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7th Pension Funds and Alternative Investments Africa Conference

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28-29 FEB 2024

InterContinental Resort Mauritius

Reshaping African Markets:
Deciphering the Investment
Conundrum for Growth

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Advisory Board



Leslie Ndawana,
CEO, NFMW South Africa

Mr Ndawana is the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Executive Officer of the National Fund for Municipal Workers(NFMW), a retirement fund with approximately 55,000 members and about 27 billion Rands (approx. US\$1,5 billion) of assets under management.

He has been in the South African retirement funds industry for about 15 years, mainly in advisory and fiduciary capacities.

Mr Ndawana currently serves the retirement funds industry as a Director of Batseta Council of Retirement Funds.

He is also a member, representing Batseta, of the Financial Sector Transformation Council's Reporting Working Committee. He has presented and participated at various leadership & industry conferences, seminars and masterclasses on topical matters affecting financial, investments and pensions industries.

Mr Ndawana is a professional member of Batseta, with a Chartered Principal Executive Officer (CPEO) qualification and designation. In addition, he holds a Post Graduate Diploma in financial planning and an Advanced Post-Graduate Diploma in Investments, both obtained from University of the Free State. He also has a Master of Business Administration degree (passed with merit) from Henley Business School, which is the Business School of University of Reading in the United Kingdom. He is currently studying for a Master's degree in Development Finance at the University of Stellenbosch.

Mr Ndawana is passionate about, among other things, the following:

- Development finance
- Impacting lives
- Impact investments
- Leadership development
- Organisational behaviour
- Assisting retirement fund members and society to achieve desirable life & desirable retirement outcomes and
- Being part of the architecture in resolving the current socio-economic challenges in Africa.

In his executive role at NFMW, Mr Ndawana is charged with the responsibility of driving strategy and direction of the Fund, providing leadership and engaging stakeholders.



Veenay Rambarassah,
Director Investment,
National Pensions Fund Mauritius

Veenay Rambarassah, 51 years, working for the National Pensions Fund as the Director of Investment.

He has been managing the portfolio of the NPF and other Funds under the administration of the Ministry of Social Security, comprising of the National Savings Fund, National Savings Fund Transitional Unemployment Benefit, Workfare Programme Fund, Portable Retirement Gratuity Fund. The total assets under management are around Rs 185 Billion (around USD 4 billion).

Before joining the National Pensions Fund, he has been working as the Project Finance Manager for the Cyber City Project at Ebene.

He is also the Chairman of National Investment Trust which is a listed company in the Mauritius Stock Exchange. He is also a Director of the Eastern Southern African Trade Development Bank also known as TDB, and has also served as Chairman of that bank for year 2022. He is also a Director of Port Louis Fund which is another investment entity.



Karthi Pillay,
Independent advisor

Karthi Pillay is an established and well respected professional in the pension fund industry in Southern Africa, with expertise in the new frontier practice of responsible investing and corporate governance and served as a Specialist in Retirement Fund Governance at the Fund.

He was responsible for Compliance, Stakeholder Management and Transformation for the Telkom Retirement Fund. He also served on Advisory Boards on behalf of the Telkom Retirement Fund.

In addition, he has served as 1st Deputy President of the Communication Workers Union (1996-2010), as well as represented CWU/COSATU at NEDLAC with a focus on the ICT Sector and dealt with ICT Sector Job Summit and BEE Charters. He was a member of the COSATU Trustee Forum, which dealt with Pension Fund Reform with the Financial Services Board.

Karthi who holds a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree and a Bachelor of Technology Management Degree and he served as a Steering Committee Member of Sustainable Returns – an initiative of Responsible Investing in South Africa. He was a participant in King 1V Sectoral Working Group Sessions, and he also served as Deputy Chair of the Telkom Retirement Fund and Member of the Joint Investment Committee.

He was also appointed as the Deputy Principal Officer and Deputy Information Officer respectively of the TRF and served in these respective positions until he retired from the Fund at the end of March 2023. He currently serves as an Independent PO and Trustee in the Industry and most recently attained his Professional Principal Executive Officer Qualification.

He also currently serves both as the Deputy Chairperson of the Governance, Legal, Compliance Sub-Committee and is a member of the Steering Committee of the Asset Owners Forum of South Africa.



Dave Uduanu
CEO, Access Pensions Limited

Dave Uduanu, CFA Dave is widely regarded as a thought leader in the subject of mobilizing domestic institutional capital to fuel economic development and deepen African capital markets.

Dave initially qualified as a Civil Engineer and a Chartered Accountant in Nigeria; and is a CFA Charterholder. He is currently the CEO of Access Pensions in Nigeria where he manages more than N1trillion (\$1.4B) in multi-strategy funds invested in Equities, Fixed income, Private Equity, Real Estate and Infrastructure.

He also chairs the Board of Melon Capital Limited; an early stage Investment company; was a past Chairman of the Pension Fund Operators Association of Nigeria and sits on the Board of Trustee of the CFA Institute Research Foundation based in the USA.



Pension Funds
& Alternative Investments

Africa

The 8th Edition

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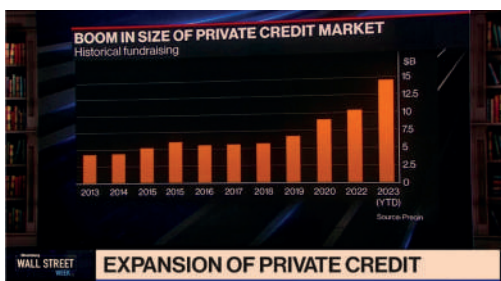
How Private Credit became the Apex investment on Wall Street?

Since 2020 the burgeoning private credit market has flourished from USD875 billion to USD1.4 trillion in 2023, and is estimated to grow to a staggering \$2.3 trillion by 2027. This emerging asset class is compelling for investors seeking diversification, attractive yields, and risk mitigation. Here is why investors should consider allocating capital to this growing asset class.

Private credit presents a compelling opportunity for investors for several reasons. Firstly, it aligns with the growing market trend, capable of absorbing institutional-sized fund flows, providing ample room for investment growth and liquidity. Secondly, it offers a hedge against emerging market currency fluctuations by providing yields in USD, thus mitigating currency risk and enhancing portfolio stability. Thirdly, as a new asset class in portfolio construction, it offers low correlation with existing portfolio constituents, facilitating diversification and reducing overall portfolio risk. Additionally, private credit typically offers attractive yields in USD, often exceeding 8%, providing investors with a source of steady income. Finally, the predictable nature of fixed income yields associated with private credit further enhances its appeal, offering investors clarity for optimal treasury management.

Substantial Growth and Increasing Asset Size

The private credit market has witnessed a significant expansion, reflecting its growing prominence within the broader investment landscape. This surge in asset size highlights the increasing recognition of private credit's role in filling funding gaps and providing opportune financing solutions in today's dynamic economic environment.



Source: Bloomberg

Bloomberg statistics report a staggering recent growth in private credit.

Empowering Small Businesses and Mitigating Risks:

One of the standout features of private credit is its ability to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), that may face challenges accessing traditional bank financing. As banks tighten their lending criteria, many viable businesses find themselves underserved or overlooked. Private credit fills this void by offering tailored financing solutions, including asset-based lending, mezzanine financing, and direct lending, thereby fostering entrepreneurship and fueling economic growth. Small and mid-sized businesses often consider private credit as their savior for continued growth and expansion mainly when bigger banks are not meeting their funding needs.

Private credit investments often come with built-in risk mitigation mechanisms offering fixed income yields to investors. Private credit instruments typically offer contractual protections, collateralization, and covenant structures that provide downside protection for investors. This focus on capital preservation, coupled with the potential for attractive risk-adjusted returns, makes private credit an appealing proposition for investors seeking stable income streams and reduced volatility in their portfolios.

