CONGRESS OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

AWARDS 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE CONGRESS OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS



ASHFAQ DAWOOD
PRESIDENT

CONGRESS OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

YUSUF MOOSAJEE
VICE PRESIDENT



Welcome to our 7th edition Recognition Awards Gala Dinner. We are celebrating this against the background of a very turbulent time in our history. The conflict that we are witnessing in different regions of the world and the geopolitics that are playing out with it is most unfortunate and we pray for peace and stability.

At home we have our own unique set of challenges. The fact that we as a country have slid so far down the moral and ethical compass is not surprising, as contestations for material benefit has overshadowed the goals of the national development plan policy document drafted in 2012 which sought to, amongst others, strengthen the foundations of economic growth, revitalise the private sector, improve the quality of life and strengthen good governance and security by 2030. Furthermore, the Vision Blueprint of 2030, intended to deliver a "newly industrialised, upper middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030 in a clean and secure environment. It is unlikely that any of these objectives will be met by 2030, as the cumulative failures of government on multiple fronts has created a country in crisis, rather than one that inspires towards goals.

The CBE's founding principles of fair and equitable business practices in a just society gives rise to our theme for this year's Recognition Awards Gala Dinner of "speaking truth to power". f there is no accountability and transparency, particularly in any state-owned enterprise, government department and corporate environment, we then allow gangsters, mafia-type operations and crooks to dictate terms. This unfortunately is the scenario already playing out before us for the past decade or more.

The brave men and women that we honour and recognise today are part of a select group of flagbearers of democracy. Many others have unfortunately lost their lives as a result of their bravery. Blowing the whistle has unfortunately proven to be a difficult professional decision. Many have been forced out of their chosen career fields, been subjected to public smear campaigns, and undergone severe psychological trauma.

The CBE celebrates their bravery and demands that the government protects whistleblowers completely, not just with mere lip service. We need appropriate and urgent legislation, followed up by compliance at all levels, from local police stations right up to the ministers to ensure that whistleblowers are safe and free from intimidation.

We need active citizenry to start vigorously pushing back and save South Africa from being captured by rogues who have already hijacked our hard-fought democracy by plundering the resources of the state, at huge expense to taxpayers. Our grandchildren will thank us for this one act of bravery.

ABOUT THE CONGRESS OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

OUR HISTORY

Initially called the TIC Business and Economics Group, the Congress of Business and Economics (CBE) was formed by the Transvaal Indian Congress (TIC) in the late 1980's as an activist business group.

Within a short period after its inception, it was renamed and established as a separate business organisation. With a prominent and successful businessperson, the late Setar Motani, at the helm, the CBE enjoyed popular support within its constituency, who were organised into local business chapters.

Following the advent of democracy in South Africa in 1994 and the transforming business context, the CBE ceased operations in 2006. In December 2012, former members of the CBE executive re-evaluated its closure. The context of this discussion was the global recession and debate on the National Development Plan, which had been released a few months earlier. In a follow-up discussion with former executive members in Johannesburg in January 2013, a decision was taken to re-establish the organisation.

A Steering Committee was formed immediately thereafter, which subsequently constituted itself as a Board. The CBE established an office in Johannesburg on 2 April 2013. Just three weeks later, a strategic planning workshop comprising a cross-section of 35 business leaders and professionals was held at Sunnyside Hotel. It was addressed by experts in the field. Feedback from a survey conducted at this meeting also unanimously endorsed the re-establishment of the organisation.

OUR VISION

- To provide a forum for members to contribute to a changing economic climate.
- To arrange, organise and host networking seminars, training and research programmes.
- To develop a general awareness of all relevant issues, including rendering of necessary advice.
- To assist in the building of contacts and interface with other sectors within the economic sphere, e.g. business organisations, trade unions and civic associations.
- To provide opportunities for economic empowerment.
- To lobby for appropriate policies which are enabling and supportive of entrepreneurship in the changing economic environment.

