

LAVAN GOPAUL

Name: LAVANDRAN NANDA GOPAUL

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

With 30 years of combined Leadership, Financial and Legal experience, I bring a wealth of leadership qualities and expertise across various roles and sectors. My background includes serving as a Board Chair, Non-Executive Board Member, and Executive Board Member, alongside roles as an Investment Professional, Lawyer, Economist, Academic, Business Consultant, and more. I possess profound knowledge in finance, risk management, financial instruments, law, real estate, tax, and strong numeracy skills. I have a proven track record of effective leadership, resourcefulness, and strategic thinking, which is evident in my board experience and professional roles. Additionally, my communication skills shine through my history of successful public speaking engagements and media commentary on the economy and financial markets. My core skills encompass finance, legal expertise, leadership, and communication, making me well-equipped to contribute effectively across various domains, including sustainability, organisational development, business process re-engineering, commercial advisory, transaction advisory, and professional directorship.

EDUCATION

2017	MPA	HARVARD UNIVERSITY , Cambridge, MA, USA MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION – Economics & Finance
2017	FELLOW	HARVARD UNIVERSITY , Cambridge, MA, USA MASON FELLOW
2018	LLM	BOSTON UNIVERSITY - School of Law, Boston, MA, USA MASTER OF LAWS -Banking & Finance Law, Founder & Chair-The Capital Club
2013	LLB	UNIVERSITY of KWA-ZULU NATAL - Howard Coll, School of Law, Durban, SA BACHELOR OF LAWS
2000	B Comm	UNIVERSITY of NATAL , Howard Coll, Durban, SA BACHELOR OF COMMERCE

CORE SKILLS

- **Finance:** Deep knowledge of financial instruments, products, markets, and risk management.
- **Legal:** Comprehensive understanding of Company, Tax, Corporate & Public law and regulatory frameworks
- **Real Estate:** Expertise in real estate matters
- **Taxation:** Proficient in tax principles and implications
- **Numeracy:** Strong ability with numbers and quantitative analysis
- **Economic Analysis:** providing a foundation for strategic decision-making within broader market contexts.
- **Business Development:** growth strategy and identifying opportunities as an experienced Business Consultant and Venture Capital Manager/Analyst
- **Sustainability:** Understanding and focusing on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors.
- **Transaction Advisory:** Deep Experience in mergers & acquisitions, Providing strategic business advice.
- **Organizational Development:** Change management experience through Business Process Re-engineering.
- **Strategic Vision:** Board-level experience shaping and guiding organisational strategy.

COMMUNICATION

- **Public Speaking:** Track record of successful public speaking engagements
- **Media Commentary:** Provided expert insights on the economy and financial markets for TV and radio.

PROFESSIONAL ROLES

- **Investment:** Investment Professional, Venture Capital Manager / Analyst, Portfolio Manager
- **Financial Markets:** Stockbroker, Derivatives Broker
- **Legal Background:** Previously worked as a Lawyer.
- **Academia:** Experience as an Academic and Business Consultant
- **Economics:** Background as an Economist

RISK

- **Risk Management:** Deep knowledge of risk management principles,
- **Financial Product Knowledge:** Understanding complex financial instruments with the ability to assess and mitigate financial risks.
- **Legal Acumen:** as a Lawyer providing expertise in navigating legal risks & ensuring regulatory compliance.

LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

- **Board Experience:** Held positions as Board Chair, Non-Executive Board Member, Executive Board Member
- **Professional Director:** Serving as a director across private, public, and NPO sectors highlights a broad understanding of governance structures and responsibilities.
- **Resourcefulness & Decisiveness:** Demonstrated ability to act decisively while managing resources effectively.
- **Strategic Thinking:** history of sound strategic planning and execution
- **Compliance:** Legal background, board experience with oversight functions, and a strong focus on adherence to ethical and regulatory standards.