Diversification across different segments of the private credit market can help mitigate concentration risk and enhance portfolio resilience. By carefully assessing risk-return profiles and aligning investment strategies with their broader financial objectives, investors can position themselves to capture the potential upside of private credit while safeguarding against downside risks.

Selecting the Right Private Credit Investments with yields in USD

While the growth prospects of private credit are enticing, selecting the right investments is fundamental for maximizing returns and managing risks effectively. Investors should conduct thorough due diligence, evaluating factors such as the credit quality of underlying assets, the expertise and track record of fund managers, and the structural protections embedded within the investment vehicle.

Investors are provided with the opportunity to earn fixed income yields in USD on a regular basis, which mitigates local currency devaluation and provides some currency hedge within the portfolio. Specialized structured offerings, such as the Apex Structured Liquidity Offering, give investors the opportunity to benefit from this growing asset class while offering fixed income returns exceeding those of traditional bank deposits.

Among the successful direct funding companies, US-listed FAVO Capital Inc. stands out for its impressive growth trajectory and performance, making it a noteworthy choice for investors to consider.

The Opportune Time to Invest

The growth of the private credit asset class presents compelling opportunities for investors seeking to enhance their portfolios with fixed income yields and risk-adjusted returns. By providing essential financing to underserved segments of the market and offering robust risk mitigation features, private credit has earned its place as a valuable component of a well-rounded investment strategy. As the market continues to evolve and expand, investors who embrace the potential of private credit stand to benefit from the unique advantages of this fixed income strategy.

Bilal Adam

Chief Executive Officer

Stewards Investment Capital







27 February 2024 – Day 0 – Pre-Event Workshop
 Theme: “Reshaping African markets: Deciphering the Investment Conundrum for Growth”

13:30 – 13:45	Registration
13:45 – 14:15	Module 1 – Putting money to work - Capturing Mega Forces Delve into the 2024 Global Outlook and explore the key themes and new opportunities - especially the mega forces including diverging demographics, future of finance and low-carbon transition and how they will shape returns now and in the future.
14:15 – 14:45	Module 2 – Fixed Income
14:45 – 15:00	Q&A
15:00 - 15:15	Break
15:15 – 15:45	Module 3 - Unlocking opportunities in Alternatives & Infrastructure
15:45 – 16:00	Q&A
16:00 – 16:10	Break
16:10 – 17:10	Module 4 – Using Technology to provide scale, efficiency, and enhanced Investment oversight. Fuelled by the significant rise in private market investments, the importance of leveraging technology to effectively manage your data, access enhanced analytics and improve your decision making from a whole portfolio context is now more critical than ever.





28 February 2024 – 1st Day of the Conference
 Theme: “Reshaping African markets: Deciphering the Investment Conundrum for Growth”

07:30 – 08:30	Registration
08:45 – 09:00	All Participants to be Seated for the Opening Ceremony
09:00 – 09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome & Opening Remarks • Master of Ceremonies • Opening Remarks from the Organisers: AMETrade Ltd  • General Welcome from the Sponsors • Keynote Speaker
KEYNOTE SESSION	<p>Keynote session - Pension Funds: The catalysts for economic development in Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are regulators creating provisions to incentivize infrastructure investments with pension funds? • Examining the role of central banks in fostering a favourable environment for long-term investment and economic development • Bridging the infrastructure gaps by forging new partnerships to drive private sector investments in infrastructure projects • Leveraging on pension funds to develop capital markets by providing liquidity, stability, and investment opportunities for raising capital • Focusing on Africa’s informal sector to expand and capitalise on the retirement savings network • Capitalise on a consortium of pension funds to fund infrastructure and private equity projects • Deploying technology to rethink investment strategies, identify market risks, and create operational efficiency to drive informed decisions and optimised returns for economic growth?

	10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break and Networking	Sponsored by: 
SESSION 1	11:00 – 12:00	<p>Legal and regulatory updates in Africa: Changes in pension fund legislation, regulatory requirements, and industry standards</p> <p>Sponsored by: </p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From restrictive regulatory frameworks to pro-reform policies - How are they shaping investment opportunities and contributing to economic growth? Shifting to new and evolving regulations that focus on greater transparency and disclosure of ESG-related data Navigating with compliance by adhering to local regulations and investment guidelines while exploring AfCFTA opportunities to minimise risk and maximise benefits for investors Leveraging the AfCFTA agreement to unlock new investment opportunities, enhance diversification, and generate long-term returns for pension funds Harnessing on technology to revolutionise pension design and delivery, while regulators vigilantly monitor advancements for effective oversight and adaptability 	
	12:00 – 13:00	<p>Conquer risk and seize international investment opportunities in Pensions and Alternatives for 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How modern and future CIOs tackle inflation, high interest rates, real estate turnaround and geopolitical tensions? How does this will affect their asset allocation decisions for 2024 Fixed income markets: What are the main opportunities considering the potential rates decrease in 2024? Equity markets: Still some valuation concerns for liquid or unlisted equities? Balance agility, liquidity, and returns by maintaining flexibility while generating investment profits Overcome perceived risks in unfamiliar investment opportunities by exploring low-risk alternatives 	
SESSION 2	13:00 – 14:30	Networking Lunch	
SESSION 3	14:30 – 15:30	<p>Elevating corporate governance and transparency: Maximizing investments in 2024 and beyond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding current corporate governance, fiduciary responsibility in pension funds Why are countries adopting the new global pension transparency benchmark - What is it and why should you know? Keeping up with the rising stakeholder demands - Building a robust governance framework that will respond to stakeholder demands How different sectors can learn from one another to improve governance, leadership and long-term vision? Getting governance right in multi-asset investing Forging lasting bonds by cultivating investor trust through transparent practices Strengthening policies and corporate practices to enhance the transparency and performance of the company 	
	15:30 - 16:00	Coffee Break and networking	Sponsored by: 
SESSION 4	16:00 – 17:00	<p>Spotlight session: Diversify and prosper: Unlocking lucrative investment opportunities in infrastructure, fixed income, real estate, and renewable energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evolving and emerging infrastructure sector and the role it can play in the investor portfolio How private markets can impact on capital markets and infrastructure? Building the future of Africa – Investing in real estate How will the energy crisis create opportunities for investment in renewable energy? How will technology change the way that real estate developers and the investment community operate? Collaborating with governments, international export credit agencies, multilateral development banks (MDB), development finance institutions (DFI), private insurance players and banks to fill the funding gap 	
	17:00 – 17:15	Closing Remarks-End of Day 1	
	17:30	BBQ & Cocktail Networking Function	



29 February 2024 -2nd day of the Conference
 Theme: “Reshaping African markets: Deciphering the Investment Conundrum for Growth”