OUR PURPOSE

Empowering and developing businesses to contribute to the growth of South Africa by building principled, strategic and sustainable relationships, including with global partners, through these values:

- Fair and equitable business
- Being environmentally responsible
- Being a socially responsible corporate citizen
- Being ethical
- Embracing world class performance standards

ABOUT THE CONGRESS OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

CONGRESS OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

OUR COMMITMENT

We subscribe to the Citizen's Charter

SERVICES
We will provide member-focused services

MEMBERS
To provide a networking platform for businesses to grow together

BUSINESS
Promote entrepreneurship and business excellence as a vehicle for sustainable socio-economic development

GOVERNMENT
Engage government, through non-partisan relationships, to create an enabling and accountable environment for business to grow and prosper

THE COMMUNITY
Promote an active citizenry, cultivate philanthropy and volunteerism

EMPLOYEES
Fair, performance-driven and equitable labour practices

DONORS
Build a transparent and accountable partnership with donors

CONGRESS OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS : BOARD MEMBERS



PRESIDENT
ASHFAQ DAWOOD



DEPUTY PRESIDENT
YUSUF MOOSAJEE



SECRETARY GENERAL
RASHID CHOPDAT



TREASURER
AKHTAR THOKAN



AHMED SEEDAT



ANIS LOONAT



HASSEN MOHAMED



JAY PEMA



KAMALESH NARAN



NAZIR TALIA



SANJAY GOVIND



SEDICK ISAACS



SHIREEN EBRAHIM



YOUTH
COORDINATOR
SHAHISTA THOKAN

MEDIA
COORDINATOR
FAKIR HASSEN



LEGAL DESK



KRISH NAIDOO



RAFIQUE BABA

RESEARCH DESK



EBRAHIM-KHALIL HASSEN



AHMED SEEDAT

LABOUR DESK



PROF MOHAMED RAJA

ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT



JAY PEMA

CONGRESS OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS : ADVISORY BOARD



CAS COOVADIA



FUAD CASSIM



ISMAIL VADI



KHALIK MAYET



NIZAM KALLA



SALIM AZIZ

CBE REMEMBERS .....

The Congress of Business and Economics recalls with great pride the role of past recipients of the Awards, who have since left us, in bringing about the democratic order. The names in bold are those of the recipients and the ones in italics the CBE members who presented their awards and recipient representatives.



Ahmed Kathrada
Nizam Kalla



Prof Ben Turok
Sayed Mia & Derek Hanekom



Dr Bongani Mayosi
Fakir Hassen & Hassen Mohamed



Hoosen 'Jerry' Coovadia
Lloyd Theunissen & Fuad Cassim



Ebrahim Ismail Ebrahim
Rashid Chopdat, Nizam Kalla & Ebrahim's children Sarah and Caden



Essop S. Bhana
Sanjay Govind & Khatija Bhana



Frene Ginwalla
Rashid Chopdat & Nizam Kalla



Ebrahim 'Cas'Saloojee
Sanjay Govind & Riaz Saloojee



Maniben Sita
Sanjay Govind & Ruxmani Soma



Sayed Mia
Jayen Naidoo & Hassen Mohamed

In the four photos with inset pictures of the recipients, the awards were received by family members or friends because they were either made posthumously or because the recipients were unable to attend at the time.



Moosa 'Mosie' Moolla
Yusuf Moosajee & Nizam Kalla

THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER



The Congress of Business and Economics identified its theme for this year's Gala Awards Banquet as 'Speaking Truth to Power' since we have been reading, hearing and seeing almost daily how the dream of our democratic founders continues to rapidly dissipate amid the rampant corruption, government mismanagement at all levels and the persistence of racist approaches three decades after that dream was born.

Never in the history of our democracy has the role of what are now popularly known as 'whistle-blowers' been as important for the future of our country as it is now.

As stories emerge every week of trusted leaders being involved in corrupt activities, the Turkish adage ' the fish rots from the head down' could not be more appropriate.

