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Jahni
de Villiers



Here to be Persuasive

**A voice for change:
From the CCMA to the
National Minimum Wage
Commission, Jahni
shows us just how
powerful our voices can**

Growing up with two younger sisters, Jahni learned early the meaning of responsibility, resilience and looking out for others. Those lessons would quietly become the foundation of a life dedicated to creating fairer opportunities for people and communities.

Jahni's path began with a law degree from Nelson Mandela University in Gqeberha, but her purpose was shaped just as much outside the lecture hall. In 2005, she entered the world of labour relations as a union official in Pretoria.

For 12 years, she represented workers, navigated complex disputes and negotiated on their behalf at the CCMA. It was an experience that taught her the power of listening, the importance of courageous conversations and the difference that one determined voice can make.

Alongside a demanding career, Jahni was building a family with her husband and raising their daughter

and son. She continued to invest in herself, completing an LLM through Unisa, specialising in sexual harassment law. Her academic work later became deeply practical when she served as lead employer negotiator at The National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) for the Code of Good Practice on the Prevention and Elimination of Harassment in the Workplace.

In 2017, Jahni stepped into a new chapter as Director of Labour and Development at Agri SA, representing the primary agriculture sector in influential labour-policy discussions. In 2020, she founded Labour Amplified, a bold step that allowed her to build a platform around her expertise, advocacy and belief in better labour systems.

Today, Jahni is a Commissioner on the National Minimum Wage Commission and Deputy Chairperson for Social Policy at Business Unity South Africa. Her influence reaches beyond South Africa, with her work contributing to international conversations on decent work, violence and harassment, apprenticeships and the changing world of work.

But for Jahni, leadership is not only about the rooms she enters. It is also about the doors she can help open for others.

Her commitment to growth continues. In 2026, she began a second Master of Laws at the University of Pretoria, specialising in Disability Rights in Africa.

After more than two decades in her profession, Jahni de Villiers remains driven by a simple but powerful belief: meaningful change happens when people are willing to use their voices, challenge what is not working and create space for others to thrive.

Her story is still being written and she is determined to make every chapter count.

**Your
story
matters**