07:00 – 08:30	BUSINESS BREAKFAST (By Invitation only*) Sponsored by: 
SESSION 5 09:15 – 10:15	Sponsored by:  Exploring opportunities: Navigating the uncertain future of Private Equity Funds (PEFs) and Private Debt Funds (PDFs) in Africa <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the external landscape influence investment decisions aimed at identifying the most promising new and existing opportunities for portfolios of funds? • Growing interest rates and impacts on valuation • How are funds evolving to remain competitive • Do pension funds in Africa invest in PEF and PDF? • What is the future of PEF and PDF in Africa • Can we consider the listing of some PEF which can facilitate exit of pension funds
SESSION 6 10:15 – 11:00	The transformative impact of technology on pension funds and investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How is the digitalisation of investment management translating into better outcomes for members? • Which disruptive technological trends will make a significant impact within the industry? • Investing in the age of AI – How are investors using developments in technology to inform investment processes and communication/engagement? • How will Web 3.0 drive digital investment? • Harnessing technology for cost-effective risk management reports • Empowering investors with data-driven insights to unlock the potential of advanced analytics to make informed investments decisions • Safeguarding data with technological armor and strengthening security in pension fund management and investments
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break & Networking
SESSION 7 11:30 -12:30	ESG, SRI, and Impact Investing: A primer for decision-making <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reporting with impact - Disclosure trends and best practices • Adopting TCFD reporting and climate related disclosure to help companies provide better information to support the allocation of capital • Reviewing the growing impact of shareholder activism and how companies can prepare and effectively engage with shareholders • How pension funds help in promoting the concept of green investments? • Designing a green finance taxonomy to EU standards for financial players to identify, track and demonstrate the credentials of their ‘green activities’ that drives investments • Reviewing the growing demand from investors for robust governance structures, effective board oversight, and clear policies regarding risk management, executive compensation, and shareholder rights
12.30 – 13.30	Networking Lunch

Reshaping African markets: Deciphering the Investment Conundrum for Growth

SESSION 8	13:30 – 14:30	<p>Emerging trends in Fixed Income investing: Where else to invest for safety and income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has the investment universe for emerging market fixed income changed? • What to consider when choosing bond alternatives? Risks vs rewards • Diversifying your portfolio by adding index funds or fixed-income funds to the mix • How ETFs enable investors to tap into a marketplace that has been traditionally fragmented and difficult to access • Is gold a good alternative to bonds? • Integrating technology to stay ahead of the economic headwinds ever-changing operating requirements of the markets
SESSION 9	14:30 – 15:15	<p>Choosing Asset Managers: A guide for optimal investment decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligning managers to investment principles and innovation to ensure that funds invested will provide optimal returns • Systematically integrating ESG factors into investment decisions • Act as a good steward and implements responsible investment and engagement practices • Address positive and negative outcomes caused by its investments • Recognise risk and return related to the level of investment risk that may occur • Undertake adequate public/transparent disclosure and implements appropriate accountability mechanisms • Ensures digital advisory and reporting tools to help distributors elevate the end-client experience
	15:15 – 15:45	Coffee Break & Networking
SESSION 10	15:45 – 16:30	<p>The rise and future of Alternative Investments: Diversify PE portfolios and unlock potential high-growth opportunities in evolving industries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring diversification of opportunities for higher returns and less risky investments by catering to pension funds and endowments • Allocating capital to alternative asset classes to enhance portfolio performance and resilience by tapping into a broader range of investment opportunities beyond the traditional asset classes • Leverage on hedge funds during times of weakening stock prices and the anticipated growth of liquid alts • Investing in the green economy and sustainability by seeking opportunities that align with ESG • REITs: Opportunities in Real Estate Investments as an effective hedge against inflationary losses • Exploring emerging sectors like cryptocurrency and blockchain, venture capital, and renewable energy infrastructure • Real-World Asset Tokenization - The next generation of markets
	16:30 – 17:00	Ministerial Closing Remarks
	17:15	Closing Cocktail Soiree

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Asset Tokenization:

How blockchain will change the way we invest

Ten years ago, it was unfathomable for the average man on the street to own an Andy Warhol painting. With an entry price in the millions of dollars, it would take multiple lifetimes to accumulate the wealth needed to make such an acquisition.

Now imagine that there was a way to acquire a fragment of ownership of one of Warhol's famous paintings: "Marilyn" (1967), "Double Mickey" (1981), "Mick Jagger" (1975), or "Rebel Without a Cause (James Dean)" (1985).

Welcome blockchain tokenization, whereby non-traditional assets are "securitized" or "tokenized" into thousands, if not millions of "fragments" or "tokens", each bearing a right of ownership to the underlying assets.

This is not a theoretical idea, but a real live concept that is being incubated within blockchain technology that was built and developed over the last 10 years. Just to illustrate how far this has progressed: the investment fund giant Franklin Templeton launched the Franklin OnChain U.S. Government Money Fund in 2021. It was the first U.S. registered mutual fund to use a public blockchain to process transactions and record share ownership.



Nathaniel Tsang Mang Kin
Head of Financial Operations, Stewards Investment Capital

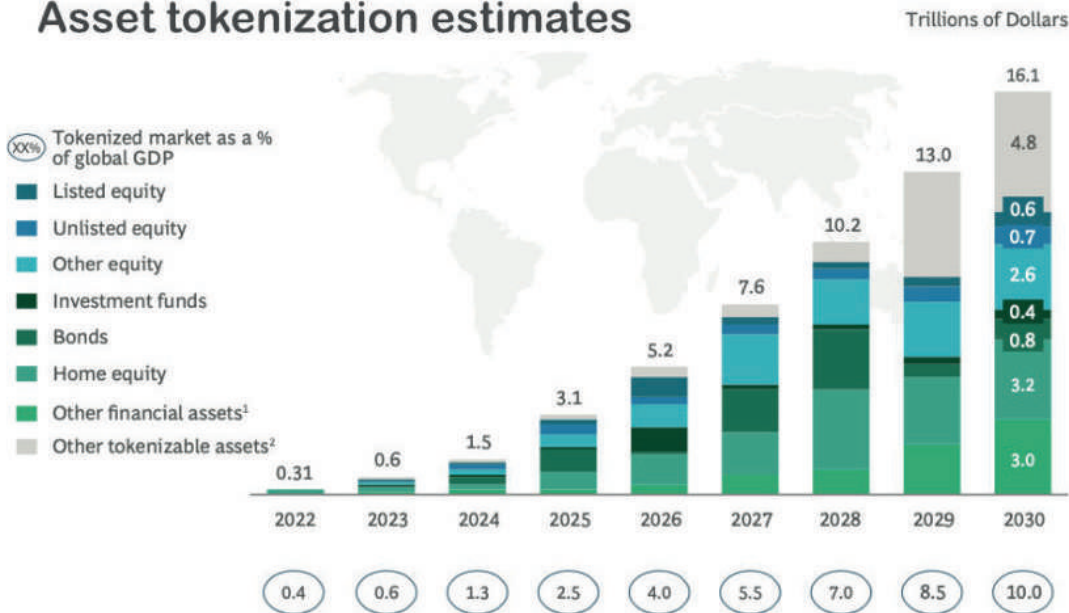
How does Tokenization work?

The core idea of asset tokenization is to create a virtual investment vehicle on the blockchain linked to tangible things like real estate, precious metals, art and collectibles.

So instead of the deed to a house being a physical piece of paper, the ownership is put on-chain. This ownership can then be traded between two parties directly, or fractionalized and offered to many people to buy or trade.

If we were to contrast the above process with the traditional securitization process, blockchain tokenization removes the need for a custodian, an exchange, a clearing house, and a broker, by migrating all the trust bearing actors' roles into that of a "Smart Contract". These Smart Contracts exist on the blockchain without the need for any policing entity as they are self-executing and impartial. As they say in the industry: "Code is Law".

Asset tokenization estimates



Source: BCG, ADDX

The Advantages of Tokenization

Tokenization is a game-changer for the modern financial markets. The benefits that it brings can be roughly categorized as follows:

1. Cost Reduction

Tokenization slashes costs by removing intermediaries like brokers and lawyers, streamlining the entire trading process. The Investor is the owner and can directly purchase and buy from the market through a Smart Contract.

2. Accessibility

It democratizes investment opportunities, allowing even small-scale investors to partake in markets previously out of reach due to high entry barriers. Investors can trade fragments if not cents of assets that were previously the realm of the wealthiest of individuals.

