



Mercedes-Benz South Africa Limited
Director Profiles 2024

Mercedes-Benz



Board of Directors

Non-Executive Directors



Arno Van Der Merwe
Non- Executive
Director



Sagree Sardien
Non- Executive
Director

Executive Directors & Executive Committee



Andreas Brand
Group CEO & Executive
Director Manufacturing



Claudius Steinhoff
Co-CEO
MB Cars



Taryn Woodbridge
Chief Financial Officer &
Executive Director



Abey Kgotle
Executive Director
Human Resources



Natasha Jardim
Managing Executive & Head of Sales
MB Vans



Robert Hoffmann
CEO
MBFS SA



Denis Pterson
General Counsel and
Company Secretary

Independent Non-Executive Directors



Wilfried Porth
Chairperson of the Board



Dr. Phumzile Mlambo - Ngcuka
Independent Director



Sindi Zilwa
Independent Director



Nonthuthuko Mbhele
Independent Director



Fikile De Buck
Independent Director

-  Audit Com Members
-  Social and Ethics Members
-  Board Member



Mr Wilfried Porth

Appointed to the Board: 1 January 2023

Mr Wilfried Porth, has 36 years of working experience in various locations such as Europe, South America, South Africa, Japan and the USA. He has served on various Boards of Management and Supervisory Boards as a Member within several corporations. Mr Porth’s experience spans across production, research and development, sales and human resources. Prior to his retirement in 2021 from Daimler AG, Mr Porth was a member of the Daimler AG Board of Management , responsible for various department in his tenure such as, but not limited to, Human Resources, international procurement, Information technology and Mercedes-Benz Vans.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
None	



Dr. Phumzile Mlambo - Ngcuka

Appointed to the Board: 1 February 2024

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is former United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN Women. She was awarded a doctorate in Technology and Education from Warwick University. She has authored several scholarly and other opinion pieces. She is a Hauser Leader at the Harvard Kennedy School's Center of Public Leadership. She had become a member of Parliament, Deputy Minister of Department of Trade and Industry, Minister of Minerals and Energy and finally as Deputy President of South Africa in 2005 to 2008. Dr Mlambo-Ngcuka worked tirelessly on programmes and policies to reduce inequality. As the head of the UN Women, she has been a global advocate for women and girls. She established initiatives such as the HeForShe for men and boys to address gender Equality. She also successfully mobilised and historic \$40 billion USD for women and girls around the world. She is a founder and leader of Umlambo Foundation which is a dedicated improvement of education and digital literacy training for education.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
Ivanhoe Mines	► Independent Director
Smartgrid Operations Proprietary	► Chair of A Start Up Company



Sindi Zilwa

Appointed to the Board: 23 January 2018

Sindi has over 30 years’ professional working experience in the fields of financial accounting, auditing, business management and corporate governance, obtained through running her own auditing practice Nkonki Inc. for 23 years and her experience as board member of a number of listed and unlisted companies. She has extensive board and audit committee experience. Sindi is a Chartered Accountant (SA) and a Chartered Director (SA) with the IODSA. Sindi is a published Author of 2 books, The ACE Model, a Winning Formula for Audit Committees, published in 2013 and Creating Effective Boards and Committees, published in 2016. Sindi was the youngest Business Woman of the Year in South Africa in 1998 as awarded by the Business Woman’s Association. AWCA awarded Sindi with Woman of Substance Title in 2008, and in 2016, Sindi received an Overall Professional Integrity of the Year Award from South African Professional Services Award.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
Sibanye Stillwater Limited	► Non-Executive Director
Tourvest Group (Pty) Ltd	► Director
Tourvest Holdings (Pty) Ltd	► Director
METI Facilities Management (Pty) Ltd	► Director
LL Financial Services (Pty) Ltd	► Director
Nkozi Investment Holdings (RF) (Pty) Ltd	► Director
Laurinx Business Services (Pty) Ltd	► Director
Sindi Zilwa Foundation (Pty) Ltd	► Director
Mercedes-Benz South Africa Limited	► Director
Discovery Life Ltd	► Director
Metrofile Holdings Ltd	► Director
Future Global Leaders Club NPC (Pty) Ltd	► Director
Discovery Health (Pty) Ltd	► Director
Gijima Group Ltd	► Director
Gijima Holdings (Pty) Ltd	► Director
Discovery Vitality (Pty) Ltd	► Director
Mawavune Women’s Investments (Pty) Ltd	► Director
Cell C Limited	► Director
Virtual Voucher Systems (Pty) Ltd	► Director
Delta Property Fund	► Director

