

30 SEP - 2 OCT 2026

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

A COMMUNITY AWAKENED. RISING TOGETHER TO SHAPE TODAY,
FOR A RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

GALLAGHER CONVENTION CENTRE



Programme Disclaimer:

Session times, topics and speakers are subject to change.

DAY 1 CONFERENCE: WEDNESDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

08:30	Opening by IRMSA Conference Facilitator Devi Sankaree Govender Investigative journalist, television personality, and media professional
08:50	Welcome Nicola Comninos IRMSA President CEO, EasyRetire, EasyEquities
09:05	Welcome from Sponsor Dino Carletti Head of Sales, SurTech
09:15	Keynote Speaker Taking a Stance – Building a Stronger South Africa A powerful perspective on courageous leadership, standing firm in the face of adversity, and taking a stance to protect integrity, accountability and the future of South Africa. Lieutenant General Nkosi Deputy National Head and Acting National Head of South Africa's Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation
09:45	This is how we look South Africa! An unfiltered look at South Africa's political landscape, where we are, what is shaping our direction, and what it means for the risks and opportunities ahead. Dr Mpumelelo Mkhabela Political Analyst

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10:15	Panel Session: The Courage to Stand When speaking up comes at a cost. A powerful conversation on whistleblowing, justice, ethics and the courage required to stand for what is right and hold wrongdoing to account. Facilitator: Devi Sankaree Govender Panel: Cynthia Stimpel, Director - Whistleblower Advocacy Dr Oscar van Heerden, International Relations Scholar & Public Intellectual				
10:45	NETWORKING TEA BREAK & EXHIBITION				
	BOMA BREAKAWAYS				
	INTEGRITY Facilitator: Beauty Mtonga Group Head of Risk Human Capital Absa Group	INNOVATION Facilitator: Mtutuzeli Buwa Founder and Principal Ndalo Risk Management (Pty) Ltd	NAVIGATE Facilitator: Amith Sukhnandan Deputy Head: Corporate Entities, SCM and Transversal Auditing eThekweni Municipality	RESILIENCE + Facilitator: Tseko Molelekoa Senior Officer Risk Management Lesotho Highlands Development Authority	ENERGY X YOUTH – The Heart of our Community MC: Thaba Nyaba Humanitarian Producer Creative Strategist Media Personality Entrepreneur
11:15	Siegfried Lange Managing Consultant Capacity Grow (Khomas/Namibia)	Mercy Chikwanda Internal Audit, Risk Management, Governance and Training Professional Director of Training, African Youth Development Institute	Phumelele Ndou Client Director Excelsia Capital Telecommunications Infrastructure: Balancing Innovation, Security and	Dr Hermie le Roux (PhD) IRMSA Technical Library Lead & Enterprise Risk Management Subject Matter Expert	IRMSA University Risk Challenge: Future risk leaders tackle real-world business challenges, bringing fresh ideas, innovation and practical solutions to the forefront.

