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BUILDING A LEGACY WITH GLAMOUR, GOLD AND HEART.

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BUILDING A LEGACY WITH GLAMOUR, GOLD, AND HEART. INSIDE THE 21ST CENTURY WOMAN EXPERIENCE

In a world where women are rewriting the rules of leadership, success, and legacy, the 21st Century Woman experience stands as a powerful celebration of possibility. Spearheaded by the visionary team at Mustard Seed, this platform is a movement dedicated to empowering African women to rise boldly, connect deeply, and lead unapologetically.

This year's theme, Building a Legacy with Glamour, Gold, and Heart, perfectly captures the spirit of the modern African woman, one who embraces her shine without dimming her authenticity, measures her worth in impact as much as in achievement, and leads with both power and empathy. It's a call to action for women from all walks of life to own their narratives, amplify their voices, and create spaces where they can thrive together.

Behind this transformative experience is a team of dynamic, purpose-driven women. From CEO Linda Omara Koledade, whose leadership blends strength and softness, to creative forces like Thato Mametse, Lunathi Ayandibu, Kelebogile Mokgathle, and Oratile Motswe each bringing their unique vision and passion to the table.

Together, they are curating an unforgettable experience designed to inspire, equip, and connect a new generation of African women who are not just chasing success, but building legacies. Millennial Woman Magazine had an opportunity to chat with them:

Q) LET'S START AT THE HEART OF IT ALL, WHAT INSPIRED THE CREATION OF THE 21ST CENTURY WOMAN EVENTS?

A) What inspired the creation of the 21st Century Woman events is the desire to empower women, celebrate their achievements in a rapidly changing world, promote equality. To provide a platform for women to connect with each other, share experiences, learn new skills and women from different fields, backgrounds, culture to come together to build a supportive network.

Q) THE EVENT'S THEME FOR THIS YEAR, "BUILDING A LEGACY WITH GLAMOUR, GOLD AND HEART," IS INCREDIBLY EVOCATIVE. HOW DOES THIS REFLECT THE ETHOS OF MUSTARD SEED AND ITS MISSION TO EMPOWER AFRICAN WOMEN?

A) Mustard Seed is all about planting something small but mighty, something that grows with intention, brilliance, and impact. "Glamour, gold and heart" isn't just a theme, it's our North Star. Glamour, because African women do not dim their shine. Gold, because our excellence is our currency. Heart, because at our core, we lead with empathy, generosity, and soul. That's the Mustard Seed way.

LINDA OMARA KOLEDADE

Q) TO LINDA: AS THE CEO OF MUSTARD SEED, WHAT DOES LEADING A TEAM OF WOMEN ON INITIATIVES LIKE THE 21ST CENTURY WOMAN MEAN TO YOU?

A) Leading a team of very committed, brilliant and creative women is very inspiring, it embodies the essence of what a 21st Century Woman is. It has afforded me the opportunity to regularly reflect and grow as a leader. I will admit I have a strong personality, and I work with bold women, so leading this team of women allows me to go beyond being tough, I can fully embrace my softer, feminine side and I absolutely enjoy it.

THATO MAMETSE

Q) TO THATO: WHAT HAS BEEN THE HIGHLIGHT OF PLANNING THIS EDITION OF THE 21ST CENTURY WOMAN?

A) The highlight has truly been the women we're planning it for. They are the heartbeat of everything we do. The women in our ecosystem consistently show up with a desire to grow, learn, and uplift one another, and that inspires us. Every decision has been made with them in mind: How will they feel? What will serve them best? What will leave them empowered after attending? We've designed this experience for a diverse yet like-minded community of entrepreneurs, professionals, and creatives, who are all committed to connection, collaboration, and rising together. That's what makes this event so powerful, and so necessary.

LUNATHI AYANDIBU**Q) TO LUNATHI: WHAT DO YOU LOVE THE MOST ABOUT BEING A 21ST CENTURY WOMAN?**

A) I love the freedom to be everything, bold and soft, serious and playful, grounded and glamorous. I don't have to choose between ambition and joy, between nurturing others and prioritizing myself. I am the whole mosaic, beautifully complex and fiercely alive.

KELEBOGILE MOKGATHLE**Q) TO KELEBOGILE: WHAT ROLES DO EVENTS LIKE THE 21ST CENTURY WOMAN PLAY IN REDEFINING WHAT POWER, SUCCESS AND LEGACY LOOK LIKE FOR AFRICAN WOMEN?**

A) Events like the 21st Century Woman play a vital role in redefining power, success, and legacy for African women by centring community, authenticity, and emotional well-being. They offer a space where success is not just about status or accumulation, but about impact, connection, and wholeness. African women have always thrived in interdependence; our strength has never been individual; it's always been communal. This space reignites that truth. It says: you don't have to do it alone. Ultimately, the 21st Century Woman event, and many of its kind, play a vital role in helping us move from surviving to thriving, and from hustling in isolation to building legacies with glamour, gold, and heart, together.

ORATILE MOTSWWE**Q) TO ORATILE: WHICH 21ST CENTURY WOMAN INSPIRES YOU, AND WHY?**

A) The 21st Century Woman that inspires me is Kris Jenner; she's a key figure in the evolution of her daily life for years. She's a strategic manager, brand builder, creator of a genre, culture shifter, empowers women, has built a legacy and she still has time for her family to be a mother and grandmother. That's why she inspires me.

The 21st Century Woman initiative invites every woman to take up space, own her story, and leave an imprint that will inspire generations to come. Because in the end, building a legacy isn't just about what we achieve, it's about how we make others feel along the way.