



WCPDF
WESTERN CAPE PROPERTY
DEVELOPMENT FORUM

RECALIBRATING

the development conversation



12th ANNUAL CONFERENCE 4 & 5 JUNE 2025 CTICC wcpdfconference.org.za

Please note, the following programme is a work in progress; check the website regularly for updates.

Last updated: 7 May 2025

Speakers in blue are confirmed. Speaker profiles are being added to the website as received.

Along with the session enablers and sponsors noted below, we would also like to thank:

AL&A (Delegate Name Badges and Lanyards) • Bruce Wilson Architects (Delegate Bags)
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Exhibitors to date:

BPAS Architects • Building Industry Bargaining Council Cape of Good Hope
Concrete Manufacturers Association (CMA) • Hydraform • KaackKai • Maskam Water
MMBR • Openserve • Tiefenthaler Legal • TUHF

Ads in the Official Conference Booklet:

African Bank • ASAQS • BetterBond • Growthpoint Properties • Master Builders Association Western Cape
MDA Projects • ooba Home Loans • Safe Working Practice in Cape Town • SALT Architects

DAY 1 PROGRAMME | WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE 2025

Master of Ceremonies: Africa Melane

07h30 – 08h30	Registration and Refreshments with Barista Coffee Bars sponsored by EFG Engineers, Nedbank CIB and SVA International EXHIBITION OPEN
08h30 – 10h00	DAY 1 KEYNOTE enabled by Garden Cities NPC (RF)
	WELCOME BY MC, Africa Melane , Host of <i>Early Breakfast</i> , 702 and CapeTalk
	OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS: <i>What does Western Cape Government expect from the property development and construction industry?</i> Premier Alan Winde , Western Cape Government
	INDUSTRY RESPONSE: Deon van Zyl , Chairperson, Western Cape Property Development Forum (WCPDF) and Managing Director, VORTO Q&A with Speakers, facilitated by Africa Melane
10h00 – 10h30	Refreshment Break with Barista Coffee Bars sponsored by EFG Engineers, Nedbank CIB and SVA International EXHIBITION OPEN
10h30 – 12h30	SESSION 1: UNDERSTANDING WHO HAS SKIN IN THE GAME Understanding the current resource constraints on the public sector, how do we “State Proof” ourselves, and which national, regional, and municipal entities yet understand they also need to have “skin in the game”? It’s becoming increasingly evident that all spheres of government need to renegotiate their place at the table, especially when their own income streams can no longer be guaranteed.
	WELCOME BY MC, Africa Melane and introduction to session facilitator, Deon van Zyl , WCPDF Chairperson and Managing Director, VORTO
	PRESENTATION: National Government Representative/ Corporate Governance Expert
	PRESENTATION: Professionalising built environment professionals

	<p>Ben Peters, Director of Corporate Project, Programme, and Portfolio Management, City of Cape Town</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>Effectively cutting the Red Tape</i> (working title) Michelle Ellis, Director: Western Cape Government Red Tape Unit</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>Development collaboration and facilitation</i> (working title) Geraldine Liebenberg, Manager: Planning and Property Development Facilitation, Office of the Executive Director: Spatial Planning and Environment, City of Cape Town</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>“Skin in the Game – A Private Sector Perspective”</i> (working title) Ryan Ravens, CEO, Accelerate Cape Town</p> <p>Q&A between Facilitator and Panellists</p> <p>Followed by Q&A from delegates</p>
12h30 – 13h30	Networking Buffet Lunch sponsored by Growthpoint Properties EXHIBITION OPEN
13h30 – 15h30	<p>SESSION 2: RECALIBRATING SUSTAINABILITY TO SUSTAIN DEVELOPMENT This Session is enabled by dhk Architects</p> <p>There is no question that building sustainably for the future is critical, especially in the face of infrastructure constraints. But it also needs to make rands and ‘sense’ to budgets in both the private and public domains. This session highlights the importance of experimentation and innovation, from wastewater treatment and package plants to wheeling energy. But it also goes beyond - to sustainability among social constructs, once the cranes are gone.</p> <p>Welcome by MC Africa Melane and introduction to session facilitator: Liesel Kruger-Fountain, Principal Professional Officer – Urban Sustainability Unit, Urban Planning and Design, Spatial Planning and Environment Directorate, City of Cape Town PRESENTATION: <i>The Potsdam Sustainability Campus</i></p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>Working with municipalities</i> Gerhard Cronje, CEO, Maskam Water</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>The role of battery storage as part of an energy savings solution</i> Francois van Themaat, Managing Director: Large Projects, Sustainable Power Solutions (SPS)</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>V&A Waterfront Wastewater Treatment Project</i> Emma Muller, Founder/CEO, KaackKai</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>Maintaining the sustainability of the social construct</i> Kirsten Wilkins, Founder, ContestedSpaces</p> <p>Q&A between Facilitator and Panellists</p> <p>Followed by Q&A from delegates</p>
15h30 -16h00	Refreshment Break with Barista Coffee Bars sponsored by EFG Engineers, Nedbank CIB and SVA International EXHIBITION OPEN
16h00 – 17h15	<p>SESSION 3: THE ROLE OF CITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS IN CREATING INVESTOR-FRIENDLY CENTRES</p> <p>The success of City Improvement Districts in South Africa remains unique to the City of Cape Town, falling as they do under the CID Bylaw and Section 22 of the Municipal Property Rates Act. With each CID operating in a special rating area (SRA), CIDs are able to offer complementary services to those of the City. With the number of CIDs climbing year-to-year as ratepayers vote them into operation, how have these contributed to investor confidence? And, more importantly, how much more could they offer if given the mandate to do so?</p>

