Cape Chamber
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

MINUTES OF THE CAPE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM AT OLD MUTUAL HEAD OFFICE, MUTUALPARK, JAN SMUTS DR, PINELANDS ON THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 18H00

ATTENDANCE
As per the attendance register.

APOLOGIES
A number of apologies had been received, and those were recorded.

1. WELCOME

The Cape Chamber's CEO, Mr John Lawson welcomed everyone present to the Cape Chamber's Annual General Meeting.

Mr Lawson briefly went through the housekeeping matters and handed over to the President to proceed.

2. CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

The President, Mr Jacques Moolman, referred to the agenda and requested if there were any additional items to be noted. No additional items were received and the President requested the approval of the agenda.

Proposer: Rabia Achmat
Seconder: Mehbood Cassim

3. MINUTES FOR CONFIRMATION

The President, Mr Jacques Moolman, referred to the minutes of the AGM that was held on 30th November 2023 and requested if there were any amendments. No amendments were received and the President requested the approval of the Minutes.

Proposer: Richard von Hoesslin
Seconder: Adrian Strydom

4. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The President, Mr Jacques Moolman, called upon the Honorary Treasurer, Mr Christiaan Vorster to report on the Audited Financial Statements for the Chamber's financial year, ending 30th June 2024 which was circulated to all members.

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Christiaan Vorster briefly outlined the following key points:

- The focus was on financial sustainability rather than profit-making.
- 2024 Financial Strategy focussed on the consolidation of income streams and the restructured membership categories.

- Improved financial performance in Q1 of 2024:
  (1) Revenue and gross profit up compared to the previous year;
  (2) Operating profit increased.

- The balance sheet remained strong with untouched reserves.

- Outlook: Confident in achieving the 2024 budget and advancing financial sustainability.

Mr Vorster requested if there were any questions from the floor and none were received. Mr Vorster requested for the approval of the Audited Financial Statements.

Proposer: Beverley Knoesen
Seconder: Jeremy Wiley

5. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

The Honorary Treasurer, Mr Christiaan Vorster proposed that Zuydam Konsult was re-appointed as the Chamber's Auditors and requested the approval to confirm the appointment of auditors.

Proposer: Rustim Ariefdien
Seconder: Johann Claassen

6. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President, Mr Jacques Moolman addressed the meeting as follows:

"Past Presidents, Board, Council and members.

Looking back four years, when I just took over this role, I am pleased to say that while many of the challenges we had then, remain, our economic outlook has improved, albeit far too slowly.

South Africa's economic growth prospects are cautiously optimistic. This shift in sentiment is partly due to strengthened public-private partnerships addressing critical obstacles in our business environment.

One of the Chambers strategic focus areas is exactly that - the strengthening of these public-private dialogue processes - which improves the competitiveness of the business eco-system and steer us towards a smarter network economy.

Remarkably, South Africa has experienced 245 days free from load shedding—a significant achievement considering the uncertainty that once surrounded the national grid.

Private sector pressure has encouraged greater private sector involvement in traditional state-owned enterprises such as Transnet and Eskom. Through the Cape Chamber's commitment to fostering a better business future, we, too, are in a stronger position than we were four years ago.

Our executive team has diligently implemented our strategy focused on enabling the Chamber to serve more effectively and sustainably, while making a real difference. Our targeted capital investments to implement the strategy over the past year will drive long-term value.

Internationally, The Chambers continued interaction and meetings with visiting international trade missions and diplomats have launched opportunities to our members and have created worldwide business opportunities.

Internally, we have revitalized our Chapter, Portfolio Committee, and Council meetings to drive actionable outcomes and measurable impact. We have also significantly expanded and strengthened our industry networks, allowing us to counteract shared impediments, drive innovation and share best practice. This has been achieved via proactive stakeholder engagement at a range of meetings, forums, events, and workshops.

The Cape Chamber's broader network has also strengthened public-private dialogue in key areas of concern such as logistics, public transport, and energy. In Cape Town, we played a critical role in drawing attention to the port congestion crisis and are actively engaging with authorities on pressing issues like escalating crime and unrealistic energy tariffs.

I cannot overlook the tireless behind-the-scenes engagements between our Chamber team and economic role players that underpins our success. These initiatives and outcomes reflect the strength of our collective effort.