Significantly, before the term became popular as honest, patriotic citizens sacrificed their careers, family lives and futures, and in some cases even their lives at the hands of those they were determined to expose, their role was clearly identified by the late Ahmed Kathrada, after whom the awards being made this evening are named.

In a message in the CBE Recognition Awards brochure in 2016, Kathrada said it was necessary to celebrate the lives of these heroes: "It is the lessons from the lives of such heroes that must assist in finding lasting solutions to the many socio-economic issues that we face today."

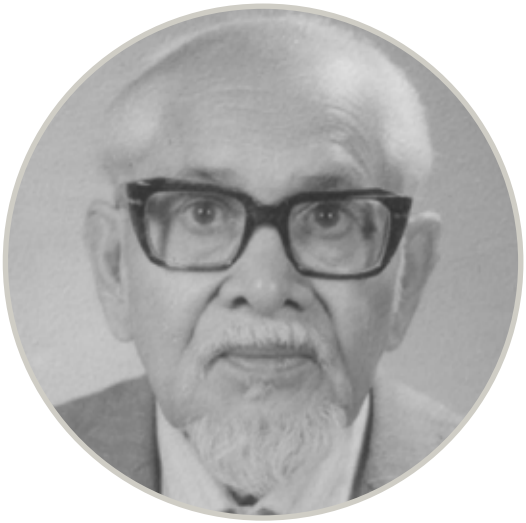
"When national duty calls, old soldiers must do all they can to speak truth to power," he added. It was these last four words in Kathrada's message that inspired todays' theme as we honour some of those soldiers, not necessarily old ones, who have been vilified in various ways for their foresight and determination to expose the corruption referred to earlier. Many lost their jobs, faced persecution in legal and other ways, and others were forced to start up new lives, often undercover, to save their lives and those of their families as they faced death threats.

While it is understandable that. faced with such situations, there may even be many more such potential 'truth to power' candidates that we may never hear about, there are also many others who lost their lives in the process and would not have had the high profile that Babita Deokaran had after her callous murder.

In honouring this evening those whose sheer courage to fight back against those opposing their decisions to speak truth to power inspired others to do the same, we recognise all those unsung heroes and heroines who in their everyday lives, find even little ways to speak truth to power in the hope that we will eventually realise those dreams that we all shared amid the euphoria of 1994.

It remains after all, as Kathrada reminded us then already, a national duty to speak truth to power, which the recipients of tonight's awards clearly subscribe to.

Molvi Ismail Saloojee



Molvi Ismail Saloojee devoted his entire lifetime to the struggle for a free South Africa.

He was elected President of the Transvaal Indian Congress when Dr Yusuf Dadoo was forced into exile.

Molvi was also renowned for his literary contribution in Urdu poetry. He was a prominent member of and President of the Buzme Adab poetry group.

Molvi is also often remembered for his fiery speeches in Gujarati, opposing apartheid institutions.

The Sunday Times reported on Saloojee's passing on Saturday 22 January 1983, on the same day that he would have been a speaker at the relaunch of the South African Indian Congress (SAIC). The Congress had gone into hibernation with almost all its leaders either serving terms as political prisoners or under house arrest restricting their public movements.

In an earlier interview, Saloojee had explained how the white minority apartheid government had foisted the South African Indian Council on the community, attempting to fool people into thinking it was formed by the same leaders by using the same initial, SAIC. But the majority of the Indian citizens rejected the Council, even when it was given the status of a tier in the apartheid government as the House of Delegates.

Saloojee was a participant in the Defiance Campaign of the late 1940s and the 1950s. In 1964, he was one of the main organisers of a passive resistance campaign against the Asiatic Land Tenure Act of 1946, leading a march from the then Transvaal to Durban. As a result, Saloojee was banned for ten years, but returned to active politics immediately after his unbanning.Saloojee was also an active participant in the Congress of the People in Kliptown that resulted in the Freedom Charter that forms the basis of the new South African Constitution.

