

ANNUAL EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

12 MARCH 2026



#AEC2026

**WHERE HUMAN
INSIGHT MEETS AI -
OPPORTUNITIES
FOR THE TAKING**



ABOUT..

Guarantee your table now: Be a driver of change where the future of work is being shaped!

This March, unite with South Africa's leading HR strategists, business leaders, policymakers, and innovators for a power-packed conference exploring the evolving intersection of Human Insight and Artificial Intelligence.

Seize this opportunity to absorb fresh perspectives, cutting-edge policy insight, and inspiring real-world case studies that promise to unlock growth and competitive advantage for your organisation.

- **Showcase your brand:** Principal sponsors and table hosts secure promotional reach and exceptional networking.
- **Experience headline speakers:** Hear from industry trailblazers on leadership, AI disruption, youth empowerment, transformation, and employment equity.
- **Build the future:** Connect with forward-thinkers, key executives, and change-makers driving the South African employment landscape forward.
- **Leave inspired:** Engage in solution-focused debate, panel discussions, and practical masterclasses—plus networking drinks and book signings.

Secure your spot – tables are limited. By hosting, you're inviting the next wave of leadership to join you at the frontier of employment thought-leadership.

CORE TOPICS

Human-Centric AI Strategy: Integrating AI for workforce empowerment and intelligent decision-making

Future Skills & Leadership: Realigning business and workforce skills for digital transformation

Policy Landscape & Compliance Updates: Latest updates in employment law, equity, and compliance in an AI-enabled world

Youth Employment Opportunities: New strategies, public-private partnerships, and youth entrepreneurship trends

Leadership Lessons from Recent Events: Insights from SA's most inspiring business and sport leadership journeys

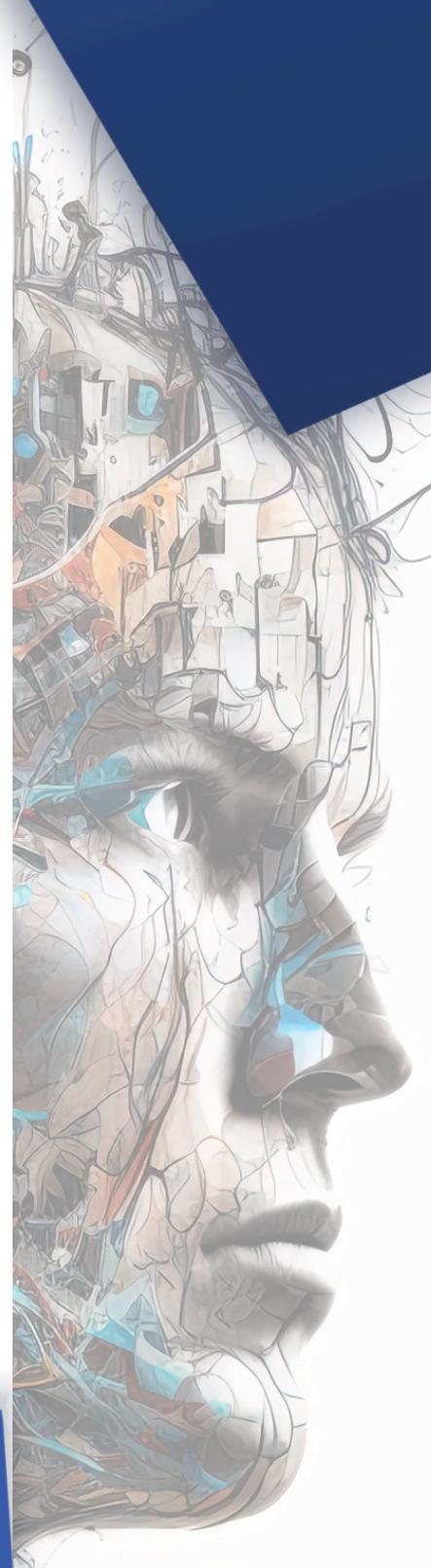
Employment Equity Transformation: Inclusive growth strategies and lessons learned in employment equity implementation

BPO & Digital Industry Trends: Moderated session on the transformation and growth of BPO/digital sectors

Book Signing & Practical Takeaways: Live book signing and sharing practical "top 10" organisational transformation tips

BONUS: Live demonstrations and case studies across most core topics

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GLOBAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

FUTURE THINKING, NOW

DETAILS

Date: 12 March 2026

Venue: Maslow Hotel, Sandton

Cost: R3 990 excl. VAT per delegate

Virtual: MS Teams

Cost: R2 990 excl. VAT per delegate

CPD Certificate: R55 excl. VAT (SABPP)

GROUP BOOKINGS

Book a table of 8 and receive a 10% discount

Discount Code: #TABLE

CPD POINTS

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We are proud to announce that the SA Board for People Practices (SABPP) has accredited this seminar 6 CPD HR points. This additional certificate is now available at a cost of R55 (excl. VAT) per delegate. SABPP is the professional body for HR practitioners in South Africa, as well as quality assurance body for HR learning provision. SABPP also accredits the HR academic programs of universities. Over 30 years, the SABPP has registered over 8000 HR professionals at the various registration levels. For more information visit www.sabpp.co.za



A special bonus for delegates:

Get your **FREE COPY** of Johnny, John and Thembi's new book—don't leave without it!



KHULEKANI MATHE CEO - BUSA

Mathe is the CEO of Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) and a seasoned policy and development leader with deep experience across financial inclusion, national planning and public-sector strategy. Before joining BUSA, he led financial inclusion at the Banking Association South Africa and previously helped shape the National Development Plan as head of the National Planning Commission Secretariat. He spent 15 years in adult education, earning national and international recognition, chaired the 2007 Ministerial Committee on adult education policy, and contributed to the ETDP SETA's governance. Mathe holds master's degrees in development finance and adult education, is a certified director, an ALI fellow, a Ford Foundation alumnus, and serves on several national boards including ISFAP, the HRDC and the NECT. A committed long-distance athlete, he has completed the Comrades Marathon ten times.



