



Africa's  
Travel Indaba 2024  
**BONDay**

**PROGRAMME**

**13 May 2024**

Inkosi Albert Luthuli Convention Centre  
(Durban ICC), Durban South Africa



DISCOVER



CONNECT



GROW





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## BACKGROUND

**Africa's Travel Indaba** is one of the largest tourism marketing events on the African calendar and one of the top three 'must visit' events of its kind on the global calendar.

It showcases the widest variety of Africa's best tourism products and attracts international buyers and media from across the world. Africa's Travel Indaba is owned by South African Tourism and organised by Synergy Business Events (Pty) Ltd.

Africa's Travel Indaba has won the awards for Africa's best travel and tourism show. This award was presented by the Association of World Travel Awards.

The Africa's Travel Indaba **Business Opportunity Networking Day** is a carefully curated selection of educational sessions, informative current trends and topical issues being discussed with the business events industry in a meaningful way. The aim is to empower businesses with the latest in global business events developments and encourage robust conversations towards innovative solutions.



# PLENARY SESSION



**Mr Reggie Xaba**

Footwear Designer and  
Fashion Industrialist



**Mr Edmond Mhlongo**

Founder and director Kwa Mashu  
Community Advancement Projects  
(K-CAP of Positive Arts)



**Sibusiso Vilane**

Motivational and Inspirational  
Speaker, Mountaineer and  
Expedition Guide and Leader.



**Ms Kirsten**

K Neuschafer  
Alone around theWorld to  
Victory



# MODERATOR AND STREAM FACILITATORS

## STREAM 1



**Ms Thami Ngubeni**

Broadcaster / Producer

## STREAM 2



**Mqondisi Gumede**

CEO - OMG

## STREAM 3



**Ms Carol Ofori**

Radio & Television Presenter

## STREAM 4



**Shahan Ramkissoon**

Television & Current  
News Presenter





# BOND<sub>ay</sub> PROGRAMME - 13 MAY 2024: 09h00- 14h30

OPENING PLENARY – UNLIMITED		VENUE: LOWER SOUTH FOYER
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER(S)
09:00 – 09:05	Opening Remarks	Facilitator: <b>Thami Ngubeni</b> , Broadcaster/Producer
09:05 – 09:25	Creating Unlimited Memories: Telling Africa’s Unending Stories	<b>Dr Jerry Mofokeng</b> , South African Actor
09:25 – 09:35	Welcoming Remarks and Introduction of Deputy Minister of Tourism, South Africa	<b>Ms Makhosazana Khanyile</b> , Board Chairperson, SA Tourism
09:35 – 09:50	Keynote Address	<b>Hon. Amos Fish Mahlalela</b> , Deputy Minister of Tourism, South Africa
09:50 – 09:55	Message of Support	<b>Ms Natalia Bayona</b> UNWTO, Executive Director (Recorded message)
09:55 – 10:45	Unlimited Potential: Africa’s Value Proposition	<b>Ms Katlego Mphahlela</b> , IDC Senior Dealmaker, Services SBU <b>Mr Brian Mpono</b> , CEO, Oceans Mhlanga Development <b>Mr Hamza Farooqui</b> , Founder & CEO, The Millat Group <b>Mr Jerry Mabena</b> , Motsamayi, CEO of Motsamayi Tourism Group
<b>10:45 – 11:00 – TEA BREAK &amp; BREAKAWAYS</b>		



**STREAM 1:**  
UNLIMITED

**AFRICAN OPPORTUNITIES:  
TOURISM INVESTMENT  
NARRATIVES**

VENUE:  
**Lower South Foyer**



FACILITATOR:  
**Thami Ngubeni,**  
BROADCASTER/PRODUCER

**STREAM 2:**  
CONNECT

**COLLABORATION:  
THE NEW  
INNOVATION**

VENUE:  
**Upper South Foyer**



FACILITATOR:  
**Mqondisi Gumedu,**  
CEO - OMG

**STREAM 3:**  
DISCOVER

**TECHNOLOGICAL  
ADVANCEMENT  
FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE  
TRANSFORMATION**

VENUE:  
**Meeting Room 12**



FACILITATOR:  
**Carol Ofori,**  
RADIO & TELEVISION PRESENTER

**STREAM 4:**  
GROW

**INSPIRATION  
CORNER**

VENUE:  
**Meeting Room 21**



FACILITATOR:  
**Shahan Ramkissoon,**  
TELEVISION & CURRENT  
NEWS PRESENTER



# BOND<sub>ay</sub> PROGRAMME - 13 MAY 2024: 09h00- 14h30

TIME	STREAM 1	STREAM 2	STREAM 3	STREAM 4
11:00 – 11:45	<p><b>Future of Travel Through the Eyes of the Youth</b></p> <p><b>Michael Monk &amp; Acacia Denison</b>, Yeti the Van</p> <p><b>Ms Farirai Sanyika</b>, Founder &amp; Director, Gobhari</p> <p><b>Ms Katchie Nzama Young</b>, Solo Traveller</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Thami Ngubeni</b>, Broadcaster/Producer</p>	<p><b>Airlift Advancements in Africa</b></p> <p><b>Ms Mpumi Mpofu</b>, Airports Company South Africa</p> <p><b>Mr Mark Wilkinson</b>, Cape Winelands Airport</p> <p><b>Mr Hamish Erskine</b>, Durban Direct</p> <p><b>Mr Shaniel Singh</b>, CemAir</p> <p><b>Ms Tebogo Fihla</b>, Kenya Airways</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Mqondisi Gumede</b>, CEO - OMG</p>	<p><b>Exploring Accessible Tourism and the Role of AI in Advancing Inclusion</b></p> <p><b>Ms Tarryn Tomilson</b></p> <p><b>Mr Jabaar Cassiem Mohamed</b></p> <p><b>Ms Lois Strachan</b></p> <p><b>Ms Elly Suverein</b></p> <p><b>Mr Christopher Phillips</b>, Universal Access Assessor</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Carol Ofori</b>, Radio &amp; Television Presenter</p>	<p><b>The Ties That Bind and a Culture That Unites: SMMEs - The Heartbeat of Tourism</b></p> <p><b>Ms Dumile Cele</b>, Managing Director of Africa Become</p> <p><b>Ms Gugu Sithole</b>, CEO of Glamping Adventures</p> <p><b>Mr Jerry Poole</b>, Owner and Founder, Wushwini Pan African Centre, Inanda</p> <p><b>Mr Thato Mthopeng</b>, SATOVITO</p> <p><b>Ms Thembisile Sehlolo</b>, CMO, SAT</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Shahan Ramkissoon</b>, Television &amp; Current News Presenter</p>
12:00 – 12:45	<p><b>Stimulating Local Economies Through the Tourism Value Chain</b></p> <p><b>Ms Zinhle Mqadi</b>, CEO, Max's Lifestyle</p> <p><b>Ms Nombulelo Guliwe</b>, CEO SAT</p> <p><b>Mr Samora Nqweniso</b>, Acting General Manager, Tourism KZN</p> <p><b>Mr Frank Murangwa</b>, Director of Destination Marketing: Rwanda</p>	<p><b>Leveraging Cross-sectoral Partnerships for Sustainable Solutions</b></p> <p><b>Ms Tanya Maingard</b>, Somkhanda Game Reserve, Director and Shareholder Public, Private &amp; Local Community (Beneficiaries)</p> <p><b>Mr Fana Gumbi</b>, Somkhanda Game Reserve, Secretary of the ECT and Board Member</p> <p><b>Professor Jobo Dubihlela</b>, Head of Masters and Postgraduate Studies, Graduate School of Business and Leadership University of KwaZulu-Natal</p>	<p><b>Harnessing the Power of AI to Optimise the Travellers' Experiences</b></p> <p><b>Ms Nazreen Ebrahim</b>, Director, Naz Consulting International &amp; SA AI Association</p> <p><b>Natalia Rosa</b>, CEO of Big Ambitions</p> <p><b>Mr Toby Shapshak</b>, Shapshak-South African Journalist, Editor and Publisher</p> <p><b>Mr Arthur Goldstuck</b>, CEO, World-wide Worx</p>	<p><b>Looking to New Horizons: The Coastal &amp; Maritime Tourism Economy</b></p> <p><b>Mr Ross Volk</b>, CEO, MSC Cruises</p> <p><b>Ms Londy Ngcobo</b>, CEO &amp; Founder, Global Maritime Youth</p> <p><b>Ms Winile Mntungwa</b>, Deputy Head, Business Support Tourism Markets &amp; Agri-Business Unit eThekweni Municipality (Durban Tourism)</p> <p><b>Ms Bronwen Auret</b>, South African Tourism</p>



