

SAAFF / Transport Forum - 12 February 2026 – Speaker Bios

Dr Kingsley Makhubela

Director: RiskRecon



Former Ambassador of South Africa to Portugal and Kenya

Kingsley Makhubela is a former South African public diplomat who served as ambassador to Portugal and Kenya. Served as special envoy to conflict areas of Sudan, Somalia and the Comoros Islands. Held several senior positions in the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, Director General of the Department of Tourism and Chief Executive of Brand South Africa, the country's brand management agency. Founder of a consulting agency, RiskRecon.

The consulting agency provides strategic, political, social and economic risk analysis to private and public sector leaders. Conflict resolution analysis in the African continent has become the strategic focus of the consulting agency. He was part of the Better Order Project (BOP) research by the United States based Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft Think Tank. Kingsley Makhubela holds a Masters Degree in Diplomatic Studies and a PhD in Political Science from the University of Pretoria in South Africa.

Dr. Juanita Maree

Chief Executive Officer, Southern African Association of Freight Forwarders (SAAFF)



Dr Juanita Maree assumed the role of Chief Executive Officer at the Southern African Association of Freight Forwarders (SAAFF) in 2021, following a distinguished 30-year career as an executive director in South Africa's leading logistics private sector. She brought with her a compelling vision for the evolution of the organisation, the logistics industry and the freight forwarding and customs sectors across the region.

Under her leadership, SAAFF has undertaken a transformative journey – broadening its strategic influence, championing regulatory reform and fostering dynamic public-private collaboration. These efforts aim to promote sustainable economic growth, ensure trade stability and deliver tangible benefits to both SAAFF members and the wider logistics sector.

A passionate advocate for development and sectoral integration, Dr. Maree's leadership is marked by her ability to translate complex technical realities into actionable strategies. Her approach is grounded in rigorous empirical analysis and a deep understanding of the supply chain landscape.

Nationally, Dr. Maree plays a pivotal role in addressing South Africa's logistics challenges. As executive member, she serves as the Co-Lead of Workstream 1 (Container Corridor Sector) in the National Logistics Crisis Committee (NLCC), a government-presidential office structure integrating private sector participation. Dr. Maree also participates in key private sector representative bodies, including Apex business Unity South Africa (BUSA), the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC) and Business for South Africa (B4SA).

Previous and current leadership roles:

- **FIATA:** Chair of the Africa & Middle East Region (RAME)
- **BUSA:** Head of Customs Fraud and Illegal Imports Task Team (2018 – 2019)
- **SAAFF:** Chairperson of the Board of Directors (2020-2021)
- **WCO PSCG:** ESA RPSG Representative to the World Customs Organisation's Private Sector Consultative Group
- **WCO|ESA|**

RPSG: Founding Member (and current Chair) WCO East and Southern Africa Regional Private Sector Group, established 2019

- **UNIVERSITY of the NORTH-WEST:** Member of the University of the North-West Advisory Board

B. Com (Hons cum laude): North-West University |

B. Com: University of Johannesburg | PhD North-West University

Today, Dr. Maree is widely recognised as a strategic leader and influential voice in shaping the future of logistics in Southern Africa – advancing the interests of both the industry and the broader socio-economic environment. She empowers all collaborators in the process, a passionately drives a strong culture of excellence and shared purpose in SAAFF – fostering community across the industry and works to unite the nation and bring integration to the region - in pursuit of a stronger, more resilient future.

Dr Joachim Vermooten

Independent Consultant: Aviation



Dr Joachim Vermooten is a transport economist and chartered accountant, specialising in the air transport and energy sector. He is a former airline executive and previously served as CEO in the insurance and manufacturing sectors.

He regularly provides high-level consulting to companies, airlines, airports, competition and regulatory authorities, governments, tourism authorities, and government departments. He specialises in competition and regulatory economics, business restructuring, air transport policy, airports, and energy. Apart from research, regularly provides press, radio and television commentaries and conference presentations.

He holds the degrees DCom and MCom *Cum Laude* in transport economics. His doctoral thesis (DCom) focused on the economics of airline competition. His master's dissertation (MCom *Cum Laude*) on air transport economic regulation.

