

# The Directors Event – a platform for constructive dialogue

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The Sunday Times Top 100 Companies proudly presents The Directors Event 2017 brought to you by MMI Holdings, in association with the Institute of Directors (IOD), USB Executive Development (USB-ED), Hogan Lovells, Johnnie Walker and Aluwani Capital Partners.

Johannesburg, 15 May 2017: Now in its third year, The Directors Event is cementing its place on the country's business calendar, with more than 200 business leaders set to attend the discussions at the Sandton Convention Centre on 9 June 2017.

The Directors Event, brought to you by MMI Holdings, invites industry experts to unpack three topics of national importance and discuss solutions in a public forum, moderated by highly-respected media personalities. Issues that will be debated in the panel discussion format include the challenges being faced to protect South Africa's economy, the risks of increasing geopolitical uncertainty, and youth education and unemployment.

Dan Moyane, Acting Group Executive, Brand and Corporate Affairs of MMI Holdings, says "We at MMI Holdings are intensely aware of the role we must play in improving the financial wellness of South

Africans. We believe that a concerted effort from all spheres of society is required to collectively address key socio-economic challenges facing our country. To enable this, we encourage constructive dialogue to harness the intellectual energy of business, government, labour and civil society who will sit around the boardroom table to develop solutions to enhance national financial wellness and social cohesion.”

The keynote address, to be delivered by Pravin Gordhan\* (former finance minister and recipient of the *Sunday Times* Top 100 Companies Business Leader of the Year Award for 2016) and The Chairman’s Report presented by Bonang Mohale (Chairman of Shell SA and Deputy Chairman of Business Leadership South Africa) will set the scene for the panel discussions and debates that follow.

Mohale Ralebitso (Founder & CEO, Itataise Investments), Mpho Sedibe (Managing Director, Mopsy (SMME advisory), Dr Iraj Abedian (Economic Advisor for Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative for South Africa (ASGISA) and Executive Chairman & CEO, Pan-African Capital Holdings), Prof Chris Malokane (Associate Professor, WITS University and economic advisor to the Minister of Finance), Lungisa Fuzile – out going Director General, National Treasury, and Sibusiso Mabuza (CEO, Aluwani Capital Partners) will debate the short-term solutions that could benefit South Africa’s economy in the long run, and restore investor confidence in the country.

The implications of Brexit, Donald Trump’s presidential victory in the United States, and the current state of South African politics

have been far-reaching – especially when coupled with climate crises such as the severe southern African drought. Nikiwe Bikitsha will moderate the discussion on the geopolitical risk factors that are currently adding to worldwide social, environmental, and economic instability with Dr Johan van Zyl (Co-founder, African Rainbow Capital), Kingsley Makhubela (CEO, Brand South Africa), Innocent Dutiro (CEO: Africa & Asia, MMI Holdings), and Karima Brown (Independent Political Analyst).

In a discussion that will focus on the importance of education, entrepreneurship, leadership and talent management during South Africa's digital era - in light of the growing education crisis in the country - Alishia Seckham will moderate a panel comprising Barrie Bramley (conference speaker and curious disruptor), Debbie Goodman Bhyat (Founder and Managing Director, Jack Hammer Executive Headhunters), Maryana Iskander (CEO, Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator), Sizwe Nxasana (Chairman, NSFAS and Sifiso Learning Group), and Hlomela Bucwa (Former SRC President, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU)).

Reardon Sanderson, GM Commercial at Times Media says, “creating the platform for these important debates is an imperative for a media organisation like TMG and the Sunday Times, which continues to set the news agenda in South Africa. We expect this year's forum to be as engaging and relevant to business as it has been previously, and we look forward to welcoming business leaders to the table once again.”

For further information: [www.thedirectorsevent.co.za](http://www.thedirectorsevent.co.za) ; Twitter: [#DirectorsEvent](https://twitter.com/DirectorsEvent) #TDE2017

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### Notes to Editor:

- To view the Agenda, please visit: <http://thedirectorsevent.co.za/agenda/>.
- The event on the 9th June at the Sandton Convention Centre starts at 08h00 (Registration), with the first speaker at 09h00. The event is expected to complete by 15h00.
- The keynote address by Pravin Gordhan\*, followed by an interview-led Q&A is set to commence at 09h50 and will be approximately 20 minutes in duration.
- Please contact Samantha Pugh to facilitate media queries.

### Moderator Biographies:

**Alishia Seckham**, senior anchor of Business Day TV has 10 years' experience as a business television news anchor with Summit TV and CNBC Africa, and has conducted more than 5000 interviews with CEOs & business leaders.

**Nikiwe Bikitsha** is a multi-award winning broadcast journalist. Her career spans 18 years. Her area of expertise is political and business journalism and she is considered one of the leaders in her field. Her work has taken her across the world, interviewing global leaders and telling the African story. She holds a BA Honours in journalism and media studies as well as a MA in journalism from Wits. She is the founder of a media company called Amargi Media, which seeks to produce and create bespoke media content. The company also provides media training for corporates and other entities on how to optimise their media exposure and put their best foot forward. Leadership accolades include the Hubert Humphrey fellowship at Walter Cronkite school of journalism in 2012-2013. This is a 10 month fellowship at a US university which is granted to

mid-career professionals who are deemed leaders in theirfield. She has also recently been appointed as the youngest member of the Nelson Mandela Foundation board of trustees.