	Welcome by MC Africa Melane and introduction to session facilitator Simon Nicks , Managing Member, CNdP africa
	PRESENTATION: Cape Town's CIDs and the Mayoral Urban Regeneration Programme Executive Deputy Mayor Eddie Andrews , Mayoral Committee Member for Spatial Planning and Environment, City of Cape Town
	PRESENTATION: Facilitating investment in the Cape Town Central City Rob Kane , Chairperson, Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID), and Founder/CEO, Boxwood Property Fund
	PRESENTATION: Facilitating investment in the Voortrekker Road Corridor Derek Bock , Chief Operations Officer, Voortrekker Road Corridor Improvement District (VRCID)
	PRESENTATION: How CIDs establish investor confidence Gene Lohrentz , Founder, Geocentric Services
	Q&A between Facilitator and Panellists Followed by Q&A from delegates
17h15 – 17h30	DAY 1 CLOSING: Deon van Zyl – Chairperson, WCPDF and Managing Director, VORTO (Perspective on Day 1) and Wrenelle Stander , CEO, Wesgro - Day 1 Networking Event Sponsor, Wesgro
17h30 – 18h30	DAY 1 NETWORKING EVENT to be sponsored by Wesgro

DAY 2 PROGRAMME | THURSDAY, 5 JUNE 2025

Master of Ceremonies: **Africa Melane**

07h30 – 08h30	Registration and Refreshments with Barista Coffee Bars sponsored by EFG Engineers, Growthpoint Properties and Nedbank CIB EXHIBITION OPEN
08h00 – 08h30	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE WCPDF
08h30 – 10h00	DAY 2 KEYNOTE enabled by Evergreen Lifestyle
	WELCOME AND REFLECTION ON DAY 1: MC Africa Melane , Host of <i>Early Breakfast</i> , 702 and CapeTalk
	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: South Africa 30 years after democracy: Economic challenges and opportunities Professor Haroon Borat , Director, Development Policy Research Unit, School of Economics, University of Cape Town
	Q&A between Keynote Speaker and Africa Melane Followed by Q&A from delegates
10h00 – 10h30	Refreshment Break with Barista Coffee Bars sponsored by EFG Engineers and Growthpoint Properties and Nedbank CIB EXHIBITION OPEN
10h30 – 12h30	SESSION 4: THINKING CREATIVELY ABOUT FINANCING While a handful of banks are starting to think creatively around financing for the affordable market, much work still needs to be done to innovate and allow experimentation within the traditional banking system and its Statutory and Credit Act environment, across the entire property landscape. In the vacuum of system change, private equity, crowd funding, and asset tokenism are making strides to fill the space.

	<p>Welcome by MC Africa Melane and introduction to session facilitator, Dr Allan Davids, Director, Financial Innovation Hub, University of Cape Town</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>Navigating towards ideas and solutions to property finance within the current statutory and Credit Act environments</i> (working title) Gilly Dlamini, General Manager, Banking Association South Africa (BASA)</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>Affordable housing finance: lessons from South Africa and the African continent</i> (working title) Paul Jackson, CEO, TUHF</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>How private equity is stepping into the gap</i> (working title) Friedrich Meisenholl, Regional Investment Manager, BusinessPartners</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>The Enterprise Development Property Fund: crowd funding and asset tokenisation</i> Nigel Adriaanse, Chief Empowerment Officer, EDPF</p> <p>Q&A between Facilitator and Panellists Followed by Q&A from delegates</p>
12h30 – 13h30	Networking Buffet Lunch sponsored by BetterBond EXHIBITION OPEN
13h30 -15h30	<p>SESSION 5: TAKING PRODUCT WESTERN CAPE TO THE WORLD This Session is enabled by Similan</p> <p>Which international stages exist for presenting Product Western Cape? Where are the latest world-wide trends revealed and through which platforms? Where and how should we be aspiring to present our own projects to attract international investment? This session will speak to investment agencies to find out what they're doing, private property developers who have attended the international MIPIM event in France, and those in the AI space.</p> <p>Welcome by MC Africa Melane and introduction to session facilitator Wrenelle Stander, CEO, Wesgro</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>Marketing Cape Town property and development to the world abroad</i> (working title) Ald James Vos, Mayoral Committee Member for Economic Growth, City of Cape Town</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>Experiences from MIPIM 2025</i> Harold Spies, Pieter du Toit, and Tarquin Geldenhuys, Similan</p> <p>PRESENTATION: <i>The new world order: marketing property development through AI</i> Mike Eilertsen, CEO, Meta-dology</p> <p>Q&A between Facilitator and Panellists Followed by Q&A from delegates</p>
15h30 -16h00	Refreshment Break with Barista Coffee Bars sponsored by EFG Engineers and Growthpoint Properties and Nedbank CIB EXHIBITION OPEN
16h00 – 17h10	<p>SESSION 6: LARGE-SCALE EVENTS, TOURISM, AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN CONVERSATION with National Ministers and the City of Cape Town (facilitated by Africa Melane)</p> <p>Cape Town is fast positioning itself as a prime tourist and international event destination, with prospects on the horizon such as Formula 1. As an ever-increasing visitor destination, and with job creation at the centre, how will we ensure we actually have the infrastructure capacity that these will require, from eventing venues and hotels to public transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis, City of Cape Town • National Ministers - Speakers TBC <p>Q&A from delegates</p>

17h10 – 17h30	DAY 2 CLOSING: Perspective on the conference closing remarks by MC Africa Melane and Deon van Zyl , Chairperson, WCPDF and Managing Director, VORTO
17h30 – 19h30	DAY 2 CLOSING NETWORKING EVENT sponsor TBC