3. 24/7 Trading

Unlike traditional markets, digital tokens can be traded round the clock, offering unprecedented flexibility. There is no more US, European or Asian markets that have their own schedules and trading rules and restrictions.

A Leap Toward Transparent and Efficient Trading

The transparency of blockchain technology not only fosters trust among traders but also ensures a secure and accountable trading environment. This process of tokenization injects more liquidity into the market, making the trading of traditionally illiquid assets like real estate and art smoother and more efficient.

And all of this is made possible through Smart Contracts that play a crucial role in the tokenization of real-world assets. Like we previously explained, these are self-executing contracts with the terms directly written into code, automating, and managing the process of token ownership and transfer.

But elaborate more on the value created through Smart Contracts without going too much into the technical aspect of things, let's have a look at two features that have the most relevancy for our article:

1. Automated Management

Smart Contracts can handle processes such as continuous ownership transfers recording and dividend payments to small shareholders. These functions were previously the realm of registrars who are physically unable to process live ownership transfer due to the sheer trading volumes on exchanges, and the prohibitive friction cost to pay out dividends through the banking systems to owners with only cents' worth of shares.

2. Security and Compliance

Smart Contracts ensure the security of tokenized assets using cryptographic techniques and facilitate adherence to regulatory standards like AML and KYC policies. A tokenized assets issuer can programmatically whitelist or blacklist certain users from accessing a particular asset or market without the need for any human intervention.



The Future Landscape of Tokenized Assets

At Stewards Investment Capital, we eagerly welcome the development and inclusion of tokenized assets into traditional finance as we firmly believe that this is the future of finance.

Our research desk is currently predicting an exponential growth in tokenized asset market that has the potential to reach \$16 trillion by 2030. This growth trajectory indicates a seismic shift in how assets will be perceived and traded globally.

And as tokenization continues to gain momentum, it's poised to reshape not just individual sectors but the entire global economic landscape. The blend of traditional finance with innovative blockchain technology will pave the way for a more inclusive, efficient, and transparent financial ecosystem.

PRE-EVENT WORKSHOP



Marilyn Watson

Managing Director, Head of the Global Fundamental Fixed Income Strategy Team, and Chief Investment Strategist for Fundamental Fixed Income, **BlackRock Solutions**

Marilyn is the Head of the Global Fundamental Fixed Income Strategy Team, and Chief Investment Strategist for Fundamental Fixed Income, within BlackRock's Global Fixed Income (GFI) group. Miss Watson and her team are responsible for providing thought leadership, client solutions and developing the global fundamental fixed income platform. Based in the US, she regularly contributes her views on fixed income markets, central bank policies and economic developments in a variety of global media outlets.

She also represents the firm as a speaker at industry-wide conferences and events around the world and is proactively involved in organising and speaking at I&D initiatives. Miss Watson joined BlackRock in January 2011 from the Bank of England, where she worked as an economist and deputy agent in the Monetary Policy Division.

Prior to the Bank of England, she spent two years as a global investment strategist and six years selling FX derivatives at JPMorgan Asset Management and JPMorgan Investment Bank respectively. She has an MA degree in Economics, with honours, from Cambridge University.



Ilyan Clunis

EMEA Head of Business Development, Aladdin Alternatives, **BlackRock Solutions**

Ilyan Clunis is responsible for Business Development of Aladdin Alternatives within EMEA. With more than 15 years experience, Ilyan has helped numerous financial institutions define and optimise their operating models through the use of technology. Ilyan was part of the team that launched BlackRock's Private Markets data business (eFront Insight).

Prior to eFront/BlackRock Ilyan has held various senior positions at Moody's Analytics, where he was focused on Banking risk management and regulatory reporting solutions to tier one Banks. Ilyan began his career at SunGard within the Asset Management division.



Jason Soares

Director and Member of Aladdin Business Development, **BlackRock Solutions**

Jason Soares is a member of the Aladdin Business Development team within BlackRock Solutions, based in Dubai. Mr. Soares engages with prospective clients to assess their needs and determine appropriate risk reporting, analytics and investment platform solutions via the Aladdin & eFront platform. Prior to this role Mr. Soares worked within the Portfolio Analytics Group (PAG) also within BlackRock Solutions and was responsible for the delivery of fundamental and index equity analytic solutions to BlackRock's investment teams. Prior to this, Mr Soares worked within PAG supporting the BlackRock Multi-Asset Client Solutions business. Mr Soares earned a BSc degree in Economics & Management from the University of Southampton in 2010.

PRE-EVENT WORKSHOP



Ron Mincy

Senior Investor and Head of Africa for the Climate Finance Partnership, **BlackRock Solutions**

Ron Mincy is a senior investor in BlackRock's Climate Infrastructure group and is Head of Africa for the Climate Finance Partnership, an innovative emerging and frontier market equity fund dedicated to clean energy and enabling infrastructure. He holds responsibilities across investment origination, structuring and execution, strategy development, and portfolio management.

Previously, Ron was a Partner at African Capital Alliance (ACA), an African private equity GP, where he held responsibilities for deal origination and execution across a variety of sectors in addition to the firm's investor relations function. Before that, he was the CEO & Managing Partner of a Pan Africa-focused investment firm based in Kenya. Prior to this role, Ron worked at GE Capital and GE Africa in renewables, energy and infrastructure investing, private equity, and venture capital, across multiple geographies. Ron was a Managing Director for GE Africa and led principal investments activities in the region. Before moving to Africa, Ron worked with GE Equity and GE Energy Financial Services (GE EFS), where he was responsible for sourcing and managing growth equity, climate tech, and infrastructure investments in the US, Europe, and emerging markets. He started his career as an engineer in the ICT sector based in the US with Teradyne and later held senior leadership roles in engineering and operations living in Mexico.

Ron has served as an advisor to the United Nations Joint SDG Fund on private sector investment and clean energy in emerging and frontier markets. He holds a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Boston University and an MBA in Finance and International Business from Columbia Business School.

OPENING CEREMONY



Admassu Tadesse

Group President and Managing Director, **TDB Group**

Admassu Tadesse is an international banker specialized in development finance with experience at board of director and executive-levels globally and in Africa.

He is currently the President and Chief Executive of the Eastern and Southern Trade and Development Bank (TDB) – formerly known as PTA Bank. Since he has joined the Bank in 2012, Mr. Tadesse has spearheaded critical reforms which have led TDB to transform its ownership and risk management structures, expand its partners network, grow its assets from US\$ 1 billion to nearly US\$ 5.6 billion, and drive higher impact in the 22 Member States it serves.

Specialized in trade and project finance, TDB covers 22 countries from Egypt to Mozambique and Eswatini. It has 37 shareholders, both sovereigns and financial institutions, including the African Development Bank, People's Bank of China, OFID of OPEC, BADEA, as well as several pension funds, and insurance companies.

Over the past 6 years, the Bank has enjoyed several rating upgrades, its capital and funding have increased by over 400%, and as a result of its work, over 1.1 jobs have been created. The Bank is now investment grade-rated and one of the leading financial institution in the region.

Previously, Mr. Tadesse was Executive Vice President at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), where he served for over 10 years, and among other portfolios, was responsible for international finance and corporate strategy. Prior to this, he worked as a senior advisor and specialist with various funds and international organizations in New York.

He is a recipient of several distinctions and awards and serves on several boards and industry bodies globally. Mr. Tadesse holds a MSc from London School of Economics, and an MBA from Wits Business School. He is also an alumnus of Harvard Business School and Western University, and has trained at INSEAD.

OPENING CEREMONY



Fola Fagbule
Deputy Director & Head, Financial Advisory,
Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)

Fola Fagbule is a senior banker focused on infrastructure in Africa. He currently serves as Deputy Director and Head of Financial Advisory with responsibility for corporate finance advisory, mergers, acquisitions, capital raising and other technical advisory assignments at the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC).