### **About MMI Holdings:**

MMI Holdings Limited (MMI) is a South African based financial services group listed on the South African stock exchange, the JSE. The group operates in the market through multiple client-facing brands including insurance and investment brands Metropolitan and Momentum, South Africa's number one cell captive insurer Guardrisk and wellness & rewards programme Multiply. MMI operates in 15 countries, 12 in the African continent, Hong Kong, United Kingdom, and India through a direct presence, strategic partnerships and joint ventures. MMI's purpose is to enhance the lifetime Financial Wellness of people, their communities and their businesses. Financial Wellness is a continuous process of planning and management for individuals, households and businesses, with the aim of affording expenses and achieving goals over one's lifetime. Our promise to our clients is to be their Financial Wellness partner over this life-long journey, using our expertise and solutions to help them develop and reach their goals.

Visit us at [www.mmiholdings.co.za](http://www.mmiholdings.co.za).

### **About IOD SA:**

The Institute of Directors in Southern Africa NPC ("IoDSA") is a professional body recognised by the South African Qualifications

Authority and a non-profit company that exists to promote corporate governance, and to maintain and enhance the credibility of directorship as a profession (SAQA ID:836) The IoDSA is committed to the development of those charged with governance duties and improving overall board effectiveness. Members of the IoDSA benefit from ongoing educational opportunities, governance advisory assistance, publications and updates featuring the latest developments in corporate governance, access to NED vacancies as well as unique networking opportunities.

[www.iodsa.co.za](http://www.iodsa.co.za)

### **About USB-Executive Development**

USB Executive Development (USB-ED) is the public company of the University of Stellenbosch. We develop and connect leaders through innovative and transformational learning experiences because we believe that empowered leaders can bring about change. Our leadership and management development programmes are suitable for the private and public sectors and for individuals' intent on carving their own future in business. We have three offices in South Africa and recently expanded our presence to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania as well as to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Our programmes are presented in 14 countries across Africa and beyond. The USB holds the triple crown of international accreditations: AACSB, EQUIS and AMBA.

### **About Hogan Lovells**

Hogan Lovells is one of the world's top 10 legal practices with over 2 500 lawyers across more than 45 offices in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and North America. Our South African office in Johannesburg has a total staff complement of around 250, with more than 100 legal professionals who are regarded as high-calibre sector practitioners. With our spread of global relationships as well as our lawyers' international experience, we're perfectly able to respond to your needs wherever you're based, providing a consolidated approach across jurisdictional borders. With a Level 3 B-BBEE accreditation, we are your ideal legal partner in South Africa.

[www.hoganlovells.com](http://www.hoganlovells.com)

### **About Johnnie Walker**

Diageo is a global leader in beverage alcohol with an outstanding collection of brands including Johnnie Walker, J&B, The Singleton, Talisker & Lagavulin whiskies, Smirnoff, Cîroc and Ketel One vodkas, Captain Morgan, Baileys, Don Julio, Tanqueray and Guinness. Our ambition is to create the best performing, most trusted and respected consumer products company in the world while our purpose is to Celebrate Life, Every day, Everywhere. Our products are sold in more than 180 countries around the world. For our global responsible drinking resource, visit [www.DRINKiQ.com](http://www.DRINKiQ.com).

### **About Aluwani Capital Partners**

Aluwani Capital Partners is an independent black owned investment management business that aims to make a lasting

impact in South Africa and the rest of the African continent. We are registered with the Financial Services Board (FSB) and are an approved investment manager in terms of the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (FAIS). Our core offering is active investment management with research and product capabilities across all asset classes. We were established on a foundation of strong partners that are committed to building a sustainable and transformative business.

[www.aluwanicapital.co.za](http://www.aluwanicapital.co.za)

#### **About Times Media Events**

Times Media Events draws on the editorial expertise and media-powerhouse advantage of the Times Media Group (TMG) to deliver stimulating and engaging encounters that encourage excellence across South Africa's various industries. Aligned to the thoughtleadership of TMG's prominent platforms like the *Sunday Times*, Financial Mail, Business Day, Sowetan, Business Day TV, The Home Channel and Ignition TV, we are committed to facilitating events that nurture the socio-economic success of our country. Leading industry events successfully executed by the team include the Annual Adfocus Awards, AMARA Awards, AdForum, Sunday Times GenerationNext, *Sunday Times* Top 100 Companies, Leaders on the Move, The Directors Event, Top Brands, *Sunday Times* Literary Awards, Business Day Investor Relations & Strategic Communication Conference and the Investment Summit to name a few. For more information, contact [minnaarm@timesmedia.co.za](mailto:minnaarm@timesmedia.co.za).



**\*Former finance minister, Pravin Gordhan will no longer be delivering the keynote address. The keynote address will be delivered by Mcebisi Jonas (former deputy minister of finance of National Treasury).**

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