



MINERALS COUNCIL
SOUTH AFRICA



Women in Mining

Dr Urishanie Govender

**CHIEF SUSTAINABILITY
OFFICER**

HARMONY GOLD



Dr Urishanie Govender, Chief Sustainability Officer at Harmony Gold, is advancing education, sustainability, and women's development in the mining sector. With two master's degrees, a PhD in Business Leadership, and a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of the Witwatersrand, she has consistently demonstrated academic excellence and a commitment to lifelong learning.

At Harmony Gold, Dr Govender has led initiatives that integrate sustainability with inclusive development. Her programmes in renewable energy, water treatment, and community development have created opportunities for equitable access to resources while embedding sustainability into business strategy. Key initiatives include the SATCAP Digital Tool, which helps assess and improve community training and livelihood needs, and the Harmony Water Ambition Roadmap, promoting sustainable water management across operations.

Alongside her sustainability work, she is a vocal advocate for gender empowerment. Dr Govender mentors women in mining, develops leadership programmes, and champions platforms for education, skills development, and inclusion. She also supports women's participation in strategic initiatives such as the Just Energy Transition, ensuring transformation is sustainable and inclusive.

Dr Govender has implemented innovative tools and initiatives to understand and address the training and livelihood needs of local communities, bridging industry, academia, and society. Her work ensures that women gain the skills, confidence, and opportunities to thrive in mining and make lasting contributions.

Through her leadership, mentorship, and advocacy, Dr Govender is shaping a mining sector that values education, empowerment, and inclusion, building pathways for women to succeed and leave a meaningful impact.

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EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT **HEROES 2025**