AFC is the leading infrastructure financing bank in Africa focused on private sector led projects. A multilateral financial institution, AFC was created by African sovereign states to provide pragmatic solutions to Africa's infrastructure deficit and challenging operating environment, by developing and financing infrastructure, natural resources and industrial assets for the enhanced productivity and economic growth of African states.

At AFC, Fola's team focuses on large infrastructure projects, companies, and investments across sub-Saharan Africa. Fola has worked at AFC in various roles since 2009 and is currently leading a team of bankers delivering corporate finance advice to various clients including governments, sovereign wealth funds, private funds, large corporates, private developers, state-owned

enterprises, and central banks. Fola has previously served as a non-executive director representing AFC on the board of a diversified energy business operating in multiple African countries. He also represents AFC on the boards of directors of portfolio companies.

Prior to AFC, Fola worked as an investment banker at a securities and corporate finance advisory firm where he focused originally on mergers, acquisitions and capital raising; then subsequently was responsible for the investment research department.

Fola obtained a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from Lagos Business School and a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics from the University of Lagos. Fola has attended executive development courses and also spoken at leading international universities like Harvard, Stanford, Wharton, and Oxford.

A critically acclaimed writer, Fola is co-author of a popular pre-colonial history of Nigeria titled "Formation, The Making of Nigeria from Jihad to Amalgamation", published by Cassava Republic Press.

KEYNOTE SESSION



Dave Uduanu
CEO, **Access Pensions Limited**

Dave is widely regarded as a thought leader in the subject of mobilizing domestic institutional capital to fuel economic development and deepen African capital markets. Dave initially qualified as a Civil Engineer and a Chartered Accountant in Nigeria; and is a CFA Charterholder.

He is currently the CEO of Access Pensions in Nigeria where he manages more than N1trillion (\$1.4B) in multi-strategy funds invested in Equities, Fixed income, Private Equity, Real Estate and Infrastructure. He also chairs the Board of Melon Capital Limited; an early stage Investment company; was a past Chairman of the Pension Fund Operators Association of Nigeria and sits on the Board of Trustee of the CFA Institute Research Foundation based in the USA.

KEYNOTE SESSION**H.E. Dr. Sidi Ould TAH**

President, Arab Bank for **Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)**

H.E. Dr. Sidi Ould Tah, Ph.D., is the President of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), a major 'AAA' Multilateral Development Bank at the service of the Arab-African solidarity.

Under his transformational leadership, since his appointment in 2015, the Bank established itself as a key long-term development partner in Africa with a special focus on social impact, sustainability, private sector and trade finance.

"Development Banker of the Year" (2022), his pragmatic game-changing development approach led the Bank to receiving strong credit ratings from top rating agencies, signaling its outstanding financial solidity and shareholders' support.

Prior to joining the Bank, he served as Mauritanian Minister of Economic Affairs and Development and worked in the Islamic Development Bank Group. He holds a PhD in Economics from the French University of Nice-Sophia Antipolis.

**Leslie Mdawana**

Chief Executive Officer and Principal Executive Officer,
National Fund for Municipal Workers

Mr Ndawana is the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Executive Officer of the National Fund for Municipal Workers (NFMW), a retirement with approximately 55,000 members and equivalent of USD1,4 billion of assets under management.

He has been in the South African retirement funds industry for well over a decade, mainly in advisory and fiduciary capacities. Mr Ndawana currently serves the South African retirement funds industry as a Director of one of the South Africa's industry bodies, Batseta Council of Retirement Funds.

Mr Ndawana is a professional member of Batseta, with a Chartered Principal Executive Officer (CPEO) qualification and designation. In addition, he holds a Post Graduate Diploma in financial planning and an Advanced Post-Graduate Diploma in Investments, both obtained from University of the Free State (South Africa). He has a Master of Business Administration degree (passed with merit) from Henley Business School, which is the Business School of University of Reading in the United Kingdom. He is currently studying for his Master's degree in Development Finance with the University of Stellenbosch (South Africa).

KEYNOTE SESSION



Ngati Kirungie
Managing Director, **Spearhead Africa**
and Head of Secretariat,
Kenya Pension Funds Investment Consortium

Ngatia is a financial service professional and the founder and managing director of Spearhead Africa. Ngatia has extensive experience from large financial institutions in New York, London and Nairobi and leads the firm's project structuring efforts by developing innovative and bespoke financing structures and capital solutions to meet client project requirements. He is also responsible for developing the firm's investment capital networks with local and international commercial and development banks, insurance companies, pension funds and asset managers.

Prior to founding Spearhead Africa, Ngatia was an Executive Director at Goldman Sachs in London where he led the firm's Africa fixed income sales and credit coverage and was responsible for leading financing and public market investment transactions valued at over USD 5 billion across Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ghana, Angola, and South Africa.

Ngatia was also responsible for the firm's structured finance origination and distribution efforts in Africa, providing local corporates, state-owned enterprises, and infrastructure investors with financing solutions across the capital structure ranging from vanilla debt to structured equity investments.

Ngatia was the lead housing and infrastructure finance advisor to the Kenya Urban Support Program (KUSP) which is a USD 300 million program funded by the World Bank with the objective of establishing and strengthening urban institutions to deliver improved infrastructure and services in participating counties in Kenya. He is also the Head of the Secretariat of the Kenya Pension Fund Investment Consortium (KEPFIC), which comprises of local pension funds who have come together to jointly assess and invest in infrastructure and housing opportunities in the East African region.

CONTACT US

SESSION 1 – LEGAL AND REGULATORY UPDATES



David Tetteh-Amey Abbey
Deputy Chief Executive Officer, **NPRA Ghana**

David Abbey is a seasoned banking and investment professional with proven business development experience and executive presence with over 20 years progressive experience in trading, pensions and fund management, corporate re-structuring, and treasury management. All these experiences were in senior management roles providing strategic leadership, technical and administrative support for the attainment of strategic objectives.

David started his career in 1999 with Databank Brokerage Limited as an Authorized Dealing Office (ADO) of the Ghana Stock Exchange. He also worked with all the subsidiaries of the Fidelity Group at the Executive level.

David held various leadership and management positions namely Ag. Director of Treasury at Fidelity Bank, Executive Director at Fidelity Securities Limited, Managing Director at Fidelity Asset Management Ltd and with Fidelity Asia Bank as Deputy CEO.

David is a Fellow of the Actuarial Society of Ghana, Associate of the CFA Society, Edinburgh, and the ACI Financial Market Association (FMA) Ghana.

SESSION 1 – LEGAL AND REGULATORY UPDATES**Namaku Mundia Ntini**

Acting Registrar & CEO

Pensions and Insurance Authority, Zambia

Mrs. Namakau Mundia Ntini is the Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, Pensions and Insurance Authority, Zambia. She has been with the Authority since 2009, and has served in different roles in Insurance and Pensions Supervision.

Mrs. Ntini has a passion for financial inclusion and served as Chairperson of the Financial Education Working Group that developed Zambia's First National Strategy on Financial Education, under the auspices of the Financial Sector Development Plan (FSDP), led by the Ministry of Finance. She also served on the Drafting Committee that was supported by the World Bank to develop the 2017-2022, National Financial Inclusion Strategy.

At regional level, she has served and continues to serve in various capacities aimed at driving financial inclusion and regional integration. Currently, Mrs. Ntini represents Zambia on the ZEP-RE (PTA Reinsurance Company) Board of Directors, and was recently elected Chairperson of the Insurance, Retirement Funds, Medical Aid Schemes and Intermediary, a Subcommittee under CISNA, a structure established under the SADC Protocol on Finance.

