

# PROFILE

Lilia Franca  
Corporate, Commercial and M&A



## WEBBER WENTZEL

in alliance with > **Linklaters**

### *A brief example of a deal you worked on that stands out for you:*

Leading the team advising Northam Platinum on its landmark c. ZAR 200 billion 2021 BEE transaction and new listing has been challenging but rewarding. When I began working with Northam Platinum in 2014, it was predominantly a single mine company. The capital raised from its 2015 BEE transaction enabled the company to acquire additional mines and processing assets and significantly increase the life of its flagship mine. The 2021 transaction is a culmination of Northam Platinum's countercyclical growth strategy. I have been fortunate to be a part of this journey over the past seven years as legal adviser to this incredible client.

Another deal that stands out was advising Capitalworks on its take private of the Peregrine Group. We announced the deal in March 2020, which coincided with the turmoil brought about by Covid-19 on global markets and the varying lockdown measures across the world. We closed and implemented this very complex transaction (which involved multiple jurisdictions and a two-tiered LBO structure) working entirely remotely, which had never been done before and meant we had to find ways of collaborating and overcome new challenges. The deal eventually won the Catalyst Private Equity Deal of the Year 2020. A year on, this way of working is normal and has become the way M&A is done.

### **What is your expertise/specialist knowledge?**

*I have over 15 years of experience advising on capital markets transactions and M&A in the listed space and have particular expertise in public takeovers and take-privates.*

### HIGHLIGHTS

- > Named by Legal 500 2017 - 2021 as a legal expert
- > Named by Best Lawyers 2020 - 2021 as a leading individual
- > Named by IFLR1000 in 2016 and 2020 as a leading lawyer

### AN INTERESTING PERSONAL FACT ABOUT YOU:

I am interested in identifying, propagating and planting indigenous plants and trees and am an avid wildlife photographer.

### **Your advice to women in the corporate world**

*As women, we are fortunate to be professionals now and live in a country where it is possible to achieve our career objectives. Don't allow challenges and disappointments to make you feel discouraged or marginalised.*