One noteworthy initiative is the Western Cape Taxi Cluster, an innovative partnership with private-sector corporates to enhance the efficiency and compliance of the taxi industry, driving profitability for all stakeholders. This project highlights the Chamber's commitment to resolving growth impediments and supporting the business community's relevance.

I extend my sincere gratitude to all our dedicated volunteers. If I may ask that these individuals stand as I call the committees: Executive Board Committee, who are always available for last minute meetings and guidance, the Board for the robust discussions and insightful meetings, The Chapters committees, Industry Sector Portfolio Committees, and Business Environment Portfolio Committees, who together form our Council.

Council and members, these business leaders devote their time and expertise, without compensation, motivated by the vision of shaping a better business future for all.

On behalf of the membership and the business community at large - I thank you.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the efforts of the Chamber management and team, led by John, whose tireless work has been crucial to the successful rollout of our Chamber strategy and the unwavering support provided to our committees, members, and the business community.

I am also pleased to announce that John has signed a renewal contract and will be steering the Chamber as its CEO for a further 3 years.

Council & members,

In choosing a bold path, the Cape Chamber is adding value for its members, amplifying our voice, and steadily shaping a more efficient and successful business environment.

Four years ago, I was deeply honoured to take on this role, a sentiment that remains just as strong today.

Thank you for your trust, and I look forward to working together on the Chamber's continued successful role in growing the economy of the Western Cape, sustainably.

Thank you."

7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ADDRESS

The CEO, Mr John Lawson, addressed the meeting as follows:

"2023 up to June 2024 was a tough year for most businesses. Others cashed in resulting in chaos. A failing state, service delivery and escalating crime, business confidence was low, low investment and hardly any economic growth. We were all very stressed prior to elections in May 24! It feels better now, but the previous year was tough!

In June, voters expressed their dissatisfaction with government, leading to a new GNU. The consequential shifts in national government attitudes, brought us new hope.

One of our jobs is to influence positive change, and we did so by shifting thinking at various levels:

- lobbied for government to focus on the right priorities to improve energy, port, visas, corruption and crime.

Government has increasingly considered private sector solutions, which has started to make a difference i.e. Eskom, Transnet, Home Affairs.

Our Industry Network of Networks now represents business with > R1,28 tr turnover p.a. and > 1,4 m jobs. This has strengthened our collective power, influence and intellectual capacity.

We have attracted more talent to the Chamber leadership positions. Our plans and actions are smarter.

Our strategic dialogue channels have also strengthened at all levels of government.

We are also now in a position to easily mobilise key role players to respond to issues of joint concern e.g. Franschhoek traffic.

In August 2023, we played a key role in resolving the devastating taxi strike as well as future solutions.

I wish to express my deep appreciation for our Industry Sector partners and leaders for this very valuable, ongoing cooperation.

The Chamber worked hard to keep members informed about issues and how best to overcome these.

Members have received more relevant and higher quality information services, resulting in a 23% increase in newsletter subscribers. We now send out newsletters every week to 13 000 subscribers. We have increasingly used social media platforms to create awareness of both issues and solutions, and this has resulted in our social media impressions increasing by 127% in one year.

More SMEs benefitted from Chapter activities due to a greater diversity of events being hosted. Chapter participation increased by 134%. Well done and thanks to our Chapter leaders for driving this growth, ably supported by Tim Scholtz, Linda Roopen and Chantal Thysse. I am particularly proud of the new Khayelitsha, Mitchells Plain and Philippi Chapters as they were becoming more active. We are experimenting with making Chapter focus on smaller geographical areas, with the core idea of reducing impediments in that specific place, to enable their businesses to thrive.

Towards the end of the financial year, we developed an improved suite of offerings for members, based on a concept introduced by Christiaan Vorster. The Chamber team co-created a new suite of offerings that offers more value and choice to members. These new offerings became available on 1 July 2024.

The transition to invoicing all members on 1 July, negatively impacted our membership numbers by 6%, with renewals in place by 1 July. However, this should reverse out in the following year.

Our focus on transforming the organisation to serve members more effectively, meant less executive time spent on chasing “cash cow” projects. The cost of this investment into improved offerings, should reap financial rewards for years to come.

Our certification revenues were negatively impacted by flooding, a late citrus season and the port delays. All these factors contributed to us ending the financial year, with a nett loss of 3,4%.

