

## PROGRAM FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS SUMMIT 27 OCTOBER 2025

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**THEME: "THE COURAGE TO SPEAK: REIMAGINING ACCOUNTABILITY AND INTEGRITY IN SOUTH AFRICA"**

**DATE:** 27 OCTOBER 2025

**VENUE:** THE VENUE, MELROSE ARCH, MELROSE, JOHANNESBURG

**PROGRAMME DIRECTOR:** MR MILTON NKOSI

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### ALL-PLENARY

🕒 08:00 – 09:00 | Arrival, Registration, Networking and Welcome Refreshments

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#### PART A

🕒 09:00 – 09:15 | Opening and Welcome Remarks by Tebogo Khaas, Chairperson of Public Interest SA

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🕒 09:15 – 09:55 | Keynote Address

**TOPIC/THEME:** *"Upholding Democracy Through Courage: The Strategic Role of Whistleblowers in Rebuilding Public Trust"*

**Speaker:** Honourable Andries Nel, Deputy Minister of Justice & Constitutional Development, Republic of SA

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🕒 10:00 – 11:00 | High-Level Plenary Panel

**THEME:** *"From Silence to Systemic Change: Enabling Institutional Courage in South Africa"*

**Panellists:** Honourable Mr Songezo Zibi MP, Chairperson: Standing Committee on Public Accounts; Major General (ret) Johan Booysen, Former Head: KZN Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks); Ms Dorothy Mmushi, Former Forensic Auditor: Eskom



🕒 11:00 – 11:15 | Tea Break

## PART B

### THEMATIC TRACKS

🕒 11:15 – 12:15 | High-Level Plenary Panel

#### Lived Experiences

**Topic:** “The Anatomy of Retaliation: From Vilification to Violence”

- Exploring “good faith” and whistleblowing
- Survivor accounts and psychological impacts
- Impunity and the need for redress mechanisms

#### Focus:

An in-depth look at how whistleblowers are silenced — through job loss, social ostracization, retaliation, legal harassment, or assassination. Includes survivor testimonies and policy recommendations to disrupt patterns of retaliation.

**Panellists:** Dr Uglješa Radulović, University of Johannesburg; Professor Kholofelo Rakubu, Head of the Department of Law, Safety and Security Management at the Tshwane University of Technology

🕒 12:15 – 13:00 | High-Level Plenary Panel

#### Corporate & Professional Bodies Accountability

**Topic:** “Whistleblower Protection Reform: Towards a Victim-Centred Legal and Institutional Framework”

- Comparative analysis of current and proposed laws
- Role of Parliament and legal advocacy organisations

#### Focus:

Critical analysis of South Africa’s Protected Disclosures Act and related statutes. Includes discussion on legal reform proposals, witness protection, international best practices (e.g., EU Whistleblower Directive, G20 High-Level Principles for the Effective Protection of Whistleblowers, and institutional readiness of Chapter 9 institutions.

**Panellists:** Prof. Rehana Cassim, Professor in Company Law, University of South Africa; Chad Thomas, Financial & Organised Crime Investigator, IRS Forensic Investigators



🕒 13:00 – 13:05 | Closing Remarks by Tebogo Khaas, Public Interest SA NPC Chairperson

🕒 13:05 – 14:00 | Networking Finger Lunch

VENUE SECURITY SWEEP AND TURN OVER FOR GALA EVENT.

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**whistleblowers**  
AWARDS AND SUMMIT

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