BAR STATUS

- 2012 - Present **Advocate High Court of SA**
- 2014 - Present Member of the **National Bar Council** of South Africa
- 2015 - Present National Bar Council of SA Exam (Cum Laude and Best Candidate 2015)
- 2018 - Present **Barrister at Law** (England & Wales), 2018, of the Inner Temple (Candidate)

MEMBERSHIP

- 2021 - Present Registered **Tax Practitioner – SA Revenue Service**
- 2024 - Present Fellow of the **Institute of Financial Markets**
- 2023 - Present Member of the **Institute of Directors South Africa**
- 2018 - Present Member of the **Inner Temple – London – Society of Barristers**
- 2015 - Present Member of the **National Bar Council of South Africa**
- 2006 - Present Member of the **Institute of Financial Markets**
- 2003 - Present Member of the **Investment Analyst Society**
- 1993 - Present PPRA (Prev CEA) – **Member of the Estate Agents Board**

OTHER EDUCATION

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------------------------|
| 2013 | RE 1 - Key Individual Cat 1 | Moonstone |
| 2013 | RE 3 - Key Individual Cat 2 & 2A | Moonstone |
| 2012 | RE 5 - Representative | Moonstone |
| 2006 | RPE - The Bond Market Exam | SA Institute of Fin Markets |
| 2006 | RPE - The Derivatives Market Exam | SA Institute of Fin Markets |
| 2000 | RPE - The Equity Market Exam | SA Institute of Fin Markets |
| 2000 | RPE - Regulation and Ethics Exam | SA Institute of Fin Markets |
| 2000 | RPE - General Exam | SA Institute of Fin Markets |
| 2000 | Compliance Officer Exams | JSE Securities Exchange |
| 2000 | Traders Exam (Equities) | JSE Securities Exchange |
| 1995 | Futures Traders Exam | SA Futures Exchange |
| 1995 | SA Commodities Exam | SA Futures Exchange |
| 1993 | Certified Estate Agent - Board Exams | SA Estate Agents Board |

REFEREES

Name	Background	Tel	Email
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

BUSINESS EXPERIENCE

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD MEMBER (SEPT'23 - CURRENT)

UMNGENI-UTHUKELA WATER, PIETERMARITZBERG, SA

Member of the Audit, Finance and Risk Sub-Committee and Member of the Social & Ethics Sub-Committee

As a Board member, I am jointly accountable for the leadership and control of Umgeni Water. The responsibilities include the development, review and monitoring of strategic objectives, approval of major capital expenditure, risk management and monitoring of operational and financial performance, and board member responsible for ensuring the smooth transition of the multi-billion-rand takeover of uMhlatuze Water. We have been charged with spending R40 billion on the expansion of uMNGENI-UTHUKELA WATER in various strategic nodes throughout the province of KZN.

CHAIR, NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD MEMBER (DEC'23 - CURRENT)

BIO-TECH WORLD (OILSPILL SA), POLOKWANE, SA

Chair, Member of the Audit, Finance and Risk Sub-Committee

As Chair, I am accountable for the leadership and control of the Board. The role is crucial in leading the group toward its strategic objectives and ensuring effective governance. Key responsibilities include providing strong leadership to the board and the organisation, overseeing governance structures to ensure compliance, leading strategic planning efforts for sustainable growth, managing risks related to oil spills and environmental impact, overseeing financial matters, engaging stakeholders, championing environmental & ecological sustainability, evaluating board effectiveness, managing crises, ensuring legal and regulatory compliance, promoting innovation and research, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement. My leadership is instrumental in achieving its mission of addressing oil spills and environmental challenges while promoting sustainability and corporate responsibility.

INTERIM NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD MEMBER (MAR'23 – SEPT'23)

UMGENI WATER, PIETERMARITZBERG, SA

Member of the Audit and ITI Joint Committee and Member of CAPEX & HR- REMCO joint committee

As an Interim Board member, I am accountable for the leadership and control of Umgeni Water. The responsibilities include the development, review and monitoring of strategic objectives, approval of major capital expenditure, risk management and monitoring of operational and financial performance, and board member responsible for the successful multi-billion-rand takeover of uMhlatuze Water.