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	Team Wild Horses – Knowing the Team’s Faulty Thinking Explore the shared negative beliefs teams hold about themselves, such as being perceived as “the police.” Learn how to identify these narratives and address their internal effects. Consider practical ways to reshape perceptions and strengthen cross-team relationships.	Strategic Governance and Risk Management in the AI Era Examine how AI, automation and digital transformation are reshaping governance, risk and assurance. Explore ethical, cyber, privacy, bias and accountability risks, alongside responsible AI governance. Gain practical insights for strengthening ERM, assurance and organisational resilience in an AI-driven world.	Universal Access Explore telecommunications infrastructure as a strategic foundation for Africa’s digital economy. Consider its role in financial inclusion, digital services, education, healthcare and economic participation. Discuss how innovation, security and universal access can be balanced to support sustainable growth.	Vanessa Thurlwell Technical Risk Manager IRMSA From Insight to Action: Applying the IRMSA Risk Report In line with the IRMSA Risk Report’s UmpakathiVuka theme, this session translates South Africa’s key risk insights into practical organisational priorities and gives an urgent call for communities, organisations and leaders to rise, respond and act. We will explore how to turn risk intelligence into decisive action: strengthening governance, resilience and collaboration while contributing to a safer, more inclusive and sustainable South Africa.	Universities across South Africa compete to identify risks and develop innovative solutions—connecting students with industry and inspiring the next generation of risk professionals. CHALLENGE 1: UNISA Ulwazi Team
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12:05	Fatima Rawat Senior Subject Matter Expert The Ethics Institute The Integrity Test: When Doing the Right Thing Becomes a Risk Decision In an environment of institutional pressure, competing interests, political and commercial expectations, and increasing scrutiny, integrity is no longer simply an ethical principle, it is a risk control. This session explores what happens when leaders are forced to choose between what is expedient and what is right, and how ethical leadership can prevent the erosion of trust, governance and organisational resilience.	Helper Zhou CEO Quantilytix The Invisible Workforce: AI Agents, Decision Automation and Emerging Enterprise Risks Examine how AI, autonomous agents and digital twins are reshaping work, decision-making and operating models. Explore strategic, operational, cyber, ethical and human-capital risks arising from automation and augmentation. Gain practical approaches for responsible AI governance and building resilient, AI-ready organisations.	Mpho Molopyane Chief Economist Alex Forbes The New Operating Environment: How geopolitical fragmentation is reshaping the macroeconomic outlook – and what it means for organisational resilience Maximising efficiency in a stable globalised world is giving way to positioning for resilience in a fragmented one. For organisations, the challenge is not simply to respond to shocks but to build businesses that can adapt to persistent uncertainty and identify opportunities that emerge from structural shifts.	Faithful Kumbula Executive: Assurance, Business Administration, Risk & Compliance Old Mutual Insure Third-Party Risk Management: Vendor, Partner and Ecosystem Vulnerabilities Explore the need to modernise third-party risk oversight in highly interconnected operating environments. Consider risk appetite, governance and accountability where third-party failure rapidly becomes an enterprise event. Identify investments in proactive detection, faster response and resilient vendor, partner and ecosystem relationships.	CHALLENGE 2: North West – True North Team
12:45	LUNCH & EXHIBITION				

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	BOMA BREAKAWAYS				
	INTEGRITY	INNOVATION	NAVIGATE	RESILIENCE +	ENERGY X
13:45	Elijah Masubelele Executive director Justice360degree The Human Dimension of Risk: Leadership, Culture and Organisational Resilience Explore how toxic leadership, fear-based cultures and ethical failures can become significant enterprise risks. Identify early warning signs that silence dissent, weaken accountability and allow misconduct to flourish. Learn how psychologically safe, transparent and ethical cultures strengthen organisational resilience.	Wame Semele GRC Professional, Author and Founder Wame Semele (Pty) Ltd Climate risk integration from board strategy to operational reality, why risk professionals now need AI. Explore how political and climate-governance volatility can reshape enterprise, transition and liability risks. Learn to use a practical political-scoring approach to assess policy credibility, stability and early-warning signals. Consider how dynamic climate governance risk can be embedded into ERM, scenario analysis and risk appetite frameworks.	Sanjay Bhana Vice President IRMSA When Prediction Fails – Sensemaking as the New Risk Operating System Examine why traditional prediction-led risk approaches fall short in volatile, interconnected and fast-changing environments. Explore sensemaking as a leadership capability for interpreting weak signals, challenging assumptions and adapting quickly. Discover the Sensemaking Maturity Curve for building adaptive, learning-driven and strategically resilient organisations.	Phillip Mosiane Director: Enterprise Risk Management UNISA Host, Risk Intelligence Podcast Building Institutional Resilience Explore practical strategies for strengthening business continuity, crisis preparedness and adaptive institutional resilience. Consider how digital transformation, risk governance and regulatory compliance can be integrated within higher education. Learn approaches to identify, assess and manage operational risks while improving delivery and reducing project failure.	CHALLENGE 3: STADIO – Black Box Team

