



SPEAKERS

Day 1 – 01 December 2022

Dr Phil Mjwara

Director General: National Department of Science and Innovation



Phil holds a BSc, MSc, and PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand.

His academic career includes serving as professor of Science and Technology Policy at the University of Pretoria, and Physics lectureships at the universities of the Witwatersrand, South Africa, and Fort Hare. Phil has published and presented numerous papers on physics, technology analysis and technology foresight processes.

His professional experience includes working as a director in the former Department of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology, serving on the National Advisory Council on Innovation (NACI) and Group Executive for Research and Development and Strategic Human Capital Development at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

As part of his many contributions, Phil led a team that conducted the South African Technology Foresight project. The outputs of the project were presented to President Thabo Mbeki in 2000. His project approach led to a number of institutions from other parts of the world inviting the core team members to share their knowledge at conferences in Japan, Austria, and Hungary.

He was also asked to participate in the development of scenarios for South Africa for the years 2004 to 2014. This was run from the office of the President. Phil currently serves as the Director General of the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI), a position he has held since April 2006.

His responsibilities include the development and implementation of South Africa's science, technology, and innovation policy. He also serves on various advisory councils and review

boards, including the Board of the World of Platinum of South Africa and the Square Kilometre Array Organisation.

Funeka Khumalo

Corporate Services Director, Kevali Chemicals
NACI Councillor, Board member: FoodBevSeta



Funeka Khumalo graduated with a BSc in Chemistry from the University of Cape Town. She then worked at SA Breweries for a period of almost 15 years. She occupied several positions at SAB, from laboratory technician, project brewer, brewing area manager, and manufacturing development consultant to senior project manager in innovations.

During that time, she got qualified as a brewer, received project management professional certification, and also completed her MBA at GIBS in 2010.

She spent three years in the nuclear industry working for Pebble Bed Nuclear Reactor. She was seconded to Westinghouse in the UK where she spent time in their nuclear facility in Preston and received a DAP (Duly Qualified Person) qualification in Nuclear.

After 18 years in the corporate world, she decided to venture out in 2014. She started a company with four others called Kevali Chemicals that manufactures and services industry with hygiene & sanitation chemicals, water treatment chemicals, chain lubrication and adhesive. Kevali has its manufacturing facility in Harrismith in the Free State and currently employs over 90 people countrywide.

Patrick Krappie

Acting CEO of the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA)

He comes out of a strong management background, having held senior positions in government institutions, specialising in economic policy and negotiations. He is an honours (Economics) graduate, with vast international working experience in England and Switzerland. He served as a diplomat for eight years representing South Africa as a negotiator in the World Trade Organization, World Intellectual Property Organisation and the United Nation Conference for Trade and Development.



In addition, he served in the OECD development assistance committees where South Africa is an associate member. He then joined the Presidential Task Team serving as deputy envoy in the negotiation for the establishment of the BRICS, the latter's participation and association with the G8 and the ultimate establishment of G20.

His last venture involved the establishment of the Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) in 2009, facilitating the merger of seven pre-existing business entities of the Department of Science and Technology. Since then, he has served in various senior management and executive roles and currently serves as Acting CEO of TIA.

His strong points are a big picture strategy, collaborative leadership, building and rallying teams together towards a common goal. His specialties include stakeholder management, partnership building, strategy and execution.

Dr Audrey Elizabeth Verhaeghe

Chairperson: Innovation Summit



Dr Verhaeghe serves on various boards where innovation, tech start-up investment and entrepreneurship play an important role. She has co-founded the Research Institute for Innovation and Sustainability (RIIS), The SA Innovation Summit (SAIS) and recently ANZA Capital.

She is an active angel investor. She spearheaded the commercialisation of the SA Innovation Summit as a Southern African Institution and the main innovation event for the country. Her vision is to raise multiple rounds of funds to support 10 000 enterprises over the next 10 years across Africa.

SAIS and ANZA Capital developed an investment readiness accelerator, a match and invest platform that matches tech startups with investment, made various early-stage investments and is in the process to raise their first early-stage fund for scalable technology entrepreneurs.

Dr Mmboneni Muofhe

Deputy Director-General (DDG), Socio-Economic Innovation Partnership: Department of Science and Innovation in South Africa.

Dr Muofhe was previously the Deputy Director-General for Technology Innovation (2013-2022) and Deputy Director-General for International Cooperation and Resources (2012-2013) in the Department. Dr Muofhe is experienced in science, technology and innovation policy development and implementation.

He holds a PhD in Management of Technology and Innovation, Master of Business Administration and Master of Science.

Mmboneni is currently leading the pilot implementation of the recently established Innovation Fund which aims at bridging the funding gap between research, technology development and translation of research outputs into products and services addressing socio-economic challenges.



He is also a member of the Steering Committee of the World Health Organisation's mRNA Technology Transfer Hub which is entrusted with building vaccine manufacturing capabilities in low- and middle-income countries. Further he is also the South African Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Principal, a member of its Executive Committee and one of its four Co-chairs

Day 2 – 02 December 2022

Matsi Modise

Chairperson: Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) of South Africa



Matsi is the founder and CEO of Furaha Afrika Holdings, with subsidiaries including Furaha Solutions, Furaha Advisory, Furaha Green, and Furaha Digital. She is a shareholder and chairperson of Finclusion, a leading Pan African fintech company offering credit-led products that drive financial inclusion through innovation in five African markets.