Mrs. Ntini is a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA) and the Zambia Institute of Chartered Accountants (FZICA). She also holds a MSc Finance (Financial Sector Management) from the University of London.

**Richard Robinson**Director, **International Assurance**

Richard boasts a distinguished financial career spanning nearly three decades, commencing in 1994 with Appleton Ltd, a prominent South African private wealth investment firm. His journey led to the directorship of Appleton Investment Services in 1998, where he took charge of third-party sales and skilfully managed High Net Worth private clients.

In 2003 Richard embarked on a pivotal venture, co-founding Asset House Ltd, an esteemed Investment Management Company based in Mauritius, where he assumed the role of Managing Director. His entrepreneurial spirit flourished further in 2015 with the co-founding of International Assurance Limited, a long-term insurer regulated in Mauritius, where he was entrusted with the position of Joint CEO. Concurrently, his financial expertise earned him a place on the Investment Committee of the State Bank of Mauritius' suite of Unit Trust Funds, solidifying his reputation as a key player in the industry. In 2017, Richard's influence expanded to the Listings Committee for the Stock Exchange of Mauritius, reflecting his commitment to the financial sector's growth and regulation.

Additionally, Richard's leadership extends to his founding membership and past presidency of the SA Chamber of Commerce in Mauritius. His educational background includes a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a focus on Economics, Commercial Law, and Business from Rhodes University, complemented by a Postgraduate financial qualification from Free State University. Moreover, he has successfully completed the Registered Persons examinations with SAFEX in South Africa, underscoring his commitment to professional development and regulatory compliance.

SESSION 1 – LEGAL AND REGULATORY UPDATES



The Hon. Nicholas Sherry

Chair, Independent Director
TWUSUPER Australia

Nick was a Senator for Australia (Tasmania) for 22 years and the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law (Australia's first), Assistant Treasurer, Small Business Minister and Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Resources. He is currently the Chair of TWUSUPER, Chair of Household Capital, GO Sourcing, Co Chair Singapore Forum, Member of Advisory Committee to Roc Partners, DWS APAC Expert Panel and Chair of an NGO; Youth, Family and Community Connections.

He has worked as a Senior Advisor, Global Pensions and Superannuation for Citi Group and EY in some 27 countries to government, regulators, think tanks and providers, on all aspects of pension system design and operation thereof. He was a member of the OECD Irish Pension Study Group, the Steering Group on Social Security at the World Economic Forum, independent director of Spotless (ASX:SPO), Chair of FNZ (APAC) and a Chair, founding trustee and secretary of 3 superannuation funds.

He has contributed to the global discussion and development of public policy and industry practice in Defined Contribution pension systems. He is a Governor of the Pension Policy Institute (UK), a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

SESSION 2 – CONQUER RISK



Bilal Adam

Chief Executive Officer
Stewards Investment Capital

Bilal Adam is the CEO of Stewards Investments Capital, a boutique investment management and advisory leader with a strategic presence in Mauritius, South Africa and the United States.

With over 20 years' experience in the financial sector, Bilal honed his expertise through a specialized journey that began as a Chartered Accountant at Deloitte and Investec before joining AfrAsia Capital Management as CEO. His strategic vision, extensive knowledge and investor performance achieved has propelled him to take the strategic leadership of Stewards Investment Capital since 2019 where he set the stage for the firm's instrumental growth in exciting new investment solutions which deliver stellar returns to institutional and HNWI investors.

Passionate about niche investments, Bilal distinguishes Stewards by offering bespoke and unique investment solutions, including fixed income, equity and digital asset strategies. His holistic expertise in these spheres contribute significantly to our innovative approach which has established us as leaders in the industry.

Bilal serves as the Founder Chairman of Arrel Technology Ltd, a blockchain fintech business based in Mauritius. His commitment to supporting economic development is portrayed in his role as the President of the South African Chamber of Commerce in Mauritius since 2020. Bilal also serves on the Advisory Board of US listed fast growing microfinance firm, Favo Capital. In addition, he is a Director on the Board of a leading African crypto exchange, VALR and Enhanced Investment Products Limited (EIP), a niche Asian investment manager.

SESSION 2 – CONQUER RISK**Len Jordaan**

Director, Head of Sales Sub-Sahara Africa
S&P

Len is Head of Sales for South Africa and sub-Sahara Africa. He joined S&P in June 2020 after being their client for several years.

He has broad experience in financial services including asset management, corporate finance, capital raising, derivative structuring & sales. He works closely with clients across the continent helping to structure indices that are relevant for local markets by applying international best-practice.

Len has worked for several investment banks and asset managers in South Africa, servicing both retail and institutional clients. His client-base in Africa includes asset managers, pension funds, insurance companies and financial exchanges. Len holds an honours degree in Economics and a post-graduate diploma in Financial Planning.

**Afsar Ebrahim**

Founding Partner
Kick Advisory Services

Afsar is the founding partner of KICK Advisory Services. He has over a quarter century of experience in Corporate Restructuring, Litigation Support, Mergers & Acquisitions, Strategy and Financial Consulting and Fund Raising to clients across a wide spectrum of industries both locally and internationally.

Afsar previously served as Deputy Group Managing Partner of the largest professional services firm in Sub Saharan Africa- BDO in Mauritius, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Seychelles. Having been part of the network, he completed the BDO Global Partners Leadership Programme in 2016.

Prior to his tenure at BDO, he served as Manager Corporate & Investment Banking at HSBC Mauritius during which period he was trained in Hong Kong and Singapore by HSBC in Corporate Lending Analysis and Applied Credit lending. He also occupied the post of Group Finance Manager at British American Investment Group (BAI).

Afsar is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, prize winner in professional exam (PE 1) and was granted the Corporate Finance qualification from ICAEW in December 2006. Obtained training in Operational & Financial Consulting with Arthur Andersen at St Charles, USA, and in London and has attended the Harvard Business School program on Managing Professional Services Firm in 2012.

In addition to his professional qualifications, he was a Founding Member of Mauritius Africa Business Club.

SESSION 2 – CONQUER RISK



Hish Ravindra

Partner

Lane Clark & Peacock LLP (LCP)

Hish is a Partner in the investment department and leads LCP's global institutional practice. His responsibilities include providing advice and ongoing support to sovereign wealth funds, central banks and international pension funds. He has over 15 years of experience in investments.

He works with his institutional clients and other stakeholders in a collaborative manner to help them find ways to achieve their objectives while managing risk. He is also a regular speaker at industry conferences such as the Central Banking Summer Meetings, International Forum of Sovereign Wealth Funds, Fund Manager Selection conferences and CFA UK.

Hish is a senior member of LCP's Investment Strategy group which is responsible for developing LCP's approach to setting our clients' investment strategy and asset allocations. He also works closely with LCP's in-house technology team to develop customised reporting and risk monitoring tools that are used by our clients to enhance their decision making. Hish graduated from the London School of Economics with a degree in actuarial science. He is a CFA charter holder.



James Maduekeh

Vice President & Head of Treasury Client Solutions, **AFC**

James is a seasoned global market leader with nearly two decades of experience in the financial markets, specializing in treasury and financial market solutions for African infrastructure development.

As the Head of Treasury Client Solutions business at Africa Finance Corporation, a leading Infrastructure Solutions Provider in Africa, he leads a team of professionals who provide creative and innovative treasury solutions to clients across different sectors and regions, including cross-asset hedging, structured financing, bespoke credit solutions, and derivatives. He has successfully closed over \$8bn bespoke financial market transactions in Africa, positioning AFC as a solutions provider and mobilizing private capital for African development.

