

LAVAN GOPAUL



C O N T A C T

Name : **Lavandran Nanda Gopaul**

ID : [REDACTED]

DOB : [REDACTED]

Cell : [REDACTED]

Email : [REDACTED]

Address : [REDACTED]

SUMMARY

With 30 years of combined Leadership, Financial and Legal experience, Snr Finance Executive, Advocate of the High Court as a Board Chair, Non-Executive Board Member Executive Board Member, alongside roles as an Investment Professional, Economist, Academic and Business Consultant. I possess profound knowledge in finance, risk management, financial instruments, law, real estate, tax, and I have strong numeracy skills, along with my proven track record of effective leadership, resourcefulness, and strategic thinking. Additionally, my communication skills shine through my history of successful public speaking engagements. Providing expert media comments and insights on the economy and financial markets on TV and radio. My core skills encompass finance, legal expertise, leadership and communication, making me well-equipped to contribute effectively across various domains, including professional directorship, business process re-engineering, commercial advisory, transaction advisory, sustainability, and organisational development.

EDUCATION

- 2017 - **MPA** - Economics & Finance - **HARVARD UNIVERSITY**, Cambridge, MA, USA
- 2018 - **LLM** - Banking & Fin Law - **BOSTON UNIVERSITY**, Boston, MA, USA
- 2012 - **LLB** - **UNIVERSITY of KWA-ZULU NATAL**, Howard Coll, Schl of Law, Dbn, SA
- 1999 - **BCom** - **UNIVERSITY of NATAL**, Howard College, Durban, KZN, SA
- 2017 - **Mason Fellow** - **HARVARD UNIVERSITY**, Cambridge, MA, USA
- Curr - **CFA** - **CHARTERED FINANCIAL ANALYST** (Candidate)

CURRENT - BOARD / NON-EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

- Non-Executive Director — **uMngeni-uThukela Water** - Mar 2023 – Current
Audit, Finance & Risk Committee; Social & Ethics Committee.
- Non-Executive Director — **National Library of SA** - Oct 2024 – Current
Audit Committee; HR, Remuneration & Social and Ethics Committee.
- Vice Pres & Board Mem - **Harvard University Alumni Assoc. of SA** - Nov 2023 – Current

PAST - BOARD / NON-EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

- Chair & Non-Executive Director **Umgeni Water Services** - Audit & Business Dev (2023-26)
- Chair & Non-Executive Director — **Bio-Tech World Pty Ltd** (Oil Spill SA) (2022-26)
& Chair of Audit, Finance & Risk Committee.
- Member of Senate (External) — **MANCOSA** - (2022-26) – Current, Independent oversight of governance policy & academic quality; former Adjunct Academic & Head of Business Nexus
- Non-Executive Director - **Thembani Int Guarantee Fund** (Inv & Audit/Capex Comm)(2018–22)
- Non-Executive Director - **Animation South Africa** (2021–24)
- Chair & Exec Mem - Comm Policing Forum - Greenwood Park (2020–24)
- Trustee - **V Gopaul Trust** – Multiple Sclerosis patient (2008 -20)
- Exec Dir & Board Mem - **TBW Business Chamber** (2019–23)
- Exec & Founding Mem **KZN International Business Association** (2019–24)

CURRENT - PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Director & International Inv Strategist** — **Merchant Afrika** (Jhb / Dbn) Jan 2009 – Current
Founder-Private Equity Advisory, M&A and Investment Advisory; deal sourcing & structuring
- Advocate of the High Court of SA** — **National Bar Council of SA** (Dbn) Oct 2012 – Current
Tax, investments, offshore & intl structures, Corp & Comm law for high-net-worth clients

PAST - PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Gen Manager & Snr Portfolio Manager**—**Merritt Inv Managers** (2019–23) Trading, portfolio management, hedging & private client solutions
- Head Portfolio Manager**—**Trademar Securities** (2012–16), Derivatives & margin risk, HNW client
- Branch Manager & Snr Derivatives Trader**— **Origen SA** —**BP Bernstein** (2000–2008)
Start-up branch, derivatives & equities
- Stockbroker**— **Merrill Lynch** (1998–00) — Equity & derivative trading, portfolio risk analysis
- Equity Trader**— **HSBC** (1994–95) — Equity & derivative trading, portfolio risk analysis
- Candidate Attorney**—**D Moodley & Assoc** (1996–98), Corp law, tax, contracts & litigation