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & BOARD MEMBER (JUN'18 – JULY'22)

THEMBANI INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEE FUND, PRETORIA, SA

Member of the Investment Committee and the Audit Committee

Member of Capital, Procurement and Fixed Assets Committee (Capex) joint committee

Responsible for approving partial guarantees for bank loans to microfinance organisations and other community-based lenders and approving the provision of guarantees for loans to small businesses. Responsibilities include developing, reviewing and monitoring strategic objectives, approving significant capital expenditure, managing risk, and monitoring operational and financial performance.

DIRECTOR AND INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT STRATEGIST (JAN'09 - CURRENT)

MERCHANT AFRIKA, JOHANNESBURG / DURBAN, SA

Specialising in Private Equity Advisory and Business Consulting, I offer comprehensive services encompassing Global macroeconomic advice, Analysis, and Forecasting. My expertise primarily centres on South African Interest Rates, Currencies, and Metal and Energy Commodities. As the Founder, I lead in Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) and Investment Advisory, with a sectoral emphasis on Real Estate and General Industries. My responsibilities extend to client acquisition, retention, deal sourcing, marketing, financial management, and the recruitment and training of junior professionals. Engaging with High-Net-Worth clients, I conduct regular group presentations, providing financial due diligence, valuation analysis, deal structuring, contract negotiations, and devising exit strategies. Additionally, I offer guidance on Corporate Governance, Best Practices, Compliance, and Risk Management. My role includes cultivating and managing investor relationships to secure capital and drive deal flow.

ADVOCATE TO THE HIGH COURT OF SOUTH AFRICA (NOV'12 – CURRENT)

NATIONAL BAR COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA, DURBAN, SA

I specialise in Tax, Investments, Offshore & International structures, and Corporate & Commercial law. My clientele encompasses both corporate entities and High-Net-Worth individuals. I offer comprehensive guidance on various tax-related issues, effectively reducing the tax burden for my clients. My role addresses the legal and regulatory aspects of transactions, involving the meticulous drafting and vetting of deal and commercial contracts, ensuring adherence to legal standards and reporting requirements. I continuously study local and international tax laws and SARS norms and conditions, enabling me to perform risk-assessment procedures and provide economical solutions to tax burdens, including expertise in tax-saving instruments. My proficiency lies in formulating strategies to resolve the tax and finance-related challenges companies face.

GENERAL MANAGER & SNR PORTFOLIO MANAGER (MAY'19 – JULY'23)

MERRITT INVESTMENT MANAGERS, DURBAN, SA

As a seasoned professional, I adeptly managed staff and clients, demonstrating proficiency in handling derivatives and margin risks. By successfully cultivating relationships and obtaining referrals, I effectively secured High-Net-Worth accounts. Utilising modern communication tools, I conducted Zoom/online presentations, fostering discussions on equity markets, fixed-income markets, international markets, and economic conditions. My expertise extended to managing solutions for Trading, Portfolio Management, Investment Advisory, Hedging, and Private Client Solutions. Through regular appearances in TV and radio interviews, I enhanced the visibility of the organisations I represented. Throughout, I prioritised and ensured ongoing client satisfaction.

HEAD PORTFOLIO MANAGER (DEC'14 - JUNE'16)

TRADEMAR SECURITIES, SANDTON, SA

Managed derivatives & margin risks, Managed Staff and Clients. Secured high-net-worth accounts through successful relationship building and referrals and conducted large group presentations. I approved Junior Staff Derivatives and equity trades. Facilitated discussions regarding equity markets, fixed-income markets, international markets, and economic conditions. Regular TV & radio interviews. I effectively trained several interns to become future senior brokers and managers—managed solutions for Trading, Portfolio Management, Investment Advisory, Hedging, and Institutional & Private Client Solutions. They continually ensured client satisfaction. I have effectively trained several interns to become future senior brokers and managers.