He serves as a trusted advisor to African central banks and previously held the position of Vice Chairman for the Swaps and Derivatives Workgroup at Financial Markets Dealers Associations, where he played a key role in shaping the local derivative markets in Nigeria. He holds an MEng (Bachelor and Masters) in Chemical Engineering from University College London and an Executive MBA from Said Business School, University of Oxford.

SESSION 3 – ELEVATING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY**Diana Muriuki Maina**

CEO

Institute of Certified Investment & Financial Analysts, Kenya

FA Diana is a principled and results-driven Chief Executive Officer with over 16 years of experience in the Investment and Finance industry. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer and Secretary to the Council of the Institute of Certified Investment and Financial Analysts (ICIFA). She most previously served as a Senior Manager, Investments at Actuarial Services (EA) Limited where she excelled in previous Investment Specialist/Consultant and Analyst assignments. During her tenure at Actuarial Services (EA) Limited she was instrumental in establishing processes and business relationships that enhanced business development. She has also served as Investment Officer and Head of Member Services at Arima Fund Limited.

She has a deep understanding and knowledge of the investment industry having provided investment advisory services to numerous pension schemes in Kenya.

She is a practising member of ICIFA and also a member of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investments, UK. She holds a Master of Science in Finance and Bachelors in Economics and Statistics both from University of Nairobi and a Graduate diploma in Actuarial Science. She also holds certifications in Corporate Governance for Directors (with Distinction), Transformational Leadership, Public Speaking among others.

She is a recipient of the top 40 under 40 women award in the year 2019 by the Business Daily Africa which is an award that recognizes the most influential and progressive women in corporate Kenya. She was also commended by the ICIFA Council at the 1st Fellowship and Commendation award ceremony held in January 2021 for outstanding contribution to the growth of ICIFA and the Investment and Finance profession.

**Dr. Emmanuel Anesu Fundira**

Board Chairman

National Social Security Authority (NSSA), Zimbabwe

Dr Fundira is a renowned award winning corporate leader with practical experience in corporate governance and investments gained over more than 25 years leadership and board position in leading corporates in Africa and abroad. He is founder and Group Chief Executive Officer of privately owned diversified tourism concern Atoc Leisure and the Chairman of largest institutional investor in Zimbabwe, the National Social Security Authority ("NSSA").

He is a transformative corporate leader mandated to institute sound corporate governance and strategic direction of the largest pension fund in Zimbabwe. As Chairman of NSSA, Dr Fundira is responsible for instituting sound corporate governance and strategic direction of the largest pension fund in the country. He is credited with transforming the pension scheme's investment program through sound corporate governance practices. His extensive experience in governance matters extend beyond NSSA as he has Chaired numerous Boards in the last 20 years including stock exchange listed hospitality group, African Sun, Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA), Regional Tourism organization of Southern Africa ("RETOSA") among other key roles.

Dr Fundira is an award winning Corporate Executive having won tourism personality three times (2009, 2010 and 2022) and tourism image builder of the year in 2010. Prior to Board roles he worked as an Investment Corporate Executive with National Westminster Merchant Bank in the UK where he was instrumental in managing large and complex financial transactions and investments.

SESSION 3 – ELEVATING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY



Vincent Shimutwiken
Member Board of Trustees,
Universities Retirement Fund, Namibia

Vincent Shimutwiken is a distinguished professional holding the Degree of Baccalaureus Juris (B.juris) and the Degree of Bachelor of Laws (Honours), complemented by certification in Governance, Risk, and Compliance. With an extensive background in the compliance industry, Vincent currently serves as a Member of the Board of Trustees at the Universities Retirement Fund (UNIREF).

Recognized for his profound contributions to the pension industry, Vincent is a renowned author, sharing his expertise through published articles and various platforms. His notable skill set spans across the Field of Law and Politics, Educational Leadership, Business Strategy, and more, making him a multifaceted professional.

Vincent Shimutwiken is dedicated to his role as a legal and compliance professional, showcasing a keen interest in the intersection of law, politics, and international relations. His expertise lies in navigating the complex regulatory landscape, ensuring organizational adherence to legal standards, and contributing to a broader understanding of global affairs. With a commitment to excellence, Vincent continues to provide valuable insights that shape the pension industry and advance the field of compliance.

SESSION 4 – SPOTLIGHT SESSION



Aymeric Saha
CEO
Mida Advisors

Aymeric Saha is the CEO of MiDA Advisors. More recently, he was the Managing Director of the NASP-USAID Investment Partnership for Mobilizing Institutional Investors to Develop Africa's Infrastructure or "MiDA." He previously spent fourteen years at the World Bank and led the quantitative risk finance function responsible for overseeing market and credit risks for \$200 billion in banking operations in over 100 countries; and an investment portfolio of over \$100 billion invested across developed and emerging markets.

In 2013, he was appointed Financial Policy Director in the United States Congress for the House Subcommittee on Financial Institutions to oversee the implementation of banking and capital markets reforms in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis. Cumulatively, he directed initiatives to boost U.S.- Africa trade and investments, particularly within the Power Africa initiative. In 2005, Mr. Saha co-founded New Bridge Development/1438 Street LLC, a boutique real estate and retail investment firm that developed and managed commercial and residential properties in the Washington, DC region.

Mr. Saha holds two MA degrees in Finance and Business Management from Johns Hopkins University Carey Business School, and his BA degree in Finance and Economics from McGill University. He previously lived abroad in Africa, Europe, and Canada, and is fluent in French.

SESSION 4 – SPOTLIGHT SESSION



Denis C Kouassi,

Director General,
Caisse Nationale de Prévoyance Sociale (CNPS), Côte d'Ivoire

Mr Denis Charles KOUASSI has a long and brilliant career as Manager. He successively held the position of Credit Manager, Assistant General Manager in charge of Operations and since 2013, he is the General Manager of the Social Insurance Institute – National Social Insurance Fund in Côte d'Ivoire.

As part of his duties, he is engaged resolutely in the modernization of the social insurance activity by making the IPS-CNPS a reference in Ivory Coast investment.

He is an administrator of many companies including NSIA BANQUE, TOTAL – CI, CIPREL, BNI, BICICI.



Nes Ruwo

Principal – Syndication and Distribution
DBSA

Nes is a highly accomplished Principal Syndication Officer at the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), with a proven track record of successfully executing multi-million-dollar infrastructure, corporate, and private equity deals across the investment value chain.

His expertise spans from deal origination, appraisal, and execution to syndications and secondary distributions. Nes boasts extensive experience in corporate finance, financial advisory, investment banking, and project finance, with a strong focus on Sub-Saharan African markets. A CFA® charterholder, he holds an MBA from IE Business School, an MSc in Finance and Investment, as well as a BBus (Honours) degree.



Sonia Essobmadje

Chief Innovative Finance and Capital Markets Section
ECA

SESSION 4 – SPOTLIGHT SESSION



Umar Farouk Aminu
Commissioner
Pencom Nigeria

I joined the National Pension Commission, Nigeria, in August 2005 after spending 14 years in classroom, where I taught Mathematics, Computing and Operations Research. I was engaged on special National Assignment to establish the pension industry in Nigeria after serving, on advisory capacity, during the period of legislative process on the pension reform bill by the National Assembly in 2004. I served on the Committee that reviewed the National Strategy on Public Service Reforms as well as on the Technical Committee for the implementation of the National Financial Inclusion Strategy and member of the Program Monitoring Office of the National Financial Sector Strategy 2020. I also served on the National Working Group for the Non-Interest Finance, which saw the successful implementation of Non-Interest Finance in Nigeria.

I have a bachelor's degree in Mathematics (Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto, Nigeria, 1990), a Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science (Federal University of Technology, Minna, Nigeria, 1997), MSc in Management Science (Operational Research, Lancaster University, UK- 1998) and a PhD in Management Science (Operations Research, Lancaster University, UK - 2003). I served as the Head of Research & Strategy Management Department of the National Pension Commission from August 2005 to March 2019 and the Head of Investment Supervision Department of the Commission from March 2019 to December 2020.