# BOND<sub>ay</sub> PROGRAMME – 13 MAY 2024: 09H00- 14h30

CLOSING PLENARY – UNLIMITED		VENUE: LOWER SOUTH FOYER
TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER(S)
12:50 – 13:00	Stream 1-4 Sessions Recap	Stream 1 – <b>Ms Thami Ngubeni</b> , Broadcaster/Producer Stream 2 – <b>Mr Mqondisi Gumede</b> , CEO - OMG Stream 3 – <b>Ms Carol Ofori</b> , Radio and Television Presenter Stream 4 – <b>Mr Shahan Ramkissoo</b> : Television & Current News Presenter
13:05 – 13:40	Africa a Melting Pot of Culture & Experiences: Fashion & Film	<b>Mr Reggie Xaba</b> , Founder and Managing Director of the ZETU Footwear (African shoemaker - IFELE) <b>Mr Edmund Mhlongo</b> , Founder & Director Kwa-Mashu Community Advancement Projects (K-CAP)
13:40 – 14:30	TED Talk: An African Inspirational Story	<b>Mr Sbusiso Vilane</b> , Motivational & Inspirational Speaker, Mountaineer & Expedition Leader & Guide <b>Ms Kirsten Neuschafer</b> , South African sailor <b>Ms Thabo Makhetha-Kwinana</b> , Fashion Designer and Cultural Ambassador





# BONDay

## Speakers Bio





**Mr Mqondisi Gumede**

CEO - OMG

Guiding executives to surpass growth expectations with fewer resources than they think are needed, Mqondisi Gumede stands as a beacon of transformative thinking. His unique approach, rooted in a deep understanding of human psychology and behavioural insights, crafts innovative, capital-light strategies that convert ambitious goals into tangible results.

Mqondisi's journey has been marked by an extraordinary ability to provide lucid, actionable insights to a diverse range of clients, from renowned corporations like Woolworths Financial Services, Danone, Santam, Nedbank and Old Mutual to dynamic entities like South African Tourism and ooba and member-based organisations like IRMSA and GNDI. His past roles, including his leadership at The OMG and his impactful tenure at South African Tourism, underscore his expertise in driving significant change and growth.

His keynotes, described as a blend of captivating storytelling and evidence backed provocations, have resonated with audiences globally. Testimonials from industry leaders such as Jose Rodrigues, Rhys Dyer, and Vusi Thembekwayo attest to Mqondisi's ability to bring fresh perspectives and groundbreaking strategies to complex business challenges. Mqondisi's talks are not just presentations; they are transformative experiences that inspire, challenge, and empower. His expertise spans a wide range of topics, from the intricacies of data management to the subtleties of market dynamics and leadership. Each keynote is a journey towards redefining the possible, pushing bound.





## Ms Carol Ofori

Radio & Television Presenter

Carol is an accomplished and highly regarded voice-over artist, radio presenter, TV presenter, author, and master of ceremonies. With a career spanning over 15 years, she has achieved numerous accolades and notable experiences. In 2023, Carol received the prestigious SOVAS (Society of Voice Artists and Sciences) award, often dubbed the “Oscar for voices,” in the “Africa radio” category. This recognition highlights her exceptional talent and contributions to the industry. She has lent her voice to various significant events and shows throughout her career. For instance, Carol has been the voice of the South African Music Awards, Miss South Africa voice of god, and the MTV MAMA’s voice. She has also voiced many beloved brands such as Cell C, Game, Standard Bank, Dstv, Protex, Parmalat, 947, and KFM. Not limited to voice-over work, Carol is also a Disney character who portrays the role of Manomi in Disney Plus’s first African anthology series called “Kizazi Moto: Generation Fire.”

This demonstrates her versatility and ability to captivate audiences across different mediums. Aside from her voice-over success, Carol has excelled as a radio presenter and TV presenter. She hosted the SABC Talk show “Raising Babies 101” for two seasons and has worked on various radio shows broadcasted on stations like 947, Radio 2000, Metro FM, and East Coast Radio. Hosting her own radio show on East Coast Radio from 9 am to 12 pm, she has earned the endearing nickname “daytime diva” from her fans. Carol’s skills extend beyond broadcasting and entertainment. She is a skilled master of ceremonies, keynote speaker, and facilitator. She has presided over numerous events, including East Coast Radio’s business breakfasts, the KZN top business awards, the Face of Oceans Mall competition, and Sorooptimist International events. Furthermore, Carol is a published author of the children’s book series titled “African Adventures of Sena and Katlego.” The books, published by Lingua Franca Publishers, are available at leading stores and online at Amazon and Takealot.

This initiative showcases her creativity and commitment to engaging with young readers. In partnership with East Coast Radio, Carol launched “The Carol Ofori Podcast” in 2023. The podcast features conversations with seasoned professionals who share their experiences and insights or ordinary people with interesting stories to tell. This platform allows Carol to showcase her interviewing skills and engage with a diverse range of guests. Carol holds two degrees—a journalism degree from the University of Johannesburg and a postgraduate degree in marketing management from the Vega School.





## Mr Shahan Ramkissoon

Television & Current  
News Presenter

Shahan Ramkissoon is a dynamic force in the world of media, celebrated for his unwavering commitment to delivering impactful journalism. With a captivating presence as both Executive Producer and Host of The Last Word with Shahan Ramkissoon, a widely acclaimed weekly programme broadcasted on eTV and eNCA, he commands attention with his thought-provoking insights and probing interviews. Ramkissoon's journey spans nearly two decades across diverse media landscapes, from South Africa to the United States and the United Kingdom. Throughout his illustrious career, he has earned acclaim for his hard-hitting interview style, which serves as a cornerstone of his journalistic integrity. Beyond his professional achievements, Ramkissoon is recognised for his tireless dedication to shaping narratives that inspire and empower audiences. His vision for a media landscape rooted in positivity and authenticity continues to drive his endeavours, cementing his status as a pioneering figure in contemporary journalism. As the Co-Founder of Feel SA, a multimedia production company dedicated to amplifying positive narratives in South Africa, Ramkissoon has carved a distinct niche for himself in the industry.

Ross Volk is the Managing Director of MSC Cruises South Africa, responsible for the commercial growth of the business in the country, a position that he has held since his appointment in 2016. He leads a staff compliment of over 300 in the South Africa group and is responsible for commercial operations, port operations, crewing and island operations in Mozambique. Prior to the Managing Director role, Volk served as the Chief Financial Officer for the company for a period of a year. Between 2009 and 2015, he was a Senior Manager at KPMG, responsible for audits in the financial services, industrial and automotive services, and pharmaceutical services. During the government COVID-19 lockdown in South Africa, and through a collaboration with the Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA), he spent a lot of time with government, lobbying for the lifting of restrictions and reopening of the tourism industry in the country. Volk has a passion for people and has travelled to over 75 countries around the world and has a deep understanding of diversity and different cultures. He is a SAICA qualified Chartered Accountant and holds a BComm (Hons) in Accounting and Finance from the University of Witwatersrand.