ADJUNCT ACADEMIC & HEAD - BUSINESS NEXUS UNIT (JAN'13 - MAY'16)

MANCOSA, DURBAN, SA

Co-Founder and Head of the Business Nexus Unit. Presented seminars on Law, Tax and Economics. Arranged and Participated in Academic debates. Prepared and revised/updated course materials. Developed policies to disseminate the course content. Wrote newsletter articles on Law, Tax, VAT, and Inflation and provided opportunities for in-class discussions. Planned, organised, and presented courses on Law and changing Business environment. Interpreted and Advised the MACOSA Board on the implications of various regulations relating to Higher Education. They initiated interactive activities that furthered entrepreneurship and the law.

SNR PORTFOLIO MANAGER (NOV'12 - NOV'14)

28E CAPITAL, CENTURION, SA,

Managed derivatives & margin risks, Managed Staff and Clients. Secured High-Net-Worth accounts through successful relationship building and referrals and conducted large group presentations. Approved Junior Staff Derivatives and equity trades. Facilitated discussions regarding equity markets, fixed-income markets, international markets, and economic conditions. Regular TV & radio interviews. I have effectively trained several interns to become future senior brokers and managers—managed solutions for Trading, Portfolio Management, Investment Advisory, Hedging, Institutional & Private Client Solutions. I Continually ensured client satisfaction. I have effectively trained several interns to become future senior brokers and managers.

BRANCH MANAGER & SNR DERIVATIVES TRADER (DEC'05 - NOV'08)

ORIGEN SA, JOHANNESBURG, SA,

Developed the branch as a Start-up, Managed derivatives & margin risks, Managed Staff and Clients. Secured high-net-worth accounts through successful relationship building and referrals and conducted large group presentations. Approved Junior staff trades. Effectively trained several interns to become future senior brokers and managers. Developed a highly productive and efficient team—managed solutions for Trading, Portfolio Management, Investment Advisory, Hedging, Institutional & Private Client Solutions.

BRANCH MANAGER & SNR DERIVATIVES TRADER (FEB'00 - NOV'05)

BP BERNSTEIN, JOHANNESBURG, SA,

Developed the new branch as a Start-up, Managed derivatives & margin risks, and Managed Staff and Clients. Secured high-net-worth accounts through successful relationship building and referrals and conducted large group presentations. I Approved Junior Staff Derivatives and equity trades. Facilitated discussions regarding equity markets, fixed-income markets, international markets, and economic conditions. Regular TV & radio interviews. I have effectively trained several interns to become future senior brokers and managers—managed solutions for Trading, Portfolio Management, Investment Advisory, Hedging, Institutional & Private Client Solutions. I continually ensured client satisfaction. I have effectively trained several interns to become future senior brokers and managers.

EQUITY TRADER & STOCKBROKER (SEP'98 - JAN'00)

MERRILL LYNCH, (PREVIOUSLY DAVIS, BORKUM HARE) DURBAN, SA

Executed Transactions over Equities & Derivatives. Analysed clients' portfolio exposure to risk and helped determine suitable investments. Liaised with High-Net-Worth clients and conducted large group presentations. Called in daily buy and sell orders. Successful track record concerning Advice and market analysis

CANDIDATE ATTORNEY (JUL'96 – AUG'98)

D MOODLEY & ASSOC, DURBAN, SA,

Assisted with Corporate law clients assisted with drafting and reviewing all documents to ensure corporate deals were legally compliant. Assisted with tax, employment and contract implications of potential deals. Reported regularly to senior partner. Assisted in completing all documents & filings with the government for forming various business entities, including Tax, Corporations and Trusts.

