, happy and thriving family. A woman inculcates in her children the important values for life. She shows the importance of hard work by modelling on a daily basis, these traits; her children see her caring for her family, the perseverance and oneness of purpose she

displays by standing by her man through all odds in home building. They are not only physical nurturers but also stand firm to make sure that the spiritual needs of her children and family are met; she prays for, and guides her children spiritually while instilling in them, the value of good conduct and discipline.

Women take their roles seriously in the society and can be seen in all walks of life, contributing to nation building as Educators, Re-