The Chamber remains in a strong financial position, with a nett equity up 27% since June 2022. Largely to great work by the Investment Committee, ably steered by Tilman von Zukowski.

I express my deep gratitude and appreciation for our leaders of the various structures:

- Board;
- Chapters;
- Sector bodies;
- Business Environment portfolio committees;
- The entire Chamber staff.

In conclusion, the Chamber is healthier than it has been for a long time. We are well positioned to add more value to members and the Western Cape economy.

We have built up our credentials and are attracting more talent and more opportunities.

We have a multitude of very exciting initiatives in the pipeline, which will generate more income and will unlock more value for members. We will announce these as they mature.

I stand here optimistic about our future, because more and more people are standing up to shape a better future.

I thank you!”

Mr Lawson called upon the serving Board members for 2024 and presented each member with a token of appreciation.

8. INTRODUCTION OF BOARD & COMMITTEES

The CEO, Mr John Lawson confirmed the 2025 Board members as follows:

- President: Mr Jacques Moolman
- Deputy President: Ms Derryn Brigg
- Honorary Treasurer: Mr Christiaan Vorster
- Board Director: Ms Thandi Mabena
- Board Director: Mr Tilman von Zukowski
- Board Director: Mr Justin Barners
- Board Director: Mr Loyiso Ngqwemla
- Board Director: Dr. Eugene Cloete
- Board Director: Ms Noluthando Pama

- Boad Director: Ms Anine Pheiffer
- Board Director: Ms Yolisa Mlungwana

The CEO confirmed the Board sub-committees:

Finance Committee

- Chairperson: Tilman von Zukowski
- Christiaan Vorster
- John Lawson
- Lian du Plessis
- Noluthando Pama

Social & Ethics Committee

- Chairperson: Thandi Mabena
- Caroline Dassonville
- Bafikile Bonke Simelane
- Natasha Wagiet
- Eugene Cloete
- John Lawson

Investment Committee

- Chairperson: Christiaan Vorster
- Anton Schultz
- Dan Snyder (invited guest)
- James Croxton (invited guest)
- John Lawson
- Lian du Plessis
- Tilman von Zukowski (invited guest)

Risk Committee

- Chairperson: Christiaan Vorster
- Anine Pheiffer
- John Lawson
- Lian du Plessis
- Anton Schultz

Audit Committee

- Chairperson: Anaand Bansee
- Christiaan Vorster
- Henk van Zuydam
- Celeste le Roux
- Loyiso Ngqwemla

Enterprise Supplier Development Committee

- Chairperson: Derryn Brigg
- John Lawson
- Lian du Plessis

- Steve Reid
- Justin Barnes
- Yolisa Mlungwana

<u>Constitution Committee</u>

- Chairperson: Derryn Brigg
- Jacques Moolman
- Tilman von Zukowski
- Justin Barnes
- Anine Pheiffer
- John Lawson

9. CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL

The CEO, Mr John Lawson moved to the confirmation of the composition of Council.

Industry Sector Portfolio Committees Chairpersons & Vice Chairpersons

Industry Sector Portfolio Committees (ISPCs)	**Chair**	**Vice Chair**
Real estate & Construction	Jeremy Wiley	Bafikile Simelane
Food & Beverage	TBA	TBA
Tourism & Hospitality	Lee-Anne Singer	Lesego Majatladi
Ocean economy	Loyiso Phantshwa	TBA
Agriculture	Jannie Strydom	Villiers Loubser
Manufacturing (Metal)	Bob Williamson	Michel Basson
Manufacturing (Textile)	TBA	TBA
Manufacturing (Plastics)	Anton Hanekom	Karl Lambrecht
Manufacturing (Furniture)	Johann Claassen	Jerome Mausling
Transport & related (Passenger)	Mandla Hermanus	Nazeem Dollie
Transport & related (Freight)	TBA	Eben Joubert
Energy supply	Adrian Strydom	TBA

Telecoms & ICT	TBA	TBA
Wholesale & Retail	Freddy Makgato	Enrico Phillips
Business services	TBA	TBA
Finance & Insurance	TBA	TBA
Education	TBA	TBA
Health & Social services	Mehboob Cassim	TBA
Design & Creative Industries	Kobedi Pokane	Vlokkie Gordon
Non-profits	Dee Moskoff	Michelle Davidson