Reggie Vandeyar



Veteran activist and National Order recipient Reggie Vandeyar fought tirelessly in the struggle, and spent 10 years on Robben Island. On his release he was banned for five years. Not being able to find a job he lived in a caravan at the back of his nephew's house in Lenasia for many years with his family and taught many youngsters in the caravan.

In his book 'Reggie Vandeyar - Portrait of a Revolutionary' in the Lives of Courage Project published by the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation, Ismail Vadi recalls how Vandeyar was formally recruited into the Transvaal Indian Congress in 1948 and participated in the Defiance Campaign of 1952. He was a delegate to the Congress of the People in Kliptown where the Freedom Charter was adopted.

By 1960, Reggie's political role changed substantially. Vandeyar was among the first to agree to join the armed struggle, and the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (MK). In 1963, Vandeyar, Shirish Nanabhai and Indres Naidoo were the first three members of Indian origin to be arrested for MK activity in the Transvaal. They were sentenced to ten years each and were transferred to Robben Island.

Immediately after his release, Vandeyar, together with Naidoo and Nanabhai, was served with five-year banning and house arrest orders.

Vandeyar's crowning moment of honour came in 2002, when he received from the former Minister of Defence, the late Joe Modise, and the former Minister of Intelligence, Ronnie Kasrils, MK's gold, silver and bronze medals for long and distinguished service in the struggle for freedom and democracy.

In 2013, The Order of Mendi for Bravery was bestowed on Indres Naidoo, Shirish Nanabhai and Reggie Vandeyar for their bravery during the freedom struggle.

After 1994, Vandeyar declined an offer to become a Parliamentarian, and passed on as a humble man leaving no wealth.

Adrian Lackay



Adrian Lackay trained as a journalist and researcher and worked at the South African Revenue Service (SARS) for 11 years as its media spokesperson.

In February 2015, he became one of a growing number of senior officials who were either forced to resign, were suspended, or were being hounded out, under the authority of the new SARS Commissioner, Tom Moyane.

Adrian's resignation was a direct consequence of a malicious disinformation campaign, carried out over many months, that sought to convince the South African public that a mythical, secretive, and illegally established 'rogue unit' operated from within SARS and ostensibly committed a plethora of politically motivated crimes – including running a brothel!

After his resignation, Adrian made a protected disclosure as a whistle-blower to two committees in Parliament that had oversight over SARS. MP's were warned of the risks that a destabilised SARS would not meet its revenue targets, that tax compliance in the country would be eroded, and that the capability of SARS to investigate complex tax crimes and illicit trade was being destroyed.

Adrian was sued by SARS and by Moyane for his submission to Parliament. He had to defend a R12 million defamation claim and face intimidation and threats of criminal charges from SARS, whilst being unemployed.

As a public servant, Adrian believes that participation in government is not just a technical or self-serving exercise.

He belives that one should strive to contribute to the vision of the leaders of our liberation struggle, as well as that of our Constitution: to advance a profound and fundamental transformation in our economy, to fight racial discrimination in all forms and to improve the socio-economic conditions for the majority of people in this country.

In October 2016, with colleague Johann van Loggerenberg, Adrian co-authored the bestselling book Rogue: The Inside Story of SARS's Elite Crime-busting Unit. In the same year the Sunday Times publicly apologised and retracted its news articles about the alleged "SARS rogue unit".

Years later, the harm suffered by Adrian, and many others who stood firmly against injustice at SARS, were confirmed, and vindicated by both the Nugent Commission and the Zondo Commission of Inquiry into State Capture.

Adrian now works for the Public Investment Corporation.

Babita Deokaran



Babita Deokaran was murdered in August 2021 in a hit after she effectively became a whistle blower by reporting corruption at the Gauteng Department of Health where she was working as the Acting Chief Director and Financial Accounting Officer.

She was callously shot and killed right outside the gate of her home in Johannesburg South soon after she had dropped her daughter off at school.