EQUITY TRADER & STOCKBROKER

HSBC, JOHANNESBURG, SA (PREVIOUSLY SIMPSON MCKIE)

Placed Derivatives and equity, provided quotes and analysed clients' portfolio exposure to risk to help determine the suitability of investments. Placed buy and sell orders informed by risk analysis. Kept up with current market influences.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

2024	Riots, Race & Land Redistribution without compensation - Awaiting Pub. – Harvard University - HKR
2021	South Africa's liberation struggle and the Inside/Outside Conundrum, -(April to June 2021), Issue 57 - Africa in Fact Journal
2019	New filing threshold Tax (South Africa) – (2019) 33 Tax Planning 190 - LexisNexis

PUBLICATIONS

2024	Compiler, Co-Editor & Penned the Preface to of The Unsung Heroes - Volume 2 – by Adv Lavan Gopaul, F Peer, Dr K Archary & V Naidoo (Compilation of short Biographies of Kwa-Zulu Natal selfless heroes that contributed to uplifting others)
2023	Compiler & Co-Editor of The Unsung Heroes - Volume 1 – by Adv Lavan Gopaul, F Peer, Dr K Archary & V Naidoo (Compilation of short Biographies of Kwa-Zulu Natal selfless heroes that contributed to uplifting others)
2015	Penned the forward to: “Why are you so Broke” - By Colin Lemawane https://www.amazon.com/Why-Are-You-Broke-information-ebook/dp/B01LDT748W
2014- 16	Sunday Tribune - Weekly column - Tax, Economy, Finance, Investments, Global Markets, Commodities & Employment & High-profile & HNW Business leaders.
2011-16	Post - Regular column - Tax, Economy, Finance, Investments, Global Markets.
2011-16	Natal Mercury - Occasional Contributor - Finance, Investments, local & Intl markets, Tax

ACADEMIC AWARDS & HONOURS

2017 - Aug	Boston University – Scholarship
2017 - May	Harvard University –Scholarship
2012 - Nov	NBCSA Award - Best Candidate & Cum Laude pass- Advocate High Court Bar Exam - National Bar Council of South Africa
1994 – Feb	Member of MENSA
1992 - Nov	Barlow Rand School of Commerce Scholarship
1992 - Nov	Accounting Merit Award – University of Natal
1992 - Nov	Mathematics Merit Award– University of Natal
1989 - Nov	Mathematics Merit Award - Dept of Education (HOD)
1988 - Oct	Top Speech & Drama Student Award-Double honors `87 & `88-SA Drama Teachers Guild

BUSINESS AWARDS & HONOURS

2024 - July	Man of Valor Award by Panache
2022 - July	KIBA Award - Extraordinary Contribution to Business and Tax Awareness - KZN International Business Assoc.
2019 - Nov	TBW Award - Outstanding Business Achievers - TBW Business Chamber
2008 - Nov	Currency Derivatives Award – JSE Securities Exchange
2008 - Nov	International Derivatives Award – JSE Securities Exchange

LEADERSHIP - COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2024 – present	Board Member	Harvard University Alumni Association of South Africa
2024 – present	Board Member	The Unsung Hero NPC & Publications Board of the Unsung Heroes
2024 – present	Board Member	Animation South Africa
2024 – present	Chair & Non-Exec Mem	Bio-Tech World Pty Ltd
2022 - present	Chair & Exec Mem	Community Policing Forum (GWP)
2019 - 2024	Exec Member	TBW Business Chamber - Durban
2021 - 2023	Exec & Founding Mem	SA Justice Association
2019 - 2023	Exec & Founding Mem	KZN International Business Association
2017 -18	Founder & Chair	Capital Club – Boston University
2016 -17	Exec Member	Social Innovation & Change Initiative of HKS – Harvard Univ
2016 -17	Exec Member	Africa Club of HKS – Harvard University
2016 -17	Founder & Chair	Capital Club – Harvard University
2009 - 15	Snr Advisor	Vedanta Ashram South Africa
2008- 20	Trustee	V Gopaul Special Trust – Multiple Sclerosis patient
1997- 8	Exec Member	Natal Law Society- Candidate Attorneys Chapter
1997- 8	Exec Member	Black Lawyers Assoc [KZN]- Candidate Attorneys Chapter