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14:25	Tino Saincic Co-founder Saincon (Pty) Ltd Head Developer: THIRSTY™ Closing the Circle: Integrity Without Respect Becomes Rigidity Integrity frameworks give organisations the standard to hold themselves to; respect is the behavioural condition that determines whether people surface the truth before an audit has to find it. Drawing on more than 25 years in operations and governance and IRMSA's own Risk Report 2026/27, this session unpacks the human layer beneath integrity — and what it takes to build it before it's tested.	Pavana Ranjith Executive Director The RQ Institute Annestacia Le' Maharaj Risk & Compliance IT Technical Functional Pepkor Lifestyle Dr Ansa Jordaan CEO, Exclaim Fireside Chat: Digital Resilience as Governance Imperative Cyber Risk in the Boardroom	Wilna Meiring Risk Consultant Applied Risks Management Solutions (ARMS) Nirasha Manilall Quality Assurance Manager Mondi Pulp and Paper Richards Bay Fireside Chat: The Relationship Between Strategic Foresight and Risk Appetite Explore how scenario planning, risk appetite and strategic foresight can support proactive operational decisions. Learn practical approaches for translating Board-level risk intent into day-to-day actions, thresholds and accountability. Strengthen alignment between enterprise risk, frontline operations and resilience in an uncertain environment.	Stephen Price Senior Manager, Management Consulting KPMG Africa Beyond Job Replacement: Using AI to Enhance Human Capability Explore how AI can enhance human capability rather than simply replace jobs. Consider the distinction between automation and augmentation when aligning AI adoption with enterprise risk management. Learn how ethical, cost-effective human-AI collaboration can support sustainable workforce transformation.	CHALLENGE 4: Milpark – Abaholi beRisk Team
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15:05	NETWORKING TEA BREAK & EXHIBITION
15:35	Sapna Amlani Global Supply Chain Industry Practice, Moodys From Risk Management to Decision Advantage In a world defined by interconnected risks, organisations are discovering that the greatest challenge is no longer identifying risk, but making better decisions faster. This masterclass explores how risk leaders can move beyond traditional risk management practices and develop the capabilities needed to anticipate disruption, understand cascading impacts, and create organisational resilience. Drawing on global events, South African case studies, and practical industry experience, the session examines how risk, strategy, supply chains, geopolitics, technology, and resilience are increasingly interconnected. Attendees will learn how leading organisations are shifting from managing individual risks in silos to understanding risk as a dynamic network, enabling faster, more confident decision-making in an increasingly complex world. The session concludes with a discussion on the future of the risk profession and the evolving role of risk leaders in helping their organisations achieve sustainable decision advantage.
16:00	Fireside Chat: Leadership Under Fire CEOs confront corruption, accountability and the responsibility of business leaders to stand up, speak out and lead with ethics and integrity. Lebogang Mogashoa Pension Funds Adjudicator Nicola Comninos IRMSA President CEO, EasyRetire, EasyEquities Philip Tillman CEO, SurTech

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16:35	Closing Keynote Speaker Behind the Headlines: When Justice Is Compromised A journalist's close-up view of criminality, political interference and corruption within South Africa's criminal justice system, revealing what is happening behind the headlines and what it means for the country's risk landscape. Ziyanda Ngcobo Newzroom Afrika's Senior Politics Reporter
17:00	Close of Day One Yvonne Mothibi CEO, IRMSA Milpark Bursary Winner Announcement
17:15	CLOSE OF DAY ONE

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DAY 2 CONFERENCE: THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2026

08:30	Opening by IRMSA Conference Facilitator Devi Sankaree Govender Investigative journalist, television personality, and media professional
08:45	Keynote Speaker Conrad Koch Comedian, Ventriloquist, Social Anthropologist
09:20	Fireside Chat The Pressure Point: When Economic Strain Becomes Social Risk An open conversation on unemployment, migration and the growing tensions around who gets access to jobs and economic opportunity in South Africa. Facilitator: Devi Sankaree Govender Investigative journalist, television personality, and media professional Ernst J. van Zyl Head of Public Relations, AfriForum Dr. Pali Lehohla Former Statistician-General of South Africa, Former Head of Statistics South Africa from 2000-2017
10:00	NETWORKING TEA BREAK & EXHIBITION