According to media reports at the time, Babita's murder was linked to a corrupt COVID-19 PPE procurement scandal worth R332 million within the Gauteng Provincial Department of Health. The Special Investigating Unit had confirmed that Babita was a key witness in the investigation to expose a syndicate set up to benefit from state corruption.

She had already been on special leave for almost a year when the killing occurred as the investigation by the SIU proceeded.

Babita's murder unleashed a wave of outrage from the public and civil society about the lack of adequate protection for whistle blowers who were keen to be patriotic citizens in the face of rampant organised corruption and state capture.

Even President Cyril Ramaphosa called for more state protection for whistleblowers in the fight against corruption.

In the aftermath of Babita's murder, the chief executive of Tembisa Hospital and the provincial Department of Health chief financial officer were suspended.

In August 2023, a day before the second anniversary of Babita's death, the six men who pleaded guilty for her assassination were sentenced to a combined 95 years imprisonment in the Johannesburg High Court.

But questions remained about who the ringleaders were behind her assassination, including views that the accused had either been paid off or threatened to take the fall for the person/s actually behind Babita's murder.

While some media investigations fingered top officials in government, including a minister who one of the accused initially named but later withdrew, all of them denied their involvement.

Health Minister Dr Joe Phaahla welcomed the sentences, but called on the accused to reveal who the actual persons were "behind this dastardly deed of criminality".

Cynthia Stimpel



Cynthia Stimpel is the Whistleblower Liaison Officer of The Whistleblower House since February 2022, supporting whistleblowers to get back their dignity.

In 2019 she started a Support Group for Whistle Blowers in South Africa and is campaigning for the Rights and Plights for Whistle Blowers.

She is also a Motivational Speaker, speaking on her story as a Whistle Blower, and "making a difference where you are".

Cynthia is the author of 'Hijackers on Board', published in 2021, on the SAA saga. The book relates how Cynthia, while on a walking pilgrimage in France in 2016, received word from a colleague that a dirty deal between SAA and BNP Capital had been signed off – a deal against which Cynthia had given strict orders.

Despite knowing that she might jeopardise her job and her family's finances, Stimpel did not hesitate. She tipped off Treasury, eventually succeeding in stopping Dudu Myeni and saving the taxpayer R256 million.

Stimpel paid the price for speaking up - she lost her job, her income and her reputation. But the battle against Myeni and her fellow state capturers at SAA continued with Cynthia's testimony at the Zondo Commission.

Cynthia is a Certified Director with the Institute of Directors in South Africa, and currently a Board Member on three Boards - Amnesty International South Africa, Health-E News, and the Broadcasting Complaints Commission of South Africa.

She is a volunteer at Accountability Now, Radio Veritas, and does community work.

In December 2022 Cynthia received the Blueprint for Free Speech Special Recognition Award for Integrity and Moral Courage.

She was also the recipient of the 'Risk Influencer of the Year' from the Institute of Risk Management South Africa.

In 2019 she received the Citation of Integrity Award from the Airline Pilots Association of South Africa, for having stood up for the truth in the SAA transaction.

Cynthia had a career of 33 years in the banking sector. Her last 10 working years were at SAA, as Financial Risk Manager for eight years, and the last two years as the Group Treasurer.

The dissertation topic for Cynthia's MBA was Business Continuity Strategy.

She is a Yoga Instructor for adults and children.

Francis Callard



Born in Johannesburg, Francis completed his schooling in Windhoek in Namibia.

He obtained a BSc in Electrical Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand and later a Graduate Diploma in Engineering. He worked briefly for the Windhoek City Council before joining the South African Railways and Harbours (now Transnet) in 1970 until retirement in 2010, followed by a further five years on contract to 2015.

An engineering career of installing, commissioning, maintaining and managing new railway signalling installations morphed into business transformation, strategy and capital management. In the latter role he authored the major business cases for rolling stock acquisition and maintenance.

Francis also lectured part-time in Railway Operations and Railway Economics at the University of Johannesburg.

In 2019 and 2020, he testified before the Zondo Commission of Enquiry into State Capture on Transnet's procurement of 100 and 1064 locomotives.