Appointed to the Board: 23 January 2018



Nontuthuzelo Mbhele

Nontuthuko (“Thuthu”) is a Chartered Accountant (SA) and Director with over 22 years’ experience in ensuring complete and appropriate compliance with IFRS, accounting and audit requirements as imposed by various accounting and regulatory bodies. Her industry experience includes small, medium and large organisations in manufacturing, automotive, gaming and entertainment, media and publishing, logistics and non-profit entities. Thuthu is recognised for strong leadership skills with proven ability to positively influence others to achieve results. In her previous role, she was an operating division lead and client relationship director for Transnet Port Terminals on all internal audit projects including audits of finance, information technology, safety, health, environmental, quality, enterprise risk management, capital projects, human capital management, commercial and supply chain management. In her current role as the Chief Finance Officer of the University of KwaZulu-Natal, she provides strategic financial direction that ensures that the University’s strategy can be delivered in a manner that takes into account all elements of sustainability. Thuthu holds a Postgraduate diploma in Accounting and a Bachelor of Commerce in accounting degree from the University of Cape Town and also a Bachelor of Applied Social Sciences from The South African College of Applied Psychology.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
University of KwaZulu Natal	► Prescribed Officer
Zemonde Trading (Pty) Ltd	► Director & Shareholder
MB Assurance (Pty) Ltd	► Director & Shareholder
The Durban Chamber Foundation	► Director



Fikile De Buck

Appointed to the Board: 23 January 2018

Fikile holds a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Accounting degree, obtained through the University of Swaziland in 1982. She was the second person to obtain the ACCA qualification in Botswana in 1994, during which period of studies she was awarded the Stuart Crystal Prize for Best Accounting Student; she was the first black overseas student to be awarded this prize. Fikile has 23 years’ experience in financial reporting at an executive level. She joined the AECI Board in 2019, where she chairs the Social and Ethics committee, is a member of the Audit Committee and the AECI Remuneration and Human Capital Committee. She recently joined the Board of Attacq Limited, where she is a member of the Audit and Risk Committee. Fikile was an Independent Non-executive Director of Harmony Gold Mining Company until December 2021, where she was the Chairperson of the Audit Committee, a member of the Social & Ethics Committee, Remuneration and Nomination Committees. In 2011, she was featured as one South Africa’s “Most Inspirational Women”. She often mentors a number of young people, mostly women. She is also a member of “Women In Mining” South Africa.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
AECI Limited	► Non – Executive Director
D&D Company	► Director
Global Forum of Women Entrepreneurs	► Director
Fikita Creations CC	► Director
Attacq Limited	► Director



Arno Van Der Merwe

Appointed to the Board: 23 February 2024

Arno van der Merwe is Vice President of Production Planning, responsible for the Mercedes Benz cars network worldwide. He started his career at Mercedes Benz in 1996 as a Logistics Engineer in South Africa. Since then, he has accumulated more than 27 years of working experience in various positions within Logistics, Manufacturing, IT and Planning in different countries such as South Africa, Germany, and China. As a vital part of his career, he has led the East-London plant as CEO and Executive Director Manufacturing in the timeframe from 2014 to 2017. As President and CEO of Beijing Benz Automotive Co, Ltd. he has successfully integrated 15 new products into the plant leading to today where he is responsible for the successful product integration of all new Mercedes-Benz models worldwide. He is passionate about creating value and a proud member of the Engineering Council of South Africa as well as the South African Institute for Industrial Engineering.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
Lake Brenton Boat Shed	► Director



Sagree Sardien

Appointed to the Board: 13 February 2024

Mrs. Sagree Sardien, born in South Africa has been serving the automotive industry for over 20 years. Appointed as Vice President Marketing & Sales Mercedes-Benz Cars Overseas in September 2023, she is responsible for the overall Sales & Marketing operations across 118 markets globally, including General Distributor business. She also is holding several Board of Director seats across Overseas.