MEDIA

TV - INTERVIEWS

2003 -Present **TV (1000+ interviews)** - [Economics Interviews: YouTube](#)
ETV/ENCA, SABC3, Morning Live SABC2, CNBC, China-TV, Carte Blanche, BBC, SKY & CNN

RADIO - INTERVIEWS

1999 - Present **Radio (1000+ interviews)** - [Business Interviews](#); [google search lavan gopaul](#)
Lotus FM, P4, Classic FM, SAFM, Power FM, 702, Lotus FM, Radio Radio Ansar, Hindvani

NEWSPAPER & WEB PUBLICATIONS - INTERVIEWS

1999 - Present **Print (1000+ interviews)** - [Print interviews](#); [Print Quotes](#)
Business Day, Mercury, Star, Daily News, Post, Citizen, Sunday Times, London Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal

PRESENTATIONS

2024 – April	Economics of Gender – Launch of Celebrating Hope Foundation
2024 – April	Honoring Sonny Pillay Hanshi - Unsung Hero SKISA Kanazawa Cup Dinner
2024 – April	Corruption through a Human Rights Lens in SA - Stell Univ – Café Conversation - Prof P. Pillay
2023 – Nov	Economic Analysis - Annual Productivity Statistics Event – Productivity South Africa
2023 – Mar	Current state of the Economy – Rotary Club – Durban
2022 – Oct	Economic Analysis - Annual Productivity Statistics Event – Productivity South Africa
2022 – Sept	Investments Opportunities in Turkey & Dubai - Merchant Afrika
2022 - July	Tax Lies & Video Tapes Bus Launch - Keynote Speaker - KZN International Bus Assoc.
2022 - July	Investment Conference – Moderator & Speaker – BIZCon'22 TBW
2022 – April	Investments in Mauritius with Past Pres Vyapoory (MUR)-KZN International Bus Assoc.
2022 – Feb	South African & Global Economic Report – Rotary Clubs SA
2021 - Nov	Mauritius Business Opportunities & Residency – (Mauritius) Merchant Afrika
2021 – Aug	Residency Options in Conversation with The High Commissioner of Mauritius – TBW
2021 – Aug	Financial & Legal Impact of Riots & Looting in KZN – Indo Caribbean Cultural Centre
2021 - Feb	Talking Tax & Laws governing Finance Matters – World Hindu Foundation – SA
2020 - 21	Tax, Finance, Estate Planning & Business during CV19 - Series of Webinars - TBW
2020 – Feb	National Budget Analysis & Commentary - TBW
2019 - Nov	Private Equity & Investments - TBW Business Chamber Launch
2019 - Mar	Data Science – Today & Tomorrow – T7C Launch
2018 - Nov	The 4th Industrial Revolution & Data Science – T7C Induction
2018 - July	Sharia Finance & Investing – MANCOSA – Launch of Sharia Finance Department
2018 - Mar	Boston University – School of Law - Capital Club – Day in the Life of a SEC Attorney
2018 - Jan	Boston University – School of Law - Capital Club –Ventures Capital Financing
2017 - Oct	Boston University – School of Law - Capital Club – Cryptocurrencies & BlockChain
2017 - May	Harvard Capital Club - UNO & Climate Change - with HE Ban Ki-Moon - UN Sec. Gen.
2017 - Mar	Harvard Capital Club - Ethics in Govt & Bus-with Thuli Madonsele -SA Public Protector
2016 - Sept	Harvard Capital Club – Raising funds for New Ventures
2016 - July	Harvard Capital Club – Raising funds for Non-Profit
2013 - 16	National Budget Analysis & Commentary – MANCOSA
2003 - 16	Budget Commentary & Analysis – Various Media
2003 - 16	SONA Commentary & Analysis – Various Media
2003 - 16	Davos Commentary & Analysis – Various Media
2003 - 16	Mining Indaba Commentary & Analysis – Various Media
2003 - 16	SA Tax Changes Commentary & Analysis – Various Media
2003 - 16	Various - Investing in the Shares & Derivatives – JSE