Currently he is a member of and spokesperson for a group of engineers concerned with finding the causes and solutions to the state of South Africa's public infrastructure in State Owned Enterprises and Municipalities.

Francis believes in a systems philosophy to integrate extensive and eclectic reading and information from personal contacts into a framework for recognising concepts and patterns and decision making.

Scenario-based projects have required evaluating political, social, economic, cultural and other environmental trends and their impact.

An active Rotarian since 1983, he served as District Governor in 2010/11 for District 9400 and in various positions thereafter. He is currently project lead for the Southern Africa Collaborative Rotary District Tutudesk Campaign .

Francis is a Member of the Institute of Railway Signal Engineers and a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers.

He was a long-time member of the Order of St John where he was some time Deputy Chief Commissioner. He is also a Knight of the Order of St John.

Francis is married to Janet and they share the same interest and passion for the twin Rotary concepts of Service and Fellowship. They both enjoy experiencing new places and cultures.

Ivan Pillay



Ivan Pillay joined the African National Congress's (ANC) in 1974. His last role there was as "project manager" of Operation Vula which based senior ANC leaders inside South Africa. On his return to SA, he participated in the CODESA negotiations.

He served in the administration of the Transitional Executive Authority that was established to facilitate the transition to democracy.

After the 1994 elections, Ivan joined the team that carried out the amalgamation of all intelligence and security services in SA. He served in both NIA and SASS.

in 1999, he joined SARS where he worked as Chief Officer Risk and Enforcement, as Deputy Commissioner, and as Acting Commissioner.

SARS had become a world class entity that combined effective revenue collection with a transformative ethos that enabled taxpayers and SARS staff to serve the public interest. Ivan was forced out of SARS in 2014 by those who captured the institution.

Harassment followed. After 2014, he faced criminal investigations and two prosecutions which were eventually withdrawn in October 2016 and February 2020 respectively. Three sets of findings by the Public Protector were overturned by the courts, the last in 2022.
At present, Ivan participates in three Boards of Directors: The Public Affairs Research Institute, The Whistle-blower House and a private sector company.

Ivan has co-written a series on corruption and dysfunctionality in the Daily Maverick and co-authored a chapter on governance for a book, "Better Choices" published in 2022.

He has contributed to another book, 'International Brigade against Apartheid', edited by Ronnie Kasrils et al, published in December 2021.

Ivan's approach to building capability and minimising corruption is expressed in the following: "It is impossible to improve the governance of an institution when its systems are broken and its dysfunctionality is not addressed."

The 2020 book by Evelyn Groenink 'The Unlikely Mr Rogue: A Life with Ivan Pillay' tells the story of the quiet man behind the so-called 'rogue unit' at SARS.

The book takes the reader on a journey from Ivan's growing up in Merebank, KwaZulu-Natal, to his politicisation, the underground and exile, and the story of Operation Vula, which Ivan ran from Lusaka while he was exiled there, reporting to Oliver Tambo.

Johann van Loggerenberg



From end 1998 to early 2015, as a trained police official, Johann became an employee of the South African Revenue Service, where he resigned in the wake of State Capture there. He began to blow the whistle on wrong-doing, in particular the state intelligence environment from end 2010 onwards and by 2013 onward, also on a range of matters directly related to State Capture. He paid a dear price for this at the time and since his evidence has been either completely ignored or alternatively supposedly "disappeared".

Among authorities that he blew the whistle on during this period were the South African Police Service, the Hawks, the National Prosecuting Authority, South African Revenue Service, Inspector-General of Intelligence, two Parliamentary oversight committees and several Members of Parliament and the media (with official permission).

Nothing came of this then and ultimately he and many others were muzzled, victimised, publicly humiliated and pushed out of their employment. Johann resigned in the position of Group Executive: Projects, Evidence Management and Tactical Support: Tax & Customs Enforcement, where he oversaw and managed five investigative units with offices situated countrywide.

