

Synergising Indigenous Knowledge Systems into Business Innovation through Knowledge Management

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National Botanical Gardens, Pretoria



Dr Nhlanhla Msomi

The impact of the innovation chasm in SA and possible remedies



Dr Nhlanhla Msomi is the Interim CEO for TIA and Executive Chairman for City Works (Pty) Ltd, an Indo-South Africa joint venture company developing bespoke ERP systems on a proprietary platform.

Dr Msomi completed his postgraduate training in Biotechnology, Science Policy and Innovation from Sussex. He also has qualifications in Finance (CIBM), International Executive Development (Wits) and Corporate Governance (IoD). His professional career has spanned scientific research, lecturing, innovation management, corporate finance and entrepreneurship. He was previously a partner and Executive Director for Principal Investments at Africa Vukani Capital (now Quartile Capital), responsible for, inter alia, the operationalisation of the KZN Growth Fund (a R1.5bn public-private partnership fund) and the KZN corporate finance division (public and private sector mandates). In 2005, Africa Vukani was voted the 5th in the Mergers and Acquisitions category in South Africa by the Ernst and Young survey. He has founded and invested in a number of businesses in the medical biotechnology and ICT sectors.

Dr Msomi's recent career has included serving on the Investment Committee of the Southern African Intellectual Property Fund and the Boards of the National Advisory Committee on Innovation (NACI), Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), KZN Government Central Procurement Committee, LIFELab (CEO and Deputy Chair), National Bioinformatics Network (Chair), and SA Bioproducts (where his investment company had an equity position). In the 2003 Biotechnology Audit, SA Bioproducts contributed to over 50% of the national revenues (over R200m). He is a former Advisor to the Senior Vice-Presidents (CRP) of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). He still serves on the Boards of Trade and Investment KZN, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, SA Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, United World College- SA Trust (chair of EXCO) as well as the TIA.