PROF. HAROON BHORAT Professor of Economics and Director of the Development Policy Research Unit at UCT

An economist with a PhD in Economics from Stellenbosch University has published over 150 academic journal articles, book chapters and working papers, and co-authored two books on labour market and poverty issues in SA.



JONATHAN GOLDBERG Chairman of Global Business Solutions

Johnny has led in labor law for 30 years, negotiating at plant, industry, and NEDLAC levels. He advises clients on regulatory changes and is a sought-after speaker. Key roles include Commissioner on the National Minimum Wage Commission, Labour Market Convenor at NEDLAC, and representative on the Employment Services Board. He is also a Chartered Director of the Institute of Directors South Africa.



DR SIMON DU PLOOY PORTFOLIO MANAGER AT CORION CAPITAL

Over 20 years' experience in financial markets and is responsible for Corion's strategic and tactical asset allocation. In this role Simon is instrumental in allocating over R13bn of investments among different local and global equities, bonds, commodities, and fixed interest.



CRAIG KIRCHMANN Managing Director: Kirchmann's Inc

Craig is an experienced Attorney and Labour Law Specialist who has represented major corporations across South Africa. He was the instructing attorney in the Free-Market Foundation case and the Assign Services Constitutional Court case.



SIVE NODADA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 21ST CENTURY

Sive Nodada is the Executive Director of People Performance and an Executive Consultant at 21st Century. He is also the co-founder and Managing Director of Emprove Software. Beyond his corporate work, Sive has served as Chief Strategist and Executive Director at the Noordien Foundation Against Women and Child Abuse. With over 13 years' experience as a Performance Management Specialist, Corporate Strategist, and Social Entrepreneur, his expertise spans large-scale project management, digitising corporate strategy, automating performance processes, and social impact measurement.



TABEA TSHESANE
MANAGING DIRECTOR, WE FIND TALENT

Tabea is a leading Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity specialist with over 30 years' experience, beginning her career driving transformation within the SANDF during South Africa's transition to democracy. She has represented South Africa on global platforms including the ILO, the UN Commission on the Status of Women, and the World Employment Conference. A former Chair of the 4th and 5th Commissions for Employment Equity, she developed a pioneering model for legal compliance in the transformation space. Her leadership has elevated organisations such as APSO to global standards, earning her accolades including Business Woman of the Year (2013) and the APSO Founders Cup (2014). Tabea is the Managing Director of We Find Talent and Khulisa Academy and serves as Co-Chair of Values 20, a G20 engagement stream.



JOHN BOTHA
JOINT CEO, GLOBAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

John Botha is the Joint-CEO of GBS and the CEO of Circle and Square, recognised for his expertise in workforce strategy, labour law, and employment sector leadership. He has featured widely in the media and at major industry forums, contributing to policy and skills development in South Africa.



JOSHUA BOTHA
HEAD OF AI, GLOBAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

As Head of AI and Consultant at Global Business Solutions, he helps organisations optimise HR, labour law and B-BBEE processes through AI, chatbots and custom digital tools, and has presented widely on these topics. With experience running surveys and working across multiple industries, he is known for his people-centred approach, strong communication skills and commitment to delivering practical, high-quality solutions that connect his passion for people, technology and business.



ROBERT PEARCE
Business Director – Connemara and NeuroLeadership Institute South Africa

Rob Pearce is a Director at Connemara Consulting and the Business Head for the NeuroLeadership Institute South Africa, a global research-driven institute working with 40% of the Fortune 100 to make organisations more human through science. With 18 years in management consulting across Mining, Pharmacare, Manufacturing, and Financial Services, Rob began in operational improvement as a Six Sigma Black Belt before shifting his focus to helping people adopt the behaviours and habits needed to sustain organisational change.



THEMBI CHAGONDA
JOINT CEO, GLOBAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

Thembi is key advisor to several national and multi-national organizations on their employment equity strategies, policy development and compliance, as well as a Commissioner representing business in the Employment Equity Commission.

PROGRAMME



09:00 – 09:10	Introduction
09:10 – 09:50	Khulekani Mathe: Introduction to Youth Employment
09:50 – 10:30	Prof Borhat: Graduate Unemployment and the Just Transition: Two Contemporary Labour Market Challenges for South Africa
10:30 – 11:00	Morning Tea
11:00 – 11:30	Panel: Jonathan Goldberg, Prof Borhat, Khulekani Mathe – Moderator Bev Jack
11:30 – 12:00	Simon Du Plooy: The Race for AI Dominance: How Global Powers Are Reshaping Markets and Rewriting the World Economy
12:00 – 12:30	Craig Kirchmann: The helping hand: an arbitrators duty to assist unrepresented parties
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 14:00	Sive Nodada: Future Skills and How to Unlock Them
14:00 – 14:35	Tabea Tshesane: From Compliance to Consciousness: Leadership That Delivers Real Workplace Transformation
14:35 – 15:10	John Botha & Josh Botha: Taking Stock of Leading AI Interventions in HR and ER - Practical Insight
15:10 – 15:30	Robert Pearce: Harvard Manage Mentor Demonstration
15:30 – 15:50	Panel: Jonathan Goldberg, Thembi Chagonda, John Boths: Insights into their new book - UBUNTU 3.0 A New Generation Builds Together
15:50 – 16:00	Closing Remarks