He is also a qualified chartered accountant (CA(SA)) with an underlying background in accounting and finance. He completed the HarvardX course on Energy within Environmental Constraints; the UNISA Advanced Short Course in Business Rescue Practice; the GIBS Advanced Business Valuations Course; the UNISA Integrated Planning and Control courses; and several aviation courses, including the Airbus Air Transport Seminar and the Boeing Executive and Airline Financing Courses.

He was awarded the Chancellor's Medallion for the Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences of UJ (then Rand Afrikaans University (RAU)).

Professional Memberships:

- Member of the German Aviation Research Society (GARS)
- Chartered Member (CMILT) of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport: South Africa (CILTSA)
- Licensed Senior Business Rescue Practitioner
- Chartered accountant, CA(SA) member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)
- Registered auditor (RA) with the South African Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors (IRBA)
- Life member of the Institute of Directors of South Africa (IODSA)

- Member of the Turnaround Management Association (TMA)
- Former member of the South African Tax Court (until 2019) and the earlier Transport Advisory Council (TAC).

Mr Devlyn Naidoo

Executive: SARS, OGA & AEO: SAAFF



Devlyn Naidoo (MBA, CMILT) an admitted chartered member of the chartered institute of logistics and transport is a dedicated professional, passionate about education, compliance, youth empowerment, academia and the facilitation of legitimate trade for the benefit of South Africa, her economy and people. Prior to his current role, Devlyn served as the Head of Department for Customs & Freight Forwarding at a privately held institution, building capacity across multinational enterprises and delivering insightful contributions to various academic and mainstream publications. He currently serves as the National Executive for SARS & Other Government Agencies at SAAFF.

Mr Nieri Maharaj

Senior Manager: Programme Delivery & Digitalisation: DHL Express



I currently serve as **Senior Manager Program Delivery & Digitalisation** at DHL, where I lead South Africa's customs and digitalisation initiatives. My focus is on ensuring regulatory compliance, improving operational efficiency, and delivering scalable technology solutions that support the business.

My role operates at the intersection of customs operations, IT delivery, and business transformation. I am responsible for driving complex, high-impact programs that enable cross-border trade, automation, and regulatory alignment with SARS and other authorities.

I bring extensive experience in customs digital transformation, large-scale system integrations (including EDIFACT/XML messaging), stakeholder management across business, IT, vendors, and regulators, as well as risk management, governance, and delivery assurance. A key part of my work involves translating regulatory requirements into practical, system-driven solutions that can be implemented and sustained at scale.

I am particularly passionate about simplifying complexity and delivering digital solutions that create tangible business value while enabling compliant trade.

Mr Elvin Harris

Transport Specialist and President: CILTSA



Mr. Harris has been working in transportation since 1995, although mostly from a Government and macro-transport system perspective. He started at the Department of Transport in 1995, when he switched careers from education to transport. He was a member of the Moving South Africa project team and worked mainly on the Integrated Freight Transport Strategy proposed by MSA where after he was appointed as the first Policy Advisor: Freight Transport at the DOT as such a function did not exist before then.

By 2000, Mr. Harris briefly held the position of New Business Development Manager at CSIR: Transportek before joining Trade and Investment South Africa (a division of the DTI) as Director: Transport and Logistics. This function was later moved to the DTI proper and the scope expanded to include Electricity and Telecommunications Infrastructure as all these areas were critical to industrial competitiveness and the attraction of Foreign Direct Investment.

In August 2005 he joined the Department of Public Enterprises as a Chief Director: Transport Enterprises to perform the shareholder oversight functions over Transnet and SAA. Later only to focus on Transnet.

Over these 13 years, Mr. Harris either led or participated in every significant macro policy, strategy and restructuring development for the Freight Transport sector. These would include, inter alia, Moving South Africa, co-authored Moving South Africa – The Action Agenda, Commercial Ports Policy (defacto chairperson), National Ports Act, Oversight Committee on the Restructuring of State Owned Enterprises, National Freight Logistics Strategy, National Task Team on Logistics (served as first chairperson) and the National Corridor Performance Management Platform.

Mr. Harris joined Transnet Freight Rail in August 2008 as an Executive Manager: Strategy, Capacity Planning and Supply Chain in TFR's Container and Automotive Business Unit. He also held roles as EM: Policy and Regulation, Branch lines and PSP's. He also served as Executive Manager: Strategic Knowledge in the Office of the Chief Executive: Transnet Freight Rail Knowledge Management, Knowledge Centre (Information Services), Archives and Records Management and Heritage preservation.