MEMBERSHIP

- Tax Practitioner** – South African Revenue Service (2021 - Curr)
- Fellow of the Institute of Financial Markets** (2004 - Curr)
- Mem of the **Institute of Directors South Africa** (2023 - Curr)
- Mem of the **Legal Practice Council** (2019 - Curr)
- Mem of the **Inner Temple, England & Wales, Soc of Barristers** (2018 - Curr)
- Mem of the **National Bar Council of South Africa** (2015 - Curr)
- Mem of the **Investment Analyst Society** (2003 - Curr)
- Mem of **MENSA** South Africa (2021 - Curr) (1995 - Curr)
- Mem of the **PPRA** (Prev - **Estate Agents Board - CEA**) (1993 - Curr)

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

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.

ACADEMIC AWARDS & HONOURS

2017 - Aug Boston University Scholarship
2017 - May Harvard University –Scholarship
2012 - Nov National Bar Council of South Africa Award
- Best Candidate & Cum Laude pass - Bar Exam
1995 – 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
1988 - Oct Top Speech & Drama Student Award -
Double honours '87 & '88- SA Drama Teachers Guild

BUSINESS AWARDS & HONOURS

2024 - **Man of Valour Award** by Panache
2022 - KIBA Award - **Extraordinary Contribution to Business & Tax Awareness**- KZN Int Business Assoc.
2019 - **TBW Award - Outstanding Business Achievers** - TBW Business Chamber
2008 - **Currency Derivatives Award** – JSE Securities Exchange
2008 - **International Derivatives Award**–JSE Securities Exchange

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 Riots, Race & Land Redistribution without compensation- Awaiting Pub. –Harvard University – HKR
- 2021 SA Liberation Struggle - Inside/Outside Conundrum, -(April to June'21), Issue 57 - Africa in Fact Journal
- 2019 New filing threshold Tax (South Africa) – (2019)33 Tax Planning 190 – LexisNexis

GEN PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 - Curr Compiler, Co-Editor & Penned the Preface to **The Unsung Heroes - Volume 1,2,3 & 4** –by Adv Lavan Gopaul, F Peer, Dr K Archary & V Naidoo (Compilation of short Biographies of KZN selfless heroes)
- 2015 Penned the forward to: **“Why are you so Broke”** - By Colin Lemawane
- 2014/16 **Sunday Tribune** - Weekly column - Tax, Economy, Finance, Investments, Global Markets, Commodities & Employment & High-profile & HNW Business leaders.
- 2011/16 & 2023/Curr **Post** - Regular column - Tax, Economy, Finance, Investments, Global Markets.
- 2011/16 **Natal Mercury** - Occasional Contributor - Finance, Investments, local & Intl markets, Tax

TV - INTERVIEWS 2002 -Curr (1000+ interviews) -ETV/ENCA, SABC3, Morning Live SABC2, CNBC, China-TV, Carte Blanche, BBC,CNN

RADIO - INTERVIEWS - 1999 - Present Radio (1000+ interviews) - SAFM,Classic FM, Power FM, 702, Lotus FM, P4, Radio, Hindvani

NEWSPAPER & WEB PUBLICATIONS - INTERVIEWS - 1999 - Present Print (1000+ interviews) - Business Day, Mercury, Star, Daily News, Post, Citizen, Sunday Times, London Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal

LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT & CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

- **Board Leadership:** Served as Chair & Non-Executive Director providing strategic oversight and governance across various organisations
- **Professional Director:** Serving as a director across private, public & NPO sectors with a broad understanding of governance structures
- **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 & oversight functions, & a strong focus on adherence to ethical & regulatory standards.
- **Change Management:** Directed business process re-engineering initiatives that improved operational efficiency

REFEREES

PROF J. REDDY Chair of the Council of Durban Univ of Tech
PROF D. GARACH Founder & CEO of Garach Corp
FAWZIA PEER Former Exec Mayor of eThekweni Metro