Mrs. Sardien began her Mercedes-Benz career with Daimler Fleet Management as Head Of Operations in South Africa in 2008. Afterwards, she held various senior and executive leadership positions in Sales, Aftersales, Product Management, Customer Assistance, Supply Chain & Distribution. In 2018, she took over the position as Head of Market Management for Japan, Korea, Australia, Turkey, South Africa, Middle East & Egypt. In 2021, She then became CEO & President of MB Malaysia & Head of South East Asia, being responsible for three markets (Malaysia, Singapore & Indonesia), as well as ten General Distributors.

Mrs. Sardien holds a Masters degree in Business Administration (MBA), a Bachelor of Commerce degree with specialization in Management and completed an International Executive Development Programme.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
Mercedes – Benz Korea Limited	► BoD
Cuspide GmbH	► CEO & BoD
Mercedes – Benz Vietnam Ltd	► BoD
Mercedes – Benz Otomotiv Ticaret ve Hizmetler A.S	► Supervisory
Mercedes – Benz Egypt S.A.E	► Chairperson of BoD



Andreas Brand

Appointed to the Board: 1 May 2022

Andreas Brand is the Executive Director of Manufacturing and Group CEO of Mercedes-Benz South Africa Ltd (MBSA). After his studies in Mechanical Engineering he started his professional career in Rastatt with the launch of the new factory and the new product-line “compact cars” in 1997. Prior to joining MBSA, effective 1 May 2022, he was Director of Integrated Program Planning MB-Cars worldwide: an End-to-End-cooperating with Plants, Research and Development, Purchasing and Sales and Marketing. He held various positions in Planning, Production, Research and Development for Passenger Cars in Germany as well as internationally (such as US, South Africa and Hungary) inclusive of the build and launch of the plant in Hungary. Besides his operative positions he was Head of Staff for Mercedes-Benz Cars Operations. The key of leadership is Andreas ´approach to integrate all parties to a common goal.

Key events in the career of Andreas:

- * 1997-2000: MB-PC-Operations, Rastatt: 1st A-Class-Launch in new Factory
- * 2000-2002: Research, Ulm: digital Prozesses
- * 2002-2006: MB-PC-Operations, for Tuscaloosa: R, ML, GLS-Launch in Bodyshop
- * 2006-2008: MB-PC-Operations, Southafrica: C-Lass-Launch in Bodyshop
- * 2008-2010: MB-PC-Operations, Untertürkheim: Production- and Technology-Strategy
- * 2010-2013: MB-PC-Operations, Jungary: Build + Launch of new Plant in Hungary
- * 2013-2015: MB-PC-Operations, Sindelfimgen: Pilot Plant (all PC-products worldwide)
- * 2005-2017: MB-PC-Operations, Head of Staff
- * 2017-2020: MB-PC-Operations, worldwide: Chief Engineer Compact Cars + SUVs
- * 2020-2022: MB-PC-Operations, Sindelfingen: integrated Programm Planning (inkl E2E-Prozesses with MS, MP, RD and MO

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
None	



Claudius Steinhoff

Appointed to the Board: 1 September 2024

Claudius started with Mercedes-Benz in 2008 as a student at the Cooperative State University Baden-Wuerttemberg. Since 2011 he has had different roles in Treasury, Product Management and as an Executive Assistant to the Head of Region Overseas Mercedes-Benz Cars. In October 2020 he took over the responsibility as President & CEO of Mercedes-Benz Singapore. During this time, he together with his team achieved remarkable results, notably the #1 position in the total market in 2022, while focusing heavily on the implementation of impactful and innovative measures around the strategic pillars Desirability, Electrification, Digitization and Sustainability. Above that, he was also responsible for the steering of 10 General Distributor markets in the APAC region. Claudius holds a Global Executive MBA degree from INSEAD Business School.

As Co-CEO MBSA & Executive Director Mercedes-Benz Cars South Africa, Claudius holds responsibility for Sales, Marketing, Customer Services & Network Management for Mercedes-Benz Cars as well as the MBSA Marketing and Sales Campus at MB Place, Menlyn.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
None	



