

THE AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN RESEARCH CENTRE (AORC), A RESEARCH AND TRAINING ARM OF THE AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN AND MEDIATORS' ASSOCIATION (AOMA) IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTE (IOI)

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO A WEBINAR

THEME

OMBUDS IN THE DIGITAL AGE:
NAVIGATING CHALLENGES AND
OPPORTUNITIES



TIME:

10H00 – 11H30 SA (GMT+2)

DATE:

TUESDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2023

PLATFORM: ZOOM

CLICK HERE

TO REGISTER:

Join us for Ombuds Day 2023, an annual celebration that marks the second Thursday in October as a day of global recognition for the invaluable role played by Ombuds across diverse sectors and regions. Since its inception in 2018, Ombuds Day has served as a powerful platform for educating the public about the pivotal function of Ombuds, promoting greater utilization of Ombuds programs, fostering connections within Ombuds communities, and uniting professionals in this indispensable field.

For Ombuds Day 2023, we are proud to present the theme: "Ombuds: Diverse in Role, United in Service." This theme underscores the multifaceted responsibilities of Ombuds professionals in today's ever-evolving landscape. It highlights their adaptability and unwavering commitment to serving the public, organizations, and institutions.

To commemorate Ombuds Day 2023, the African Ombudsman Research Centre (AORC) is partnering with the esteemed International Ombudsman Institute (IOI) to bring you an enlightening and thought-provoking webinar: "Ombuds in the Digital Age: Navigating Challenges and Opportunities."

This exclusive webinar seeks to explore the profound implications of digital communication on privacy rights and confidentiality within the Ombuds process—a pressing concern as technology continues to advance at an unprecedented pace. By assembling a panel of distinguished experts and seasoned practitioners, we aim to dissect various facets of this critical topic.

SPEAKERS & FACILITATOR



SPEAKER 1

PROFESSOR MANOJ MAHARAJ,

University of KwaZulu Natal, will discuss will discuss Privacy Rights and Confidentiality in the Digital Era as well as Technology and Tools for Secure Communication.



SPEAKER 2

HON. GABY SCHWARZ,

Austrian Ombudsperson and the IOI Secretary-General will discuss Legal and Ethical Considerations.



FACILITATOR

HON. VUSUMZI MAGWEBU,

Ombudsman of the City of Cape Town, South Africa

Due to time constraints, please note that there will be no live questions and answers. Participants may, however, submit relevant questions to Franky Lwelela (Lwelela@ukzn.ac.za) or Marion Adonis (adonism@ukzn.ac.za) by 10:00 on Monday, 09 October 2023, or use the Q & A function during the webinar. Time has been allocated to respond to questions raised before and during the session. If there is insufficient time to respond to all, the questions and answers will be available on the AOMA/AORC website www.aoma.ukzn.ac.za.

ENQUIRIES ONLY:

MARION ADONIS
Email: adonism@ukzn.ac.za



FRANKY LWELELA
Email: Lwelela@ukzn.ac.za

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



PROFESSOR MANOJ MAHARAJ,



Professor Manoj Maharaj is a highly respected figure in the School of Management, IT, and Governance at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. With a remarkable career spanning over thirty years, he has made a lasting impact in academia. As a Professor in the Discipline of Information Systems & Technology, Prof. Maharaj's expertise shines brightly. His extensive experience encompasses leadership and management positions in higher education and training institutions. He possesses a profound understanding of legislation policies and procedures pertaining to state-owned enterprises (SOEs), establishing him as a sought-after authority in this field. Prof. Maharaj's knowledge of the ever-evolving ICT sector is unparalleled. His in-depth research and numerous publications have significantly contributed to advancing knowledge and innovation. Beyond his achievements, Prof. Maharaj is passionate about fostering the growth of future scholars. He has played a pivotal role in developing intellectual capacity, empowering aspiring minds to explore new frontiers and challenge existing boundaries. Prof. Maharaj began his academic journey by earning a BSc (Hons) from the University of Durban-Westville (UDW). He further enhanced his education with an MSc from the University of the Witwatersrand, culminating in completing a PhD from the University of Natal. These achievements solidify his esteemed position within the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Through his unwavering dedication to education, research, and leadership, Professor Manoj Maharaj inspires generations of scholars, illuminating the path toward excellence.

HON. GABY SCHWARZ,



Hon. Gaby Schwarz: On 1 August 2022, Ombudsperson Gaby Schwarz took office as the new IOI Secretary General. She was unanimously nominated for this role by the members of the Austrian Ombudsman Board pursuant to Article 20.1 of the IOI By-laws. Gaby Schwarz worked as a journalist in different positions at the Austrian public broadcaster ORF for 40 years. In November 2017, she became a Member of the Austrian Parliament. During this time, Ms. Schwarz acted as the deputy chairperson of the parliamentary club of the Austrian People's Party and the party's spokesperson on health and the media. In July 2022, Gaby Schwarz was elected by Parliament as Ombudsperson and member of the Austrian Ombudsman Board. In her role as Secretary General of the IOI, Ms. Schwarz is committed to fostering democracy, human rights and the rule of law, as well as strengthening Ombudsman institutions around the world. "I am very much looking forward to taking on this important position and help shape the future of this important institution," said Gaby Schwarz upon her appointment.



HON. VUSUMZI MAGWEBU,



Hon. Vusumzi Magwebu: Hon. Vusumzi Magwebu "Vusi" is the City Ombudsman of the City of Cape Town "City" since 1 June 2020. Previously he was a candidate Commissioner at the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration "CCMA" in Cape Town and prior to that, was a Member of the 5th democratic parliament in South Africa. He has vast experience in investigations from both private and public sectors. He is a former prosecutor and was also a senior investigator with the office of the Public Protector, South Africa. Among his achievements, he pioneered forensics practice in an Audit Firm. He holds a Bachelor of Law degree; Diploma in Forensic Investigations, Diploma in Labour Law (distinction) and a competency certificate in Report Writing. He is an affiliate member of The Association of Certified Fraud Examiners "ACFE" in good standing. He enjoys local choral music of isicathamiya and mbube and wanted to be a singer when he was young as he wanted to make the world dance to African sounds, however he realized that he can't hold a note and chose to study law instead so as to keep the world fair and just to all people.