Chapter Committee Chairpersons and Vice Chairpersons

Chapter	**Chair**	**Vice Chair**
Athlone	Rabia Achmat	Shameez Mohamed
Cape Coast	Trevor Basset	David Zimmerman
Cape Town Central	Mark Wernich	Shireen Onia
Helderberg	Angelique Mendoza	David-John Wayne Bailey
Khayelitsha	Loyiso Ngqwemla	TBA
Mitchells Plain	Kennethea Jackson Williams	Suraya Williams
Phlilipi East Industrial	Leon Livesey	TBA
South Peninsula	Candice Shunmoogan	Tino Gavaza
Tygerberg	Ilana Steyn	Carl Hancocks
Winelands	Charles Wyeth	Richard von Hoesslin

Business Environment Portfolio Committees Chairpersons & Vice Chairpersons

Business Environment Portfolio Committee	**Chair**	**Vice Chair**
Public Institutions	Rae Wolpe	J C Stegmann
Safety and Security	Hubert Paulse	Fouche Burgers
Infrastructure	Peter Haylett	Gerhard Hitge
ICT adoption	Beverley Knoesen	Owen Francis
Health	Mehboob Cassim	TBA
Skills development	Rustim Ariefdien	Henri Mafoumba
Labour market	TBA	Thandi Mabena
Product market	Eric Leong Son	Terry Gale
Financial system	Yolisa Mlungwana	Tressan Jansen
Business dynamism	Mike Morris	TBA
Innovation capability (incl. sustainability, circular economy)	Eugene Cloete	TBA

The Board elected members were as follows:

- Helen Chorlton
- Carel Duvenhage
- Jakobus Volschenk
- Ntobeko Boyana
- Margaret McKenzie

The Council elected members were as follows:

- Martin Deon van Rooyen
- Helen Venter
- Hendrik Joubert Smit
- Maryna Ritter
- Mikateko Mathye

The Past Presidents of the Chamber were as follows:

- Michael Bagraim

- Fred Jacobs
- Jeremy Wiley

The CEO called for the approval of the confirmation of Council.

<u>Proposer</u>: Jason Kruger
<u>Seconder</u>: Charles Wyeth

10. GUEST SPEAKER: PROF. JUSTIN BARNES

Prof. Barnes addressed the AGM on the topic "5 Things we need to do now, to grow the Western Cape economy" and the following was noted:

- Improve foundational business practices (e.g., lean management, well-maintained machines, clean and organized factories).
- Focus on long-term investments in people, processes, and machinery rather than short-term gains.
- Learn from Thailand, where businesses excel in basic manufacturing principles, leading to significant export growth and job creation.
- Improve critical infrastructure like transportation, energy, water, and waste management to support industrial competitiveness.
- Address cost increases in utilities and municipal services, which erode profit margins and impede business growth.
- Ensure external systems function smoothly to reduce unnecessary burdens on businesses.
- Focus on improving productivity and operational flexibility, such as introducing efficient shift models.
- Optimize overheads by maximizing equipment use and increasing operating hours, which can reduce product costs and improve competitiveness without sacrificing worker incomes.
- Reform tax and incentive structures to prioritize investments in manufacturing and other high-employment industries.
- Shift focus from sectors like IT, which create limited societal value, to manufacturing, which has broader economic and social benefits.
- Prevent industrial zones from becoming dominated by warehousing rather than production facilities.
- Foster policies and initiatives that encourage the establishment and growth of manufacturing units in these zones to sustain employment and industrial activity.

The Deputy President, Ms Brigg's thanked Prof. Barnes for the insightful presentation and encouraged everyone to reflect on the five key points raised. The goal was for both individuals and the Chamber to collectively take action on them.

11. CLOSURE

The Deputy President, Ms Brigg's acknowledged all the sponsors who supported the Chamber throughout the year, with special thanks to Old Mutual for hosting the event and Heineken for sponsoring the drinks.

Gratitude was expressed to the Chamber members for attending events, functions, and workshops, highlighting that the success of those events depended on member participation.

Appreciation was also extended to the Council members, portfolio committee members and chapters for their hard work and contributions to the Chamber's mandate.

A special mention was made to the staff behind the scenes, under the leadership of Mr Lawson, for their crucial role in keeping the organization running smoothly.

The Deputy President concluded the event by inviting everyone to join the networking session.

There being no further business for discussion, the Deputy President declared the meeting closed at 19h00.

PRESIDENT	**DATE**