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	BOMA BREAKAWAYS				
	INTEGRITY Facilitator: Lerato Lehabe	INNOVATION Facilitators: Doc Nancy Bontle Lerumo	NAVIGATE Facilitators: Dr Hermie le Roux (PhD) Zakithi Mthembu	RESILIENCE + Facilitator: Mpono Mosaase	ENERGY X MC: Thaba Nyaba Humanitarian Producer Creative Strategist Media Personality Entrepreneur
10:30	Benjamin Chayamiti Governance Practitioner SG Governance (Pty) Ltd Vonani Chauke Executive Advisor Governance, Leadership & Institutional Transformation Mabundani Group of Companies Bryce T Mpala Regulatory Compliance Manager Ledgerwood Financial Services	Glacier MsGee Monareng CISO DP World AI-Driven Workforce Transformation: Managing the Risks of Automation and Augmentation Examine how AI is transforming South African work through automation, augmentation and intelligent decision systems. Explore operational, workforce, ethical, regulatory and cybersecurity risks created by rapid AI adoption. Consider governance and security approaches for protecting people, data and	Simphiwe Banana Senior Manager: Corporate Risk & Assurance POLMED What Comes First: Strategy or Risk? How Risk Professionals Can Add Value Before the Strategy Is Approved Explore how risk professionals can contribute before strategic commitments and implementation plans are finalised. Learn to test assumptions, challenge uncertainty and consider possible, probable and preferred futures. Position the risk function as a	Zethu Lubisi Founder & Principal Digital Transformation Specialist Mamlakah Holdings Movashan Moodley Senior Risk and Resilience Specialist / Director The Human Recovery Project Palesa Shai Workforce Risk Advisor COVID Specialists (Pty) Ltd Mabore Sithole Managing Director	Liam du Plessis Replenishment Analyst The Shoprite Group From Student to the Risk Frontline One young professional's journey from student to analyst, sharing the challenges, opportunities and lessons learned along the way, with practical advice for the next generation of risk leaders.

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	Fireside Chat: Governance, Accountability and Institutional Resilience Explore the relationship between governance, accountability and leadership in building high-performing institutions. Consider how trust, ethical conduct and sound oversight support stronger organisational decision-making.	operations in a changing threat landscape.	strategic adviser that improves adaptability, resilience and long-term outcomes.	Full Potential Fireside Chat: Beyond Burnout: Protecting Employee Wellbeing in High-Pressure Digital Work Environments Explore burnout, digital fatigue and blurred work-life boundaries as material human-capital and resilience risks. Consider how unmanaged wellbeing challenges affect productivity, retention, innovation and cybersecurity awareness. Gain practical, human-centred strategies for psychological safety, sustainable performance and healthier workplace cultures.	
11:15	Liesl Brown RRA Business Manager Andile Solutions Future Governance: Governance for Fully	Dr Mashilo Boloka CEO OS Lab Future of Risk Profession Explore the shift from	Cuthbert Tinavapi Head of Advocacy Manager Institute of Internal Auditors South Africa	Zama Lugongolo Chief Risk Officer uMngeni-uThukela Water	Words of Wisdom: An open discussion between Mentors and Mentees. Developing the Next