## Mr Ross Volk

Managing Director of  
MSC Cruises South Africa





## Ms Thami Ngubeni

Broadcaster / Producer

Thami was once dubbed a 'media chameleon' by one publication, pointing to her diverse career as Radio and TV Broadcaster, Producer, Actress and Presenter. With over 20+ years in media and entertainment, Thami continues to integrate her business acumen with her creative public on-screen work and spiritual core. As a broadcast journalist she currently co-anchors eNCA's 'The SA Morning', 'Africa in Business' on Channel Africa' and the long-running Inspirational Gospel show, The Sacred Space on Metro FM. As an Actress she has had leading roles in internationally broadcast series like medical drama Jozi H, Generations, Known-Gods and The film Critical Assignment, with 'Michael Power'. She has hosted travel and lifestyle shows like 'Free Spirit', 'Africa Within' and 'Top Billing'. She is Winner of 'Best TV Talkshow' for 'Life With Thami' at the 2014 SA Film and TV Awards. Winner of Best Night Time talk show for 'Talk on 2000' at the Liberty Radio Awards. Thami is host, co- producer and founder of popular televised annual faith based gospel festival 'SacredFest'. She is former Editor of O, the Oprah Magazine SA and co-published highly acclaimed book 'My Sacred Spaces' with Penguin Books. She has contributed to the books 'The Power Within' and Thembisa MShaka's, 'Handle Your Entertainment Business'. She has judged the Int Emmy Awards, The BET Int Music Awards, The Miss SA Pageant, The SA Music Awards and the National Film and Video Foundation Awards. A sought after Speaker, she has addressed and inspired youth, women, business people and politicians on topics that provide insight on 'Connecting to your Purpose' and 'Authentic Leadership'. Her spoken word and music inspirational CD, Sacred Path to Healing is released in partnership with Sony. She has been Host of the African Movie Academy Awards, The Crown Gospel Awards and The National Film and TV Awards as well as various Official State functions. As a Producer she has produced TV reality shows like The Apprentice SA with Tokyo Sexwale, Maropeng-The Lion King Returns to Africa with Lebo M, Dramas like Interrogation Room and This Life, Documentary series include 'Amadoda emadodeni' and variety shows like Small Talk.

The Thami Ngubeni Foundation focusses on Gender and Youth issues, Prison Rehabilitation Programs, Peace & Conflict Resolution, Education and Health. Thami is the former Chair of the Business Woman's Association of South Africa -Gauteng and currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Independent Producers Organisation (IPO).





## Mr Brian Mpono

CEO, Oceans Mhlanga  
Development

Brian Mpono a consummate Director of Companies in three key industries namely Information Technology, Electrical Power Infrastructure and Property Development. In his roles as a director of companies, he brings together the overall marketing strategy and market voice of the different businesses and creates cohesion between its brands to facilitate its business strategy. A disruptor with a keen sense for business and a DNA entrenched in innovation, Brian is a serial entrepreneur and consummate marketing professional, melding his expertise to multiple industries with great success. At the Technodyn International, Edison Corporation he uses his extensive understanding of business, passion for mentorship, and dedication to socio-economic development, to drive the organisation into new markets while helping clients realise the value of leveraging data and technology to unearth the secrets to success their businesses hold. From humble beginnings, Brian didn't settle into the welder role that was thrust upon him at the age of 16. Instead, he used this hunger to transform his destiny. After his tertiary education at University of KwaZulu-Natal having pursued a Bachelor of Human Sciences in Media Communications and Management he took to the real world of work where he landed a job in production company that was responsible for a lot of productions on SABC. Starting off as a marketing assistant, didn't settle, he worked his way up to production manager/producer for SABC's most famous choral music program, Imizwilili. A career as a marketing, PR, and communications professional followed, but the entrepreneurial bug bit and in 2009, Brian started his own Biodiesel business – the visionary entrepreneur in him flared!. Staking his claim as the first young black South African in the renewable energies market, a title that also saw him develop and lead a series of infrastructure projects in the sector. His foray into energy landed him an introduction to the Edison Corporation. Brian, before holding the position as executive director at the Edison Corporation, he grew from Group Corporate Affairs Executive and Chief of Staff for the Chairman's office. At Edison, with knack and extreme passion to 'getting-the-job-done', he spearheaded raising capital for the hotel portion of the Edison Property Group's R4bn Oceans Umhlanga Mixed-Use development, the biggest private mixed-use development in South Africa. Through his illustrious career on the Oceans Umhlanga Development, he speaks on both national and international platforms, holds regular interviews also on national and international business radio and television. An energetic, pioneering, and passionate speaker, philanthropist and family man, Brian has continued his personal growth and attended the Gordon Institute of Business Science. His trophy cabinet boasts accolades such as inclusion in the 60 Most Enterprising South African, Sowetan Top 100 Bosses, finalist in the Under 35 Maverick Award for High-End Innovation, and a Disruptor in The Young Independents:Mzansi100. When not at work, he spends time with his "beautiful family" and works to drive socio-economic upliftment in his communities.



## Mr Jerry A Mabena

CEO of Motsamayi Tourism Group

Jeremiah Andrew Mabena holds a degree in industrial psychology and economics from Rhodes University he also holds a diploma in project management from Damelin and a postgraduate certificate program in accounting and finance from Wits Business School .Jerry’s extensive and highly successful business background is a testament to not only his strategic thinking but also his passion for developing talented individuals and working as a team player. Through his integrated approach to business, Jerry has achieved success in various senior executive positions at institutions including Unilever, J Walter Thomson, and Ucingo Marketing, as well as being appointed as CEO at the following institutions: Kagiso Exhibitions and Events (2004 - 2007), Kagiso Property Holding (2007 – 2010), Thebe Property Management and CEO at Thebe Services (2011-2020) Jerry is the CEO of Motsamayi Tourism Group, currently, he holds Board Directorship positions in the following companies: Kruger Shalati, Motsamayi Tourism Group, Combined Motor Holdings, SRS Laundry, Thebe Corridors Company, Ornico Investments, Tourism Transformation Council of South Africa, Jurni and Sanctuary Mandela and the Chairman of Tourism Business Council of SA.

We are Michael & Acacia, a young South African couple traveling our home country full time in our self converted van known as Yeti the Van with our rescue kitten, Rusks. We have been on the road for 3 years, having visited over 100 campsites and countless accommodations we can truly say this country has it all! We enjoy driving the scenic route, parking our van in nature, surfing, mountain biking, bouldering, hiking and kayaking... and yes all these hobbies somehow fit into our tiny home on wheels! Partners in business and life we love the adventurous lifestyle of living in a van and capturing our experiences to share with fellow travellers!



## Ms Acacia Denison & Mr Micheal Monk





## Dr Jerry Mofokeng

South African Actor

Dr. Jerry is a Soweto-born icon of theatre and film, and now published author and public speaker. He brings depth and breadth to all he touches. His vast experience and his training find expression in his professional practice. Whilst he is known and respected for his work as an actor, 2024 introduces him as a film and TV Director. The Beginnings (60's and 70's) It was way back in the late 60's and early 70's when he started with so-called sketches at church. And then he began to make a mark within the youth community at Youth Alive Ministries in Dube Village. His neighbour Mr. Washington Sixolo got him into Sesotho radio drama with Radio Bantu in the early 70's. This planted a seed for the 'Theatre Of The Mind' which was nurtured by plays like 'Tseo Tsohle Ebile Metsamao Ya Ka' and 'Dimilione Tsa Keriri'. His love for his language – Sesotho was inspired by the legendary Mthethwa Makhetha with his mouthwatering poetry programme – Mpoelle. He went beyond listening to the 'Top 20' of music on Springbok Radio to the works of Radio Drama legends like Nigel Vermaas and Jack Mullen. 'Squad Cars' is one memorable series. Theatre is his first love. Although he brings passion and discipline to all he does, his signature is best seen in his directing for theatre. House number 8298 – his home, is 5-minutes' walk from Uncle

Tom's Hall. That is where the seeds of theatre were planted by Gibson Kente. It all started with 'Sikalo' and 'Lifa'. Amongst others, that is where the memorable performance of Mary Twala raised an appetite for acting. Although black stories began to air on TV in the late 70's, these did not really make an impression and a desire to be seen on the screen. The films seen at Eyethu Cinema include 'The Ten Commandments' and 'Ben Hur'. And the Bruce Lee's films and Cowboy movies followed. Even then, he did not necessarily see himself on the screen.