Taryn Woodbridge

Appointed to the Board: 1 January 2023

Taryn Woodbridge was born in 1979, in East London, South Africa. She qualified as a Chartered Accountant (SA) in 2003 and in addition holds a Masters in Commerce degree (Taxation) from Rhodes University (2006). She joined Mercedes-Benz South Africa (MBSA) in 2004, and held various leadership positions within the Finance and Controlling team over the years. Taryn was promoted to the role of Senior Manager: Plant Controlling in 2014 as the first South African woman in this role. During her years at MBSA she has in addition served in various other capacities such as: Chairperson of MB-MED audit committee, Vice-chair of the Transformation Forum, Trustee on the HESR (Housing and Education Trust) and Registered Training Officer for MBSA for several years. Besides her wealth of experience in the finance field she is also passionate about community and people. Taryn was the senior management sponsor to launch the Employee Volunteer Programme in the EL plant and has invested many hours coaching others towards leadership. She is a wife and mom of two daughters.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
None	



Abey Kgotle

Appointed to the Board: 1 April 2017

Abey Kgotle is the Executive Director: Human Resources of Mercedes-Benz South Africa. Abey has extensive experience in the human resources field, with his career starting in government in 1994 as a Community Development Officer. He has subsequently held various management and executive positions in local government and the mining industry for Human Resource Development and Human Capital Development respectively. He was appointed Executive Vice-President Human Resources for Lonmin on the 1st of August 2013, the position he held until joining Mercedes-Benz South Africa on the 4th of April, 2017.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
Mercedes-Benz Financial Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd	► Chairperson



Robert Hoffmann

Appointed Member of the Executive Committee 1 February 2020

Robert Hoffmann is the Chief Executive Officer of Mercedes-Benz Financial Services South Africa (Pty) Ltd since February 1, 2020. He is also a member of the Board of Mercedes-Benz Financial Services South Africa and a member of the Executive Team of Mercedes-Benz South Africa. Robert Hoffman was born on October 29, 1971 in Reutlingen/Germany. After obtaining the university entrance examination (Abitur), he did the alternative civilian service in 1991/92. With joining the German Federal Criminal Police Office in 1992, he obtained a Degree in Public Administration from the Federal University of applied Science (Diplom-Verwaltungswirt (FH)) in 1995 and in 2006 a Degree in Business Administration (Betriebswirt (VWA)). After working from 2006 to 2010 for two major Audit Firms in Assurance and Advisory, specialized in Forensic and Dispute Services, he joined Daimler AG’s Corporate Audit Team as a Senior Manager in 2010 and lead the Audit Division “Audit Governance, Sales & Americas” from 2012 until January 2020 as a Director.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
Mercedes-Benz Financial Services	► CEO



Natasha Jardim

Appointed 1 August 2024

Natasha began her Mercedes-Benz journey in 2000, advancing to her first leadership role as a junior manager in 2001 and manager a year later. She played a key role in the DFM project team during the Telkom going concern acquisition, setting the stage for a dynamic career.

From 2006 to 2013 Natasha has held various management roles in Sales for Passenger Cars where she managed different sales channels and established solid partnerships with key industry figures. In 2014, Natasha took over the role of Manager of Dealer Support, CSI & DNS Vans, where she excelled in refining dealership operations and improving customer satisfaction. In 2017 she applied her considerable skills to the Vans Sales division as General Manager of Retail & Fleet Sales, enhancing dealership performance and facilitating network growth. During this time, Natasha played an integral role in the transition of South Africa as the first market to Retail of the future 1.0 in 2018.

In her position, as the Head of Sales for Vans, Natasha utilised her comprehensive experience to lead national sales efforts and strengthen dealer relationships. Being involved in Retail of the Future 1.0 set Natasha up for success to effectively lead the Vans team in 2023 into Retail of the Future 2.0, a project which saw great success and which Natasha will continue to oversee moving forward.

Directors’ Declaration of Interest

Business Entity	Nature of Interest
None	



Denis Peterson

Appointed as Company Secretary 1 September 2016

Denis Peterson has been the Company Secretary for Mercedes-Benz South Africa since 1 September 2016 and is currently also the General Counsel. He is an admitted attorney and has been a legal professional for the past 17 years. His formal qualifications include a BComm degree, LLB degree and a MBA degree. He specialised in South African Corporate Governance, Commercial and Corporate Law. Internationally he specialised in International Transport Law, World Trade Organisational Law and International Business Law. He has experience with relation to the Company Secretarial role within the private and public sector in South Africa and has been with Mercedes-Benz South Africa for the last 9 years. He is also recognised as one of the most influential and senior General Counsels in South Africa on the GC Powerlist for 2024.

Mercedes-Benz South Africa Ltd.

General representatives of Mercedes-Benz and Smart vehicles in South Africa

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