Matsi is the vice chairperson of SiMODiSA (PBO), an industry association made up of public and private sector leaders pursuing research, policy design and stakeholder engagement programmes to catalyse and amplify entrepreneurship and job creation in South Africa. She is also the chairperson of the South African Startup Act Movement, and together with other members of the steering committee, made recommendations to the President on policy reforms that will enable the growth of high-impact and innovative startups.

Her areas of experience include entrepreneurship, technology (HR and Fintech), innovation, policy advocacy, governance, skills development, venture capital and enterprise and supplier development. Matsi is strong in company governance and is an independent director, trustee, and advisor of local, continental and global organisations in various industries (global logistics, gaming, fintech, financial services, academia, venture capital and private equity).

Matsi's strengths also lie in business strategy, business development and an exceptionally high client service approach. Her experience within the advisory business environment has given her the ability to develop good analytical skills, attention to detail, together with the ability to work in a fast-paced work environment.

Matsi has travelled extensively around the world and has an extensive local, continental, and global network of people through being a member of the World Economic Forum (WEF), Global Shapers Community and Young Presidents Organisation's (YPO) Johannesburg Chapter.

She has written and been featured in numerous local and international publications, including British Vogue, Forbes Africa, Town & Country, Small Business Connect, Entrepreneur Magazine, The Boston Review, Mail & Guardian, Destiny Magazine, Business Day and City Press among others.

Matsi holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree (Marketing & Advanced Management) from the University of the Witwatersrand and several management courses from the Institute of Directors SA.

Ntokozo Majola

Executive Manager: Enterprise Development Division, SEDA

Ntokozo is a highly enterprising executive with 26 years of experience working in challenging senior management roles in enterprise and export development. She has been the executive manager of the Enterprise Development Division at SEDA since 2016.

She has extensive experience in providing strategic direction and coordinating the implementation of best practices in enterprise development services and programme design and development, having set up and managed various initiatives that have enhanced the entrepreneurial and small business landscape in South Africa.

She also has extensive experience in facilitating ESD partnerships and managing them within Seda, trade and export development, management of B-BBEE strategies and ecosystem development. Ms Majola was acting CEO in the same organisation for a year in 2020, an appointment that illustrates her solid business operations management pedigree.

Ms Majola considers herself to be a modern-day business leader offering solid competencies in the management of organisations and the unique ability to work with stakeholders at all levels.



Professor Renato Lopes

Associate Professor: University of Campinas, Brazil



Professor Lopes received his B.Sc and M.Sc degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil, in 1995 and 1997, respectively. He received an M.Sc. Degree in Mathematics and a PhD in Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2001 and 2003, respectively.

Since 2003, he has been with the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at UNICAMP, where he is currently an associate professor. He was associate dean of undergraduate affairs (2015-2019) and graduate affairs (2019-2021). Since 2021, he has been deputy director of the Innovation Agency of the University of Campinas. His main research interest is in digital signal processing, especially its application to communication systems and statistical data analysis.

Dr Isaiah Engelbrecht

Executive Director: Innovation City of Tshwane and NACI Exco Member

Isaiah is an innovation specialist who partners with organisations to achieve with sustainable growth through building innovation capability. He believes that without innovation it is almost impossible for companies to survive and thrive in a turbulent business environment.

Throughout his illustrious career which spans over 25 years he has worked in various organisations in leadership positions. Before he founded The GROWTH™ System Pty Ltd he led innovation teams and established innovation departments in Eskom and at the IDC. After he founded The GROWTH™ System Pty Ltd he had partnered and consulted with many organisations including



Transnet, Novatis, City of Tshwane, CPSI (Centre for Public service innovation), merSETA, ADvTECH, SANBS, and others. He has developed solutions and frameworks that systemically improve innovation capability, which in turn leads to value creation and ultimately sustainable (limitless) growth.

His organisation's goal is to partner with a minimum of 5000 organisations on a journey of building innovation capability in order to bring large scale impact.

Noxolo Fani

Social Entrepreneur and Tech Startup Founder



Noxolo Fani is a young Christian woman, born and bred in the small town of Uitenhage recently renamed to Kariega in the Eastern Cape, also famously known for our late president Nelson Rholihlahla Mandela.

Noxolo was raised by her grandparents and single mother (a teacher), who placed her in a multiracial school in 1995 just after 1994 (when South Africa became a democratic country). Learning in the mixed-race school environment and daily going back home in the township she became quite aware of the inequalities that cripple South Africa, burdened by what she saw, she grew into a determined little girl and has remained so, now a young woman who believes there is a bigger world to experience and many young people who need guidance.

Noxolo left a stable 9-5 salary paying job at the age of 25 to venture out as an entrepreneur and has never looked back. She is a perfectionist who is people driven in her leadership approach.

She is the founder of Platform Excel (renamed Career Guardian), a highly interactive inexpensive online career guidance platform that uses Gamification and Robotic process Automation to enhance and personalize the journey of career selection for high school learners.

She is an entrepreneur and businesswoman who runs her own construction company (PL Construction). Her company has worked on multi million Rand projects and continues to hire mostly young people, especially women.