All these influences culminated in him registering with the Wits School of Dramatic Arts in 1983 and going into an 8-year journey of studies. The only theatrical work that he had seen except for Gibson Kente's plays was Sizwe Banzi Is Dead – also at Uncle Tom's Hall. It was at the beginning of his studies that he went into The Market Theatre for the first time and watched productions like Woza Albert.





## Mr Toby Shapshak

South Africa Journalist,  
Editor and Publisher

Toby Shapshak writes and speaks about Innovation. Most eloquently about Innovation in Africa. Through a range of media, from newspapers to television and radio, he speaks regularly on the trends in technology and innovation; and where they are going. He explains how technology has fundamentally changed how we live and work, especially since the artificial intelligence burst into our lives. Toby is the editor-in-chief of Stuff and is a senior contributor to Forbes on innovation, as well as a columnist for the Business Day. His TED Global talk on how Africa how innovation is better in Africa has been viewed over 1,5-million times; and was featured in the New York Times. He believes Africa is a mobile-driven continent and is solving real problems, about which he has written for CNN, The Guardian in London, Quartz and for Forbes. As well as TED Global in Edinburgh (in 2013), he has spoken four times at the South by South West (SxSW) conference in Austin, Texas. He has also spoken at Intel's IDF conference in San Francisco, The Guardian's Activate: Johannesburg on innovation out of necessity, Germany's Zukunftskongress (Future Congress), Sweden's The Conference, AfricaCom in Cape Town, TEDxGateway in Mumbai, and the GSMA's Mobile 360 in Kigali. A winner of the ICT Journalist of the Year, Toby was named in GQ's top 30 men in media and the Mail & Guardian newspaper's influential young South Africans. GQ said he "has become the most high-profile technology journalist in the country" while the M&G wrote: "Toby Shapshak is all things tech. He reigns supreme for everything and anything tech".

As a news and political journalist, he ran Mail & Guardian's website when it was the first news site in Africa, shadowed Nelson Mandela when he was president, and covered the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He has interviewed a range of tech industry luminaries, including Bill Gates and Apple co-founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak.

More: [shapshak.com](http://shapshak.com)





## Mr Samora Nqweniso

Acting General Manager for Tourism Development  
at KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority

Ntabozuko Samora Nqweniso is the Acting General Manager for Tourism Development at KwaZulu-Natal Tourism Authority. In this role he is responsible for Tourism Enterprise Development, Tourism Product Development intervention, and Investment Support for KZN tourism SMME projects. He holds a Post Graduate Dip in Business Administration (Wits Business School), a Bcom Hon. in Marketing (Mancosa), B-tech degree in Tourism Management (NMU) and the MDP on B-BBEE from Unisa School of Business Leadership. Through the span of 15 years' experience in the tourism sector, he has served in various roles within the government sector with a keen interest in community-based tourism initiatives, facilitating rural & township tourism to encourage local participation and transformation, in collaboration with various stakeholders. Currently playing an instrumental role in the establishment and implementation of the 1st tourism cluster in KZN, as an innovative approach to drive destination competitiveness.

My name is Fana Gumbi from Northern part of KwaZulu Natal in Zululand District. I am the representative of the Gumbi community under the Emvokweni Community Trust (ECT), which is the entity that holds the ownership title of the Land on behalf of the community. Somkhanda Community Game Reserve is one of the projects owned by the community for nature conservation purposes. As the community we have established strong partnerships with PAMCO managed by Meiring Prisoos which play the reserve management role to ensure that our reserve complies with all legal requirements that regulate Protected Areas. We also have Somkhanda Big 5 Tourism managed by Tanya which manages the tourism operations within Somkhanda due to their vast experience in the tourism sector. My major role in this entire operation is to play a facilitation role between the community/ECT and commercial operations within the ECT owned property. I also report to the Traditional Council which is led by the Tribal Chief of the Gumbi community.



## Mr Fana Gumbi

Secretary of the ECT and  
Board Member





## Ms Natalia Bayona

UNWTO Executive Director

Natalia Bayona, current Executive Director of UN Tourism and the first person under 40 to reach this position, was distinguished as one of the 10 most influential Colombians residing in Spain and one of the 75 most influential in Latin-America (Forbes) and among the 500 most influential Latin Americans in the world according to Bloomberg.

Natalia is one of the 100 world leaders in innovation according to COTEC, and she is also a member of the World Economic Forum (WEF) network. She has been selected this year by the same Forum as one of the “Young Global Leaders” working for global economic development and generating a visible impact for society.

With an Executive MBA from the IE Business School, and a degree in International Relations from Universidad Externado de Colombia, Natalia Bayona was recognized with the Eisenhower Fellowship for her leadership and commitment to fostering a more prosperous and fairer world through her work in the tourism sector. She is the first Colombian woman to receive recognition for the “Women in Leadership” programme.

After an extensive career working for Colombia’s public sector, Natalia Bayona was Vice President of Spain Startup-South Summit; she then joined UN Tourism in 2018 and created the Innovation, Education, and Investment Department, where the Organization has undertaken ground-breaking initiatives that include more than 15 global entrepreneurship competitions, numerous national challenges, and over 20 innovation and technology forums.

These efforts have fostered the first Global Innovation Network comprising more than 10,000 start-ups from 100 countries, entrepreneurs, companies, public institutions, educational institutions, accelerators, and investors; this dynamic ecosystem has facilitated the acquisition of over US\$214 million (as per Jan 2024) in financing for disruptive companies. Hence, the delivery of important technological results for the tourism industry.



## Ms Katchie Nzama

TheSolowanderer

Mukhatshelwa Gadisi is an intra-African travel adventurer and Storyteller passionate about telling authentic African stories through travel on digital and traditional media. Fondly known as #TheSolowanderer, I am a travel blogger, writer, content developer, beer aficionado, open water swimmer, and PADI-qualified open water scuba diver. From November 2014 to May 2015, I backpacked from Cape to Cairo.

I have travelled to 35 African countries solo using public transport. From June to December 2017, I travelled from Africa's northernmost point to the southernmost point using public transport through 21 countries on an adventure titled #BreakingBorders which aimed to showcase more of West Africa #BreakingBorders was about highlighting the difficulties of traveling through Africa as an African passport holder, the visa processes, and the exorbitant costs of traveling through the continent. As a content developer, I led the research as well as being the presenter of SABC 1's #ComeAgain – a local South African travelogue that aims to promote local tourism through profiling local dorpies (small towns), townships and villages, promoting affordable travel, Indigenous knowledge, nature conservation, culture, art and encouraging Africans to explore the continent. #ComeAgain was my first TV job where I researched content and presented the show. I have been nominated in the 15th South African Film and Television Awards (#SAFTAs) for the Best TV Presenter category, while the show scooped a Best TV Lifestyle Programme Award. As an adventurer, I am always looking to find ways to challenge my limits and take myself out of my comfort zone.

I take up anew hobby every year, so when I'm not traveling or working, I am always trying to improve my skills and knowledge in roller-skating, open water swimming, baking, sewing and reading. When I am not working or busy with my hobbies, I also sit on international panels discussing affordable and accessible travel, an event host, guest Speaker, and MC. My travels have been profiled on local and international platforms such as BBC World, VPRO, ETV, SABC, and numerous radio stations







**Ms Lois Strachan**

Lois Strachan, an Accessible Travel Podcaster, Author, and Speaker, enriches the conversation with her insights gleaned from interviewing numerous stakeholders in the accessible travel industry. As a blind traveller herself having visited more than 20 countries, Lois offers a firsthand account of the challenges and opportunities within this space, emphasising the economic imperative of creating truly inclusive travel experiences for all.