I am currently the Commissioner (Executive Director) in charge of Administration at the Commission. I attended several courses at home at abroad and had written and spoken extensively on the Nigerian pension reforms and the Contributory Pension Scheme at various national and international fora.

SESSION 5 – EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES



Brenton Lalu
Specialist Africa
Public Investment Corporation (PIC)

Brenton Lalu is an experienced Investment Professional with demonstrated history of working in the Financial Services Sector. Skilled in Investment Research, Strategy & Investment Thesis Development, Financial Modelling, Analytical Reasoning, Negotiation & Persuasion and Deal Origination. Currently, at the Public Investment Corporation (PIC), heading up portfolio investment strategy and research for Africa.

Prior to the PIC, Brenton worked at Citibank Research in South Africa, where he was an Equity Analyst covering CEEMEA Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals. Brenton started his career at RisCura as a Quantitative Investment Analyst, where he developed quantitative models for a range of South African and African asset managers. He holds a Master's of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Stellenbosch Business School; and is currently a PhD candidate in Development Finance at the same institution.



Joel Barnor
Investment Partnerships, Origination and Coverage Division
DBSA

SESSION 5 – EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES



Nick Stileman

Founding Partner, **Betula Partners**

20-year corporate finance track record across Africa, Middle East & Asia with 13 years focused on Africa. Nick co-founded Betula Partners, an FCA regulated independent financial advisor and arranger, working with businesses across Africa and the Middle East to arrange bespoke capital solutions.

In 2023, Betula launched the Betula Growth fund, a US\$150m mezzanine credit fund targeting mid-market growth companies across Africa that have developed productive and profitable business models but struggle to access appropriate growth capital solutions.

He previously held the position of Managing Director of leveraged finance Africa at Standard Chartered Bank. Born in Hong Kong and educated in the UK, Nick has lived and worked in Hong Kong, Singapore, London and Johannesburg. Nick holds a BA in Economics and Social Studies from University of Manchester.



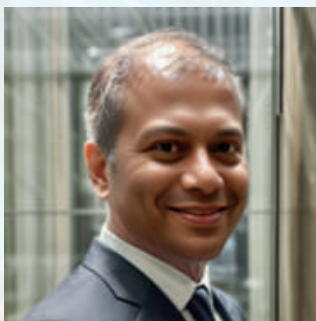
Thys van Zyl

Chief Product Officer, **Everet Wealth**

Thys van Zyl's daily work is dedicated to market analysis and stock exchange, both domestically and internationally. Currently, Thys serves as Chief Product Officer at Everest Wealth and is recognized as an opinion leader who is able to analyze and explain complex economic events at the level of the audience.

Over the past decade, Thys has developed a passion for alternative investments as one of South Africa's top financial planners.

SESSION 6 – THE TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY



Ashutosh Jadhav

Director and Head of Products at **Centelon Group**

Ashutosh Jadhav is Director and Head of Products at Centelon Group. He leads the ideation, development, evolution, and P&L for the products business of Centelon, including Finnate – a flagship product designed for ambitious financial services firms, particularly AIFs, who wish to accelerate their digitalisation journey.

Ashu is an experienced technocrat, with over 20 years of international fintech expertise acquired by leading multiple technology products across large teams as well as being the founding member of start-ups and scale-ups in the domain.

Ashu is passionate about partnering with financial services customers on use of cutting-edge technologies to make their enterprises future-ready.



Marija Djordjevic

Head of Private Market Research, Aladdin by **BlackRock**

Marija Djordjevic serves as the Head of Private Market Research within the Aladdin Client Business at BlackRock. In that role, Marija is responsible for curating and executing diverse research projects focused on alternative markets, inclusive of regular reports on market risk and performance, thought leadership content covering macro and structural trends, as well as perspective articles on technological advancements shaping private markets globally.

SESSION 7 – ESG, SRI AND IMPACT INVESTING



Cacious Siboleka,
Manager Investment Services
Government Institutions Pension Fund

Cacious is an Investment Professional more than over 17 years' experience in Investment Management and currently working as a Manager Investment Services at the GIPF. He holds a BAcc degree – UNAM, Certification in Security Investment Analysis, MBA – University of Cape Town) specializing in Finance, Strategy and Entrepreneurship. Cacious was an MBA Exchange Student at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology; studied Innovation, Culture & Entrepreneurship.

- He is a Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst candidate and scholar of Global ARC/CAIA Institutional Investors.
- He currently serves as a Board Member on the following company:
- Principal Officer of Kuleni Pension Preservation Fund.
- Board Member of NYS Investment Holding Pty Ltd
- Advisory Board Member of Namibia Infrastructure Development Investment Fund
- Advisory Board Member of the Namibia National Housing Advisory Committee
- Board Member of Desert Drilling & Explorations
- Board Member at Woman Action for Development

He is passionate about private equity and entrepreneurship.



Jacklyne Iminza-Anyamba
Chief Operating Officer
East Africa Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (EAVCA)

Jacklyne is the Chief Operating Officer of the East Africa Private Equity and Venture Capital Association (EAVCA), an ecosystem enabler that serves as the umbrella body for private capital allocators in East Africa. In her role, she leads the strategic and operational planning, execution, and performance of the organisation, which represents over 100 private capital investors and partners in East Africa.

Specializing in the critical areas of human and capital mobilization, Jacklyne has played a pivotal role in fostering partnerships within the private capital ecosystem. Her efforts have been instrumental in catalyzing significant investments into East Africa, contributing to the region's economic growth and development.

Driven by a profound passion for creating positive social and economic impact through private capital, Jacklyne is motivated by the unique opportunities and challenges that the East African region presents and commitment to leveraging private capital as a force for positive change.



Shafeeq Abrahams
CEO
Eskom Pension & Provident Fund, South Africa

Mr. Shafeeq Abrahams joined the EPPF on 1 September 2018 as the Chief Financial Officer until he was appointed as the Chief Executive and Principal Officer effective 1 April 2021. He began his career at Deloitte & Touché Chartered Accountants and later joined Eskom, where he held various leadership roles in Finance. Prior to joining the EPPF, he was the CFO of the National Home Builders Registration Council.

As the Chief Executive and Principal Officer, Mr. Abrahams serves on all the committees of the Board of Trustees within the EPPF.

**SESSION 8 – EMERGING TRENDS IN FIXED
INCOME INVESTING**



Mweemba Valerie Mwinga
Chief Investment Officer
African Life Financial Services Zambia Limited

Mweemba is the Chief Investment Officer for African Life Financial Services (Z) Limited, an established Asset Manager in Zambia. She has notable experience in the banking industry having held previous positions in Corporate & Investment Banking at both Stanbic Bank and First National Bank (FNB) in Zambia. She is currently responsible for asset allocation and investment strategy for occupational pension funds for multiple corporate clients. Mweemba is an alumnus of the University of Cape Town with a bachelor's degree in Finance and Accounting, and is also a CFA Charter holder.

**SESSION 9 – THE RISE AND FUTURE OF
ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENTS**



Edwin Ruttoh
CEO & Trust Secretary
Kenya Power Pension Fund (KPPF)

He is the CEO & Trust Secretary and Secretary to the Board. He joined Kenya Power Pension Fund in June 2015. He has over 15 years' experience in finance, accounting, investment and management. He holds a Master of Business Administration (Finance) and a Bachelor of Commerce degree in Accounting. He is a Certified Public Accountant of Kenya (CPA-K) and a member of the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya (ICPAK).

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