He holds an honours-level degree (Cum Laude) in Transport Management from Rand Afrikaans University (now UJ) and an Executive Programme in Logistics Management from the University of Singapore.

Mr. Harris served as a Board member, Vice President, President and Immediate Past President of the South African Rail Road Association between 2012 and 2018. He currently serves as the President of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport – South Africa and has served in this role for the past several years.

He left the corporate world in 2021 and is currently pursuing his own business interests.

Elvin is a keen golfer, an outstanding snooker player and he loves contemplating philosophy and spirituality.

Mr Garry Marshall

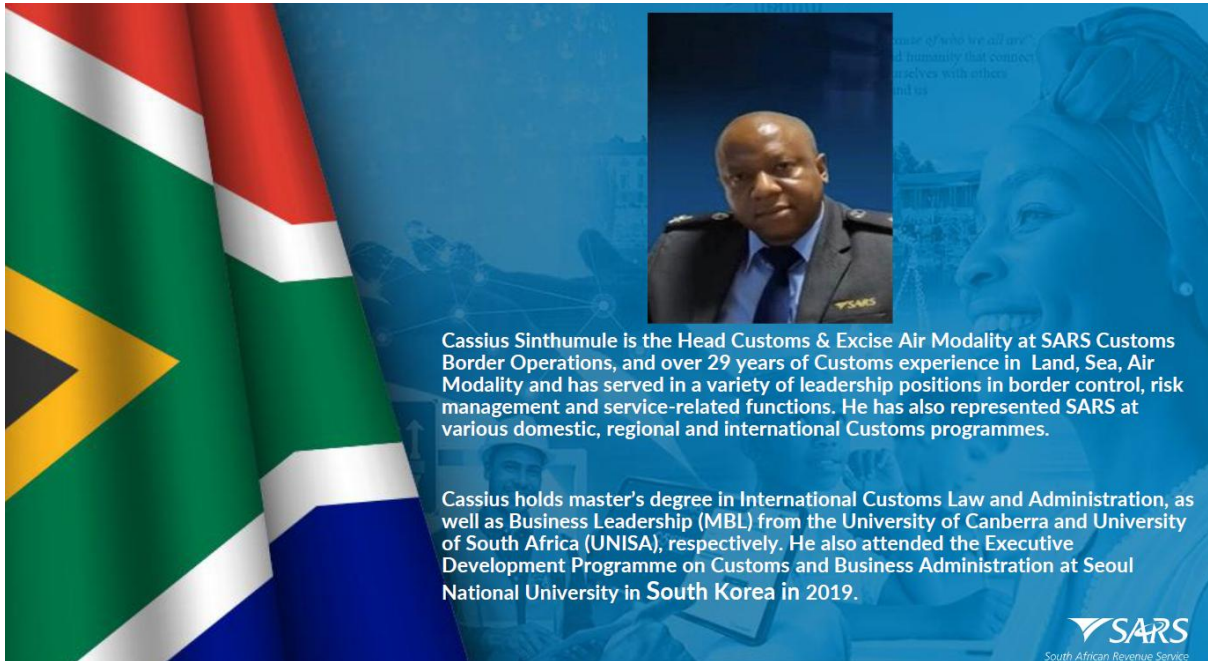
Chief Executive Officer: SAEPA



Garry Marshall is the CEO of the SA Express Parcel Association (SAEPA), the body representing the express logistics industry . Instrumental in starting the Association he has led it since 2004. His background is in the airline, courier, and broader supply chain sub-sectors where he has been the CEO of several prominent companies. He has over 50 years experience in the logistics industry.

Mr Cassius Sinthumule

Head: Customs and Excise Air Modality: SARS



Cassius Sinthumule is the Head Customs & Excise Air Modality at SARS Customs Border Operations, and over 29 years of Customs experience in Land, Sea, Air Modality and has served in a variety of leadership positions in border control, risk management and service-related functions. He has also represented SARS at various domestic, regional and international Customs programmes.

Cassius holds master's degree in International Customs Law and Administration, as well as Business Leadership (MBL) from the University of Canberra and University of South Africa (UNISA), respectively. He also attended the Executive Development Programme on Customs and Business Administration at Seoul National University in South Korea in 2019.