Elly Suverein, who converted her luxury safari lodge Ximuwu in the Kruger National Park into a fully accessible safari lodge, brings a firsthand account of the transformation from traditional to inclusive tourism experiences.



**Mrs Elly Suverein**

Co-founder Ximuwu  
Lodge/Wheelchair Safari



## Ms Tanya Maingard

Somkhanda Game Reserve  
Director and Shareholder

My name is Tanya Maingard, born, schooled and studied in KwaZulu-Natal. I have a degree in Pharmacy and have with my medical knowledge and diverse interest in the medical sphere expanded my profession into partnering with chemical engineers to erect a latex surgical glove plant ( late 1980 's) in Canelands. Was instrumental in starting Gulf Drug company, a generic pharmaceutical company and Spunchem- a polypropylene, non woven manufacturing plant. It was with this non woven fabric that I decided to make disposable laboratory coats so saving SANBS costs on laundry and pilfering of expensive cotton lab coats.

Some 17 years ago I partnered with Dr Len Nel a highly respected dermatologist and we have successfully built a laser and dermatology clinic that has a much respected and professional reputation globally. Being fortunate to be able to travel the world my ideas and creativity broadened to where I was inspired by the magnificent lavender fields of Provence, South of France to build what I have today, a 18 deluxe suite establishment on 3 hectares of lavender fields in Franschhoek, Western Cape called Lavender Farm Guesthouse. I can honestly say, together with my son Daniel ( who happens to be my business partner )we are very proud of the iconic hospitality destination we have developed for all South Africans and international tourists to enjoy. We also have developed a 5 bedroomed villa in Mocambique which tourists love to visit. It was my passion for the African bush and the experience I banked in my heart of that one particular year in early 80 's when I took a sabbatical in my student years.

I worked as a young enthusiastic field student in Etosha Big 5 Reserve in Namibia That year in the early 80's has now completed a full 360 degree circle and 40 years later I find myself at Somkhanda Community Big 5 Game Reserve, Northern KZN .Here, I have assisted with my hospitality experience and personal travel and knowledge to try educate and inspire the community to build a experience for tourists. To believe dreams do come true.



**Ms Nazareen Ebrahim**

SA AI Association

Nazareen Ebrahim has built specialist and strategic capabilities in media, technology, and communications over the last 15 years. Leading the team of business optimization technologists (BOTS) at Naz Consulting International, she is helping businesses redefine the business model of the future by harnessing trusted AI tools to optimize productivity and enhance marketing.

AI Ethics has been a personal and professional focus of research and development for Nazareen over the last 5 years. Her mandate as the AI Ethics Lead at Socially Acceptable is to build a responsible digital citizenry. She has done extensive public education work through radio, television, and online and digital platforms on AI Ethics and digital democracy. Nazareen's portfolio also includes an established media profile. She is an experienced and proficient moderator, keynote speaker, and panel participant at technology/business/communications conferences and events, having participated/hosted at the African Union Media Fellowship Programme in partnership with Gordon Institute of Business Science's Media Leadership Think Tank 2024, AI Expo Africa 2023, Digitize Africa 2023, Global AI Summit 2022, AI Expo Africa 2022/2021, World Cybersecurity Summit 2021, Oracle South Africa Cloud Data Centre launches, and many others.

On air every Tuesday morning as a guest tech commentator and analyst on Cape Talk with Lester Kiewet. On air every Wednesday morning as a guest tech commentator and analyst on Radio AI Ansaar.





## Ms Gugu Sithole

CEO  
of Glamping Adventures (Pty) Ltd

Gugu Sithole is an award-winning tourism practitioner, event’s organizer, keynote speaker, media contributor and festival convener. In her career, she has founded organizations that have successfully trailblazed innovative products in the tourism sector.

Gugu is founder and CEO of Glamping Adventures, a company that offers bespoke glamping experiences in Africa through platforms such as Glampstays and Glamping Expo. . Gugu has produced travel films such as Travelling Again and she is the Executive Producer of a rural community’s arts project called The Conservation Frontier – a project that promotes conservation through arts, for her work.

Gugu has won awards such as The Bold Woman Award by Veuve Clicquot and Women In Conservation by SANParks. Gugu is the current Chairperson of the Board of Johannesburg Tourism Company.

Mr. Thato Mothopeng is the National coordinator of SATOVITO the South African Township and Village Tourism Organization chaired by Mr. Thulani Nzima. Thato Mothopeng is Soweto Tourism’s Chairman and a social entrepreneur with businesses in the tourism and services sector. A community development practitioner and township and village tourism value chain development specialist who has created over 1000 youth jobs through strategic partnerships with private and public entities.

A public school matriculate! Studied Diploma in Sound engineering at Allenby Academy, studied Project Management at University of Johannesburg Buntin Campus (one year certificate) and attended multiple workshops including a Public Private Partnership workshop certificate from the Development Bank of South Africa. Aspires to contribute through collective leadership and wants to expand his knowledge in the study of industrial psychology.



## Mr Thato Mothopeng

National Coordinator:  
SA Township & Village Tourism (SATOVITO)



## Ms Dumile Cele

Managing Director  
of Africa Become

Dumile Cele is a purpose-driven leader committed to fostering economic liberation in Africa. With 29 years of diverse experience and a decade in the maritime industry, she possesses a profound understanding of global trade dynamics. Her strategic prowess and exceptional communication skills have facilitated enduring relationships with stakeholders at all levels, from local businesses to international economic bodies.

At just 27, Dumile made history as the first African female to lead Portnet's Road Transport division, overseeing a vast logistics operation. Later, she expanded her impact by spearheading the Port Academy, enhancing maritime skills development across South Africa and beyond. In 2005, Dumile founded the Purpose Driven Women Network, empowering marginalized women in the economy. As CEO of the Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry, she instituted a Business Code of Ethics, elevating ethical standards within the business sector. Currently serving as Managing Director of Africa Become, Dumile is pioneering innovative solutions to uplift rural and township economies using Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies. Her commitment extends beyond business, as evidenced by her involvement in humanitarian efforts, including aiding communities affected by the KZN floods of 2022. Dumile's expertise in corporate governance and business leadership equips her to navigate complex socio-economic and political landscapes.

She envisions a collaborative effort between the private and public sectors to steer South Africa towards sustainable economic growth, echoing her belief that "It is time for Africa to become all she was created to be." With a focus on strategic thinking, delivery excellence, and relationship building, Dumile remains at the forefront of driving positive change for Africa's prosperity.





## Mr Jerry Poee

Owner and Founder,  
Wushwini Pan African Centre,  
Inanda

Jerry Poee is an educator, playwright, director, administrator, cultural activist, founder of the internationally acclaimed Eager Artists Company and he is also the founder of Wushwini Pan African Centre at KwaNgcolosi. Jerry Poee obtained his qualifications: BA with Speech and Drama and Anthropology at the then University of Natal (currently University of KwaZulu Natal (UKZN)) and has a certificate of Big Events Management from Indiana University (USA). He was a lecturer for 10 years at Durban University of Technology (DUT). He was Artistic Director for Windybrow Theatre in Gauteng and PACOFS in Bloemfontein. He has worked for KZN DAC as Deputy Director, National DAC as the Director responsible for the Playhouses. Jerry Poee created and directed Cultural Programmes for Paralympics in London. Jerry Poee is the founder of Botho and Uhuru International Festivals.