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	Autonomous Organisations Explore how governance could operate where decision-making is largely performed by autonomous systems. Consider the emerging accountability, control, ethical and assurance risks of minimal human oversight. Discuss practical approaches to mitigating governance risks in increasingly autonomous operating environments.	reactive compliance to proactive, design-led marketplace risk management. Consider how Safety by Design embeds risk identification, mitigation, monitoring and assurance into digital platforms. Examine emerging regulatory tools and continuous risk assessment for sustainable digital platform governance.	Lincorn Jabu Branch Manager Old Mutual Finance Moderator: Mlandvo Sikhondze Director Trustview Business Consultants (Eswatini), Fireside Chat: Combined Assurance in Government: A Practical Framework for Institutional Resilience & Fraud and Governance Risk in Infrastructure Delivery: Strengthening Early Warning, Assurance and Accountability Explore governance and fraud risks that allow infrastructure and service-delivery failures to escalate. Identify early-warning indicators, including project delays, irregular expenditure, control overrides and weak contract management. Learn how risk, compliance, internal audit and oversight	Kevin Meier Manager: Planning Services uMngeni-uThukela Water From El Niño to Water Insecurity: Managing the Risk Before the Crisis uMngeni-uThukela Water El Niño is more than a weather phenomenon it can become a catalyst for wider water, economic and social risks. For South Africa, the challenge is not simply whether there is enough water in our dams, but whether our bulk water systems, infrastructure and institutions are resilient enough to absorb prolonged climate stress. With South Africa already facing pressure from rising demand, ageing infrastructure, water losses and uneven water availability, the critical question is whether we are acting early enough to prevent climate	Generation of Risk Leaders Yena Khuboni Founder Ameliorator Group Thabile Nyaba Founder and Chief Executive Officer Solarikin Advisory Boitshoko Ramokgopa Senior Disability Assessor Old Mutual Limited Eleni Albanis Head: Market Conduct Risk Assurance Nedbank Students and Youth
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			can strengthen accountability and high-risk project assurance.	variability from becoming a full-scale water security crisis.	
12:00	IRMSA Student Challenge: Our four finalists will share their presentations in short power bursts! All delegates will have the opportunity to listen to our future risk professionals and have the chance to vote for the best student group.	IRMSA Student Challenge: Our four finalists will share their presentations in short power bursts! All delegates will have the opportunity to listen to our future risk professionals and have the chance to vote for the best student group.	IRMSA Student Challenge: Our four finalists will share their presentations in short power bursts! All delegates will have the opportunity to listen to our future risk professionals and have the chance to vote for the best student group.	IRMSA Student Challenge: Our four finalists will share their presentations in short power bursts! All delegates will have the opportunity to listen to our future risk professionals and have the chance to vote for the best student group.	IRMSA Student Challenge: Our four finalists will share their presentations in short power bursts! All delegates will have the opportunity to listen to our future risk professionals and have the chance to vote for the best student group.
12:45	LUNCH & EXHIBITION VIEWING				
	BOMA BREAKAWAYS				
	INTEGRITY	INNOVATION	NAVIGATE	RESILIENCE +	ENERGY X
13:35	Kutlwano Ngwarati Founder & Principal, AI Governance NK Intel Governing the Ungovernable: Agentic AI Risk and the New Board Accountability	Mordie Kruger Risk and Assurance SME Andile Solutions Fireside Chat: Navigating Financial Risk with AI-Driven Predictive Analytics	Ryan Mokgosi Managing Director Rebohle Risk Management Volker von Widdern Strategic Risk Riskonet Africa	Ruzelle Swanepoel Director Swan Consulting Services Occupational Health & Safety in South Africa: Legal Implications for Business Explore occupational health	The Risk Court: The Youth Vs. The Status Quo What happens when the next generation puts the risk profession on trial?