When he left the office, over 87 projects seemed to come to a close. He would later again blow the whistle at the Public Protector, the Inspector-General of Intelligence, Parliament and ultimately testify at the Commission of Inquiry into State Capture, Fraud and Corruption in the Public Sector including State Organs also known as the so-called "Zondo Commission".

He also provided evidence to the Commission of Inquiry into Governance and Administration (also also known as the Nugent Commission) at the South African Revenue Service before that, In no instance was his testimony there disputed or challenged. Through the years, he also presented evidence in more than ten High Court related disputes and applications, in all instances none of his testimony ever being challenged or disputed.

In this same period spanning almost a decade, Johann received public apologies from among others, Carte Blanche, Sunday Times (twice), two former Sunday Times journalists, retired Judge Frank Kroon, a commercial grouping of cigarette manufacturers, a cigarette manufacturing company, a known information peddler and state intelligence operative and the South African Revenue Service. He also received a number of private apologies from persons involved who did not agree that I make their names public.

Johann remains involved in various civil society organisations.

Martha Ngoye



Martha Ngoye is an attorney of the High Court of South Africa and has practiced as a corporate lawyer.

She worked for some of South Africa's most prestigious firms, such as Edward Nathan and Friedland.

She is a trailblazer as she answered the call of the corporate giants and went to work for Standard Bank and Barclays, respectively. This was in the tumultuous period when big white law firms were not ready for women, especially black women.

Martha heeded the patriotic call to build and strengthen the civil service and joined Transnet, South Africa's government-owned freight rail and shipping infrastructure company.

She later joined the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa (PRASA) where she continues to fight a ceaseless wave of corruption.

She is a warrior at the forefront of fighting corruption in all its forms, including by officials, Ministers and their invisible apparitions. Martha fundamentally understands, embraces and lives corporate governance.

When she was the Group Executive of Legal, Risk and Compliance, and later the Acting Chief Executive for the PRASA, she found herself fighting unlawful contracts that officials in government were trying to use to swindle the people of South Africa.

In February 2023, Martha was found not guilty on charges brought against her by the rail agency in an arbitration inquiry presided over by advocate Imthiaz Sirkhot.

She was found not to have been among those who recommended the Swifambo "tall trains" contract.

Martha was also found not responsible for PRASA's losses in the SA Fence and Gate matter, for which she was being sued by PRASA for R45 million.

PRASA asked the Labour Court for a date to review the arbitration award which cleared Martha Ngoye of all charges against her, prolonging her suspension.

This brave stance led to much suffering and victimisation which she is still fighting to this day.

Sarika Lakhraj



Sarika Lakraj's mottos in life are 'passion fuels purpose' and "fearless finance."

Perhaps it was this determination that led to her being dismissed from the Public Safety Department of the City of Johannesburg in 2023 for reporting fraud, corruption, irregular business activity and financial loss.

This was widely reported in a wide range of media, together with her reactions.

Sarika's experience includes 13 years in the private sector with various companies and 22 years in government in various financial roles.

She is registered with the South African Institute of Business Accountants, holds a Master's in Business Administration and is currently completing her PhD on the topic 'Developing a standardised strategy for the SA Government to report fraud, corruption, nepotism, and irregular business activity'.

Sarika has participated alongside many leading fellow proponents on issues such as women empowerment, whistle-blower activity; criminal behaviour; reporting of fraud, corruption, nepotism and irregular business activity, and flaws with the whistleblower system, and how to fix them.

She has also delivered guest lectures on revenue enhancement projects, health budget management, government supply chain tender process, management accounting and reporting, the cost of doing the right thing, and insights from a CFO whistle-blower.

Sarika describes among her key competencies research and academic paper writing; being an expert finance and supply chain management witness; application and assessment of SA laws, corporate governance, and financial regulations; financial analysis, reporting, and external criminal reporting; expenditure investigations, and forensic analysis; business process reengineering and documentation; compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and International Accounting Standards (IAS); Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.

"I would like my legacy to outlast my life," Sarika told the CFO Talks podcast in 2021.