He is the Curator of Community Festival and CAMP for the Playhouse. Jerry Poee has directed more than 20 major productions and has been involved in many educational programs using theatre methodology. He is the driver of one stop Pan African Centre, and has served in many commissions on Arts and Culture industry, he also worked with American Universities in Theatre for Social Change. Jerry Poee is interested in organizing the local economy in order to contribute towards linking different organizations within INK in sharing resources and networks to create a powerbase INK community.

Jerry Poee is willing to open up the centre as a resource for anyone who is willing to explore new economic opportunities. And is also willing to share his skills of the creative industries through training and advising.

For Jerry “the burning question is to find out how we can support each other as the INK community and when are we going to realize the power we have so we can be part of the world map.”







**Mr Christopher Phillips**

Universal Access Assessor

Chris Phillips, is a consultant and former Tourism Grading Council Assessor, provides valuable perspective on the challenges he faced in ensuring that accessibility standards were met by industry products. Chris also explores how AI integration can streamline the auditing process, making it more efficient and effective in evaluating accessibility standards within the tourism industry.

Natalia Rosa is the CEO of Big Ambitions, a specialist travel and tourism communications and marketing organisation in tourism and travel. Well-connected within the tourism and travel sectors in South Africa, Natalia is also the Tourism Project Lead of the SADC Business Council, the executive chair of the global Travel Lifestyle Network and a board member of FEDHASA Cape. She holds an MSC in Publishing and lives in Cape Town, South Africa.



**Ms Natalia Rosa**

CEO of Big Ambitions





## Ms Winile Mtungwa

Deputy Head, Business Support Tourism  
Markets & Agri-Business Unit  
eThekweni Municipality (Durban Tourism)

Winile's professional journey has evolved over 10 years of experience in the government space of servicing the public in State Owned entities of: The South African Revenue Services (SARS), Productivity South Africa (PSA) and currently in the local government sphere with eThekweni Municipality. She is a Local Economic Development (LED) Practitioner by profession with vast integral experience in Community Development, Enterprise Business Development and Tourism Promotion and Development. She has made a mark in the development of business enhancement systems to improve public service through improved productivity of Government employees; in working with emerging businesses, she has established and applied ground breaking business development interventions and business turn around strategies that have drastically transformed the businesses with a high impact to livelihoods of many beneficiaries. In 2012, she is the Programme Manager for Durban Tourism Events reporting to the CEO of Durban Tourism in ensuring that the strategic vision of the City of Durban in destination tourism promotion through meetings, incentives, conventions and events (MICE) is strategically and continuously achieved. She has strategically led the Durban Tourism Events division of the City since its inception in 2012 till 2017, built its strategic and professional structures and has within the compliance of the legislative framework established solid and viable divisional and corporate governance structures to advance the vision of the City in growing the City's economy. This tourism events marketing vehicle, as championed by Winile has robustly enabled destination Durban to reclaim its position in the leisure travel space. From 2017, Winile was appointed a Project Executive for the City's Economic Development and planning- reporting directly to the Deputy City Manager (DCM) of the Economic Development and Planning Cluster. Her role was to manage all strategic projects and programmes of the DCM, provide administrative oversight to all business units of the Cluster as well and represent the Cluster in key strategic stakeholder platform like City Entities board meetings.

Since September 2018 to date, Winile was appointed the Deputy Head: Durban Tourism at eThekweni Municipality. This is within the unit of Business Support, Tourism, Markets and Agri-business Unit.





## Mr Reggi XaBA

Footwear Designer  
and Fashion Industrialist

Reggi is a footwear designer veteran of over 20 years. He graduated with a National Diploma in Clothing design from Natal Technickon in 1993. He cut his teeth with leading companies such as BATA, Woolworths and Truworhts as a fashion buyer and designer for shoes. In his career as a shoe designer and entrepreneur, he has been responsible for launching big brands such as Carducci, Viyella and Democratic Republic as high fashion luxury shoe brands and also produced in-house brands for Markham, DUNNS and Edgars.

Since launching his independent companies Lighthouse Footwear and Zetu Shoes, he launched new original brands, iFele (imbadada-inspired sandals) and NUM-NUM (children's shoes). In 2015, he was awarded Best Fashion Innovator for the Year by Durban Fashion Fair. His work has been showcased in Tokyo, Melbourne, Sydney, Paris and Las Vegas and featured on global fashion stages including Milan Fashion Week, Cape Town Menswear Week, SA Fashion Week, Durban Fashion Fair and Midwest Fashion Week in Johannesburg. iFele was named Footwear Company to watch by GQ UK in 2018 and listed in Beyoncé's Black Parade line up as one of top black-owned global brands to support, the biggest brand international endorsements received to date. iFele is exported to Australia, USA, UK and France and is available locally from The Space stores and other leading boutiques nationally. Recently iFele has collaborated with SABS's uKhozi FM (the biggest radio station in Africa with 8 m listeners) to create USHUNI WoKhozi FM by iFele with great success nationally. This new brand is becoming a standard trademark sandal for Zulu speakers as a modern imbadada sandal. Coming back to KwaZulu Natal in 2014, Reggi initiated the partnership between ZETU shoes and Umfolozi TVET College to develop a SAQA accredited footwear production curriculum (a first for TVET Colleges) which has produced over 200 graduates to date. This program has been running for 5 years since 2016.



**Capt. Londy Ngcobo**

CEO & Founder, Global Maritime Youth

Capt. Londy is a Ship Navigator and Africa's First Female Dredge Master, who is passionate about Unlocking Africa's Ocean Economy. She has over 15 years of experience in the maritime industry. As a leader, mother, and wife herself, Londy's journey has equipped her with the ability to focus on providing sustainable tools for:

- Corporates - to lead diversity and inclusion.
- Women - She dared to dream big and became a ship Captain and therefore dares women to thrive and assume captaincy of their lives.

Youth - Her zest for a colorful life is so contagious the youth gets cultivated to reach for the endless horizons.

As seen on her Forbes Leading Women Africa speech with her piercing phrase "I chose not to be Rose from the Titanic, I chose to Captain the Titanic" and through her popular TEDx Talk "Anchors Aweigh, No Rest for The First" This Blackmermaid sure is making waves on land.

Arthur Goldstuck is an award-winning writer, author, analyst and technology commentator. He is founder of World Wide Worx, South Africa's leading independent technology market research organisation. Among other, the Cloud in Africa project won the Business-to-Business Marketing category of the 2019 Sabre Awards Africa. He has received lifetime achievement awards in multiple sectors, including the Distinguished Service in ICT Award from the Institute of IT Professionals of South Africa in 2013, being elected to the Southern African Speakers Hall of Fame in 2021 and, for his work in training and mentorship, to the Southern African Educators Hall of Fame in 2023. In 2022, the global insights community Esomar named him to the Insights 250 honour roll of the world's top innovators in market research, enterprise intelligence and data-driven marketing. He is author of 20 books, including South Africa's all-time best-selling IT book, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Internet. His most recent work, The Hitchhiker's Guide to AI, was released at the end of 2023.



**Mr Arthur Goldstuck**

CEO, World-wide Worx





## Mr Edmond Mhlongo

Founder and Director Kwa Mashu  
Community Advancement Projects  
(K-CAP of Positive Arts)

Producer/Director/Writer/Facilitator/Development Specialist/Heritage Practitioner

Armed with MPhil Development Studies (Sussex University, England), Directing & Producing Certificate (US Hollywood Institute) and a recent completion his Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) thesis that looks at community arts centres as vehicle for spearheading Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI) to global levels (with the prestigious Paris School of Business (France – and this thesis has been shared with the national DSAC and is being used as a guide towards transforming community arts centres)), Edmond Mhlongo is Durban based Artistic Director, Heritage Practitioner and Producer who has written and directed internationally acclaimed musicals. He runs an annual Actors Incubation Mentorship Programme (AIMPRO) that is the most sought after in SA by talented and aspirant performing artists – preparing over 25 creatives for the CCI (most tertiary institutions doing arts courses recruit best of the learners through AIMPRO

(As such is regarded as a “father figure” of KZN young and aspirant artists.

He is a facilitator in Screenwriting and Performing Arts. He trains actors for both film and stage – mentors’ future stars and arts entrepreneurs. He has served as a Board Council Member for National Arts Council (NAC = 2017-2020). He is a EThekweni Living Legend Awardee 2015. Mhlongo is a Founder/Director of K-CAP and Ekhaya Multi Arts Centre and KZN African Film Festival and is currently promoting the implementation of the animation film development in KZN. In 1994-95 he was in the policy task team for the then Minister of Public Works – Jeff Radebe contributing in development of community based public works programme. Mhlongo is a community developer and was initially requested by provincial government to contribute in the development of the KZN Film Commission (through MPL Bishop Vusi Dube) and has been serving as the adjudicator of Simon Mabhunu Sabela Awards (which the naming was also recommended by Mhlongo through Dr Buti Moloji).

He is currently the Chairperson of Federation of Community Arts Centres – KZN (FCAC-KZN) representing 18-community arts centres (CACs).





## Mr Sibusiso Vilane

Motivational and Inspirational  
Speaker, Mountaineer and  
Expedition Guide and Leader.

Motivational and inspirational speaker, mountaineer and expedition guide and leader Sibusiso was born at Shongwe Mission in Mpumalanga, South Africa. His South African father and Swazi mother moved the family to Swaziland and that's where Sibusiso was eventually schooled (from the age of 11). After a stint as a labourer, and drawing on his experienced as a goatherd, Sibusiso began his working career as a game ranger in Swaziland in 1993. In 1996 he met John Doble who became a great friend and benefactor, and who was instrumental in finding the necessary sponsorship for Sibusiso's Everest summit expedition. Sibusiso started climbing in 1996 by summiting peaks in the Drakensberg. In 1999 he summited Kilimanjaro and went on to the Himalayas in 2002, successfully climbing Pokalde, Lobujé and Island Peak, all of which are over 6 000 metres high, as part of his training for the Everest expedition. In March 2003, Sibusiso set off for the Himalayas again in his quest to be the first black African to summit earth's largest and most fearsome mountain, Everest, the Queen of the Himalayas. He summited successfully on 26 May 2003. On that day, South African President Thabo Mbeki congratulated him on his achievement and grit. "In this, he has shown the heights we can all scale in life if we put our shoulder to the wheel and work at things without flagging. Sibusiso, you have done us proud!" (In 2006 Sibusiso was awarded the Order of Ikhamanga (Bronze) by President Thabo Mbeki. Technically he can sign his name 'Sibusiso Vilane, OIB'.) In 2005 Sibusiso reached the summit of Everest again with Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Alex Harris after accessing the peak from the North Ridge - the more difficult and statistically less-successful side. This achievement meant that he is the first black African to climb the world's highest peak twice and by two different routes. Three children's charities benefited from his climb: The Birth to Twenty Research Programme at Wits University, the Africa Foundation and the SOS Children's Village in Swaziland. Sibusiso is one of a handful of South Africans, and the first black African, to achieve the feat of climbing each of the Seven Summits, the seven highest peaks on each of the seven continents. On Thursday December 2011 Sibusiso was introduced to the Queen of England at a reception at Buckingham Palace. The reception was held to acknowledge those involved in mountaineering, adventurer and exploration. Also present was Sir Ranulph Fiennes, a great friend of Sibusiso. In January 2012, and again in 2013, Sibusiso successfully guided a team of South Africans up Mount Aconcagua. This is the highest mountain in the southern hemisphere, the highest in South America and one of the seven summits





**Ms Tarryn Tomlinson**

Accessible Travel Expert  
and Entrepreneur

Tarryn Tomlinson, an Accessible Travel Expert and Entrepreneur, shares her expertise on the practical aspects of making travel accessible for individuals with disabilities. In addition to her entrepreneurial ventures, Tarryn announces the release of AVA, the AI Universal Access Assistant. She highlights how AI tools such as AVA not only revolutionise accessibility auditing processes but also contribute to the development of SMART cities by providing real-time data on accessibility and facilitating the implementation of inclusive urban infrastructure.

Commercially-minded Chartered Accountant (SA), serving multiple roles within the Cape Winelands Airport development since 2020, including Financial Director and Airport Manager. Previously spent 3 years with Deloitte in Johannesburg and in Boston (US). Proud Capetonian.

Passionate about rugby and mountain-biking, but terrible at both.



**Mr Mark Wilkinson**

Cape Winelands Airport



## Ms Kirsten

K Neuschafer  
Alone around the World to Victory

Kirsten has been sailing dinghies since her childhood, but sailing since 2006 as a profession. From sailing training to sailboat deliveries, she built a diverse set of skills and experience. Kirsten's longest single-handing was a delivery from Portugal to South Africa with only a wind-vane as self-steering, on an old and maintenance-intensive 32 foot ferro-cement sloop. In 2015, she started working on Pelagic, a high latitude expedition boat, making trips to South Georgia, The Antarctic Peninsula, Patagonia and the Falklands.

Kirsten has sailed several film crews down to capture the beauty of the Antarctic. She was featured in National Geographic series "Wild\_Life Resurrection Island with Bertie Gregory" as she sailed his crew throughout South Georgia to shed light on the beautiful ecosystems and hardships they've faced. She also sailed and was a support vessel for several crews from the newest BBC series "Seven Worlds, One Planet" for footage of leopard seal predation against gentoo penguins and albatross behavior from Bird Island South Georgia.

Along with sailing, she also enjoys other solitary adventures. She cycled from Europe back home to South Africa (15000 km over approximately one year) on her own when she was just 22. She traveled throughout the Northwest and Central Africa into Southern Africa and eventually ending in Cape Agulhas. The trip brought trials and tribulations but was life-enriching in every sense, giving her the deepest appreciation of Africa and her people. Kirsten won the Golden Globe Race 2022 last year, crossing the finish line on 27th April 2023, South Africa's freedom day. The Golden Globe Race is a solo, non-stop, unassisted circumnavigation. This retro race is based on the first solo circumnavigation race that took place in 1968. In order to stay true to the original circumnavigation, boats are all older designs, no bigger than 36 foot- and modern navigational technology, like GPS, is not permitted. The route for the race began in France, down the Atlantic, east-about the Southern Ocean, and back up the Atlantic to France- an approximate distance of 30,000 nautical miles and anywhere from 7 to 9 months or more at sea. Kirsten is the first South African as well as first woman not only to finish, but to win a non-stop, round-the-world race, racing in 2022-2023 as the only woman against 15 men. On the race she also diverted course to rescue a fellow competitor whose boat had sunk, and in spite of the time she lost in doing so, she still went on to sail over the finish line and as the winner. She has proudly been waving the South African flag throughout this epic adventure.



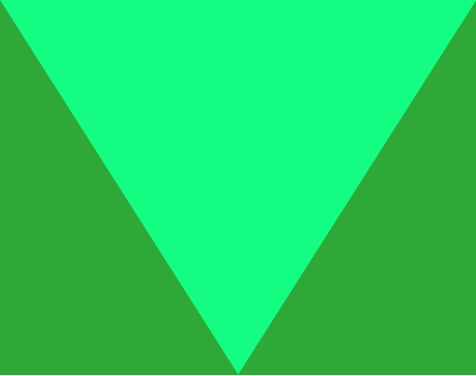
Jabaar Cassiem Mohamed, a Proudly Deaf South African from Cape Town, wears many hats across community service sectors, education, media, travel, and both government and private sectors.

With a BCom in Public Management degree and a National Diploma in Financial Management, Jabaar has made history as the first Deaf graduate of both the University of the Western Cape and Cape College. Recipient of the 17th SAFTAs Golden Horn Discretionary award (2023) for Outstanding Person With A Disability Contributor in South Africa, Jabaar is a trailblazer in the media industry. As a Producer and TV Presenter at Cape Town TV, he hosts the ground-breaking talk show, “Accessibility With Jabaar,” the first of its kind. Furthermore, he serves as the Provincial Director of DeafSA Western Cape, drawing from his 16 years of experience to drive business management and project development within the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. In addition to his professional roles, Jabaar is a dedicated educator, teaching South African Sign Language (SASL) at various institutions and companies since 2007. Recognized with the Surve Philanthropes Award for Best Disability Person Leading an NGO in South Africa (2018), Jabaar has also excelled as the Kha Ri Gude National Monitor and Coordinator, receiving accolades for his outstanding performance (2015). His commitment to advocacy extends to voluntary involvement with the Deaf Education Task Team and the Western Cape Disability Health Forum. He actively promotes Deaf awareness as a guest speaker, host, and MC at events such as the first-ever Miss Wheelchair South Africa (2021), Western Cape Provincial Cultural Affairs and Sports Awards, Miss, Mr, and Mrs. Deaf South Africa competitions, and more. Jabaar’s dedication to creating equitable opportunities knows no bounds. He collaborates with hotels, holiday resorts, and various organizations to promote accessibility and integrate people with disabilities into all facets of society.

His vision is clear: to ensure that all people with disabilities receive the best services, understand their needs, and create opportunities for success through entrepreneurial development and media exposure within communities. Jabaar Cassiem Mohamed’s unwavering dedication to inclusivity and empowerment is an inspiration to all.

## Mr Jabaar Mohamed (Deaf)

Disability Show  
Producer and TV Presenter





## Mr Hamish Erskine

Chief Executive Officer:  
Dube TradePort Corporation

Hamish Erskine is the Chief Executive Officer of Dube TradePort Corporation, the driver of the Dube TradePort Special Economic Zone, which is a world-class industrial and commercial precinct, built around King Shaka International Airport, forms the heart of the Durban Aerotropolis, which is being implemented by Dube TradePort.

Mr Erskine also serves as the co-chair of the KwaZulu-Natal Route Development Committee (Durban Direct), which is responsible for attracting new airlines to fly directly into Durban, enabling greater global connectivity for both passengers and airfreight.

Hamza Farooqui is a committed South African entrepreneur holding a commanding presence across multiple sectors including fuel, convenience, real estate, technology, hospitality, tourism, and global financial services. As the founding CEO of the Millat Group, he has consistently steered negotiations with global business giants including The Hyatt Hotel Group, Canadian multinational Alimentation Couche-Tard and Pret a Manger to successful conclusions. Farooqui's innovative thinking has also led to a partnership with Uber Eats, making Millat and Hyatt the pioneer hotel group to launch dark kitchens in South Africa. Farooqui remains committed to his vision of seeing South Africa emerge as an economic powerhouse on the global stage. For Farooqui, his journey has never been solely about achieving personal milestones or acquiring wealth. He is driven by the ethos of servitude, a principle that permeates all his ventures and partnerships.



## Mr Hamza Farooqui

Founder & CEO, The Millat Group



## Ms Zinhle Mqadi

CEO  
of Max's Lifestyle Village

Zinhle Mqadi (30) is the CEO of Max's Lifestyle Village, which is arguably South Africa's most success story when it comes to township tourism.

The world class restaurant, which is nestled in the heart of the bustling township of Umlazi, south of Durban (KwaZulu-Natal), was crowned by the influential lifestyle magazine, Conde Nast Traveller, as one of the world's best 207 restaurants in 2016.

The trendy eatery has become a must-visit and ritzy hangout for anyone who wants to enjoy a slice of township lifestyle, in a highly secured environment.

Mqadi, who is the daughter of Max Mqadi, the visionary and legendary founder of the restaurant, cut her business teeth working side by side with her father, when he was building his business empire.

In the galaxy of South Africa's business stars, Zinhle Mqadi is part of the generation of young business leaders who have been given the daunting but challenging responsibility to take their family businesses to the next level.

A trail blazing entrepreneur in her own right, Zinhle Mqadi is the founder of a boutique which operated in one of Durban's high-end malls, Musgrave. She has also owned a number of other business ventures.

Zinhle Mqadi is also a social media influencer and has partnered with a number of brands. A living proof that the apple did not fall far from the tree, Zinhle Mqadi rose up the ranks of Max's Lifestyle Village, working with her father, until she was recently elevated to be the CEO of the globally renowned restaurant. In being appointed as the CEO of the globally renowned restaurant, Zinhle Mqadi has been given the responsibility to protect the treasured legacy of the restaurant and to be part of the next generation of the Mqadi dynasty that will take the brand to the next level, while also diversifying the family's business portfolio.





**Professor  
Jobo Dubihlela**

Head of Masters and Postgraduate  
Studies, Graduate School of Business  
and Leadership **University of  
KwaZulu-Natal**

A former banker-turned-academic with vast industry experience, research, community engagement and sustainability development. Prof Dubihlela is leading a faculty team in the department of Internal Auditing and Financial Information Systems. He has good work ethics that are invaluable for strengthening a growing team of researchers, and an expanding research stock for emerging markets. Before joining the world of teaching and research, Prof Dubihlela worked in the banking environment for more than 18 years, 10 of which were in leadership and managerial positions, where he was overseeing credit risk, developing risk mitigation strategies, managing financial risk performance, conducting feasibility studies. Prof Dubihlela currently sits on the 'Board of Trustees' for a large pension fund in South Africa. He is a panelist on various research review and editorial committees, as well as examination panels for various reputable universities. He also sits on the faculty executive committee, the senate committee and is a recipient of 4 research recognitions awards and 3 annual research awards. In the short period from 2013, he has published more than 60 papers in reputable accredited journals and over 25 papers in conference proceedings, He has successfully led implementation of research projects across the SADC region. He possess a strong collaborative network of large businesses in Sub-Saharan Africa, having managed a big team and delivered key interventions across Africa and training for organisations such as Barclays Africa, Investec Bank, Nedbank Africa, ABSA bank, Merchant Bank of Central Africa, Bank of Uganda (Uganda), Swazi Bank (Swaziland), Kenya Commercial Bank (Kenya) and Bank of Africa (Tanzania).







## Ms Thabo Makhetha-Kwinana

Fashion Designer  
and Cultural Ambassador

Thabo Makhetha-Kwinana is an award-winning fashion designer and owner of the leading women's wear label, which bears her name. She was born in Botswana and the brand was established in South Africa in 2009 and within a few years became one of the handful of African brands considered as being at the forefront of African luxury.

The label is globally recognized for using and taking inspiration from authentic Basotho blankets and creating a collection of winter wear jackets and coats. The Basotho blanket is a symbol of status with deep cultural roots dating over a century in Lesotho, a small landlocked country in Southern Africa ruled by a monarchy. Fashion designer Thabo Makhetha-Kwinana was born in Lesotho and raised in South Africa; her collection is an ode to her own Basotho heritage.

In South Africa she was listed as a Top 40 under 40 business leaders of 2014 by the Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber and in the same year was awarded the Impact Award for Design Excellence. Emillie Gambade, then Editor of Elle Magazine, nominated Thabo's starburst coat for Most Beautiful Object in South Africa 2016 and in 2017 she was recognised as one of the Top 200 young South Africans. Thabo Makhetha-Kwinana is a Mandela Washington Fellowship 2018 alumnae.





## Ms Katlego Mphahlela

IDC Senior Dealmaker,  
Services SBU

Katlego Mphahlele CA(SA) is an investment professional with more than 10 years' experience in development finance working for the Industrial Development Corporation. Her current role in the IDC as a Senior Deal Maker includes pipeline building, investment analysis, leading transactions and due diligence teams within the tourism and media sectors. Katlego also holds a non-executive directorship position in an IDC investee company as well as an adjudication committee member for two of DTIC's grant funding schemes.



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