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	Architecture Explore AI governance as a Board-level fiduciary responsibility, including ethical deployment, oversight and accountability. Examine the emerging risks of agentic AI systems that can plan, act and execute with increasing autonomy. Gain practical questions and maturity-assessment approaches for strengthening Board and Risk Committee AI governance.	Explore how AI-driven analytics can identify weak signals and visible, high-impact risks before they escalate. Learn how machine learning can support dynamic monitoring, preventative KRIs and earlier risk intervention. Consider how analytics and robust governance can improve resilience to systemic financial and operational shocks.	Neels Kornelius, Executive: Enterprise Risk KAP Ltd Parametric Insurance and Alternative Risk Transfer for Emerging Market Contexts Explore how climate, geopolitical and systemic disruptions are increasing insurance costs, protection gaps and resilience demands. Consider parametric insurance and alternative risk-transfer solutions for managing emerging-market volatility. Learn how operational resilience, continuity planning and adaptive risk financing can improve organisational insurability.	and safety as an enterprise risk affecting continuity, finances, reputation and productivity. Consider the legal and strategic importance of effective OHS management for employees and wider stakeholders. Learn how alignment with recognised good practice, including ISO 45001, can strengthen resilience and trust.	The IRMSA Past Presidents take the Defence dock, young minds lead the Prosecution, and YOU become the jury. Come witness the verdict on one provocative question: Is Risk Management Ready for the World We Are Creating? This won't be a panel or a lecture; this is Risk Court. Come. Listen. Challenge. Vote. Be part of the verdict.
14:20	Gontle Khupe Chairperson & President The Institute of Internal Auditors Botswana (Gaborone, Botswana) Risk Culture as a Strategic Asset: Building	Dr André Du Venage Co-Founder & Executive Director The Risk Management Forum (Pty) Ltd Cohesion or Complicity:	Jonathan Crisp Director BarnOwl The IRMSA Risk Report 2026 Insights Explore key insights from the IRMSA 2026/2027 Risk	Michael Davies Managing Director Pax Resilience Building Resilience in a World of Polycrisis and Permaccrisis	The Risk Court: The Youth Vs. The Status Quo What happens when the next generation puts the risk profession on trial?

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	Accountability in an Uncertain World Explore how risk culture influences organisational resilience, decision-making and long-term performance. Move beyond compliance-driven risk management towards everyday accountability, awareness and ethical conduct. Learn how to embed constructive risk behaviours throughout the organisation as a strategic asset.	Why Your Governance Framework Cannot See the Risk That Will Destroy You	Report through an integrated risk-information perspective. Consider how structured report data can be used to identify trends, emerging risks and decision-relevant intelligence. See how AI-supported analysis can help risk professionals extract meaningful, actionable insights from risk data.	Integration of risk and BCM to build a more resilient organisation.	The IRMSA Past Presidents take the Defence dock, young minds lead the Prosecution, and YOU become the jury. Come witness the verdict on one provocative question: Is Risk Management Ready for the World We Are Creating? This won't be a panel or a lecture; this is Risk Court. Come. Listen. Challenge. Vote. Be part of the verdict.
15:05	NETWORKING TEA BREAK & EXHIBITION				
15:35	Debate In the Circle: The Great Risk Debate Two sides. Different perspectives. One critical risk. A robust debate tackling one of the key issues shaping South Africa's risk landscape Facilitator: Jeremy Maggs Team 1: The Risk Disruptors Senele Mbatha Chief Risk Officer, Discovery				

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	Dr Hermie le Roux (PhD) IRMSA Technical Library Lead & Enterprise Risk Management Subject Matter Expert Team 2: The Governance Guardians Volker von Widdern Strategic Risk Riskonet Africa Vanessa Thurlwell Technical Risk Manager IRMSA
16:10	Closing Keynote Speaker Rise: Leading Through Adversity to Greatness When the path ahead is uncertain, leadership determines what comes next. An inspiring closing keynote on the courage, resilience and conviction needed to lead people through adversity and turn challenge into possibility. John Smit South African former rugby union player
16:55	Close and Thank You Yvonne Mothibi CEO, IRMSA
17:10	Close Devi Sankaree Govender Investigative journalist, television personality, and media professional
CLOSE	

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DAY 3 MASTER CLASS: FRIDAY, 2 OCTOBER 2026

08:30 –
13:00

Facilitator: Jeremy Maggs

Escape Room 1: The Warning Signs – Governance
Fay Mukaddam
Independent Chairperson & Non-Executive Director

Escape Room 2: The Ethical Line – Integrity
Mario Fazekas
Owner, AuditLink Training & Consulting

Escape Room 3: The Crisis Hits – Resilience
Katlego Masemola
Founder, Orion Cyber

Escape Room 4: Trust Collapses – Reputation
Berenice Francis
Head: Risk, Sustainability and Human Capital, Motus

Escape Room 5: The Boardroom – Leadership
Zanorashe Bwakura
Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Expert, Mondial Consultants

CLOSE