"I want to be known as being fearless. I want to be known that the state monies were actually used for its intended purpose."

In her determination to promote advocacy and provide better protection of whistleblowers, Lakraj founded Wild Horses Advisory & Consulting Services (Pty) Ltd.

Flashback



















Flashback
















Flashback



















Flashback















The amiable Chief Justice Raymond Zondo unhesitatingly obliged the many guests who were keen to have a photo or selfie with him.

Flashback - Panel Discussion






A panel discussion titled 'Is South Africa a Failed State?' saw Shan Balton lead Tessa Dooms, Prof William Gumede and Prof Stephen Friedman in a discussion on the theme. The consensus was that failing political parties did not mean a failed state. There was also agreement that each citizen has a role to play in ensuring that the hard-won democracy reverts to the state that was hard-won from apartheid.

Flashback - Honouring Legendary Lives





In the CBE tradition of honouring Legendary Lives, citations were presented in 2022 to three such legends.

CBE Advisory Panel member Dr Ismail Vadi, himself a struggle veteran, presented the awards.

CBE Board member Shireen Ebrahim accepted the award for delivery to the family of Suleman 'Babla' Saloojee.

CBE Board member Ashfaq Dawood accepted the award for delivery to the family of Chris Hani.

SHireen Cassim waccepted the award on behalf of the family of Prof Fatima Meer.

Flashback - 2022 Recipients



Kamalesh Naran and Sedick Isaacs presented to DEFEND OUR DEMOCRACY



Shireen Ebrahim and Anis Loonat presented to ISMAIL MOMONIAT



Yusuf Moosajee and Rashid Chopdat presented to GIFT OF THE GIVERS



Ashfaq Dawood presented to CHIEF JUSTICE RAYMOND ZONDO



Kamalesh Naran and Sedick Isaacs presented to AFRIKA TIKKUN

CBE ECONOMISTS REVIEW 2023






The keenly-anticipated annual CBE Economists Review in September 2023 once again had leading economists Fuad Cassim and Goolam Ballim sharing their views on where the economy globally and locally isheading in the current fragmentation of the global order. Guests were also delighted that the duo took time out to engage in some personal discussion.









CBE WOMEN'S DAY 2023

The popular annual CBE Women's Month High Tea in August 2023 took on a new format after three trailblazing women were honoured. Awards were made to international human rights activist Yasmin Sooka; in absentia to the last survivor of the Women's March to the Union Buildings in 1956, Sophie de Bruyn; and Free State MEC for Finance Gadija Brown.





















CBE WOMEN'S DAY 2023

















Amid the informatve talks by the award recipients, there was also some entertainment and the sumptuous lunch at the Lal Qila Restaurant in Sandton.

BECOME A CBE MEMBER AND BENEFIT

Becoming a member of the Congress of Business and Economics will give you access to all our member-focused services.

- The CBE has forged a good working relationship with the Government.

- CBE lobbies for appropriate policies which are enabling and supportive of entrepreneurship as well as facilitates stakeholder access to appropriate policy development and implementation.

- CBE communicates with national and provincial governments to ensure that business operates in a safe and conducive environment.

- CBE has the following member services:

- Legal – CBE has a network throughout the country to support members in legal advice and security matters.

- Labour - CBE arranges advice on labour-related issues for its members.

- Research – CBE keeps our members up to date on all potential benefits they can enjoy.

- Social Development - CBE works with government and civil society to ensure the upliftment of society.

- Youth – CBE focuses on mentorship and skills development for youth to allow opportunities for personal and professional growth.

- Entrepreneur Development – CBE supports entrepreneurs in the development of their businesses.

The Board and Management of the CBE expresses its gratitude to the many sponsors, donors and sponsors who made this evening possible.

MEDIA PARTNER

CBE AWARDS 2023

Sovereign™

FULL OF GOODNESS



INSERT APPLE LOGO FROM LAST YEAR

INSERT APPLE LOGO FROM LAST YEAR