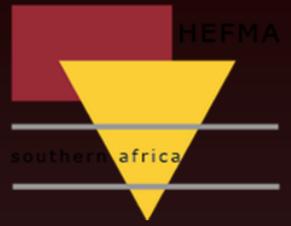


Friday, 13 March 2026

HEFMAmania news letter.



A NEWSLETTER BY HIGHER
EDUCATION FACILITIES
MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION (HEFMA)
SOUTHERN AFRICA

CELEBRATING OUR LEGACY:
HEFMA 25 YEARS
ANNIVERSARY

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Quarterley Newsletter



PRESIDENT - MS HLAMARISA KUBAYI

Message from the President

As HEFMA celebrates its 25th anniversary, I am honoured to lead an association that has championed excellence in facilities management across higher education in Southern Africa. Over the years, HEFMA has grown into a vibrant professional community, connecting universities, TVET colleges, industry partners, and international collaborators in pursuit of smarter, sustainable, and future-ready campuses.

Reflecting on 2025, the conference showcased the power of collaboration, innovation, and professional growth. I extend heartfelt thanks to our business partners, sponsors, and members whose support makes these achievements possible. The 2026 conference promises another dynamic platform for learning, networking, and celebrating our sector's achievements.

I am further encouraged by the progress of the TVET Maturity Development Workgroup, the growing vibrancy of our regional chapters, and the insights from our COO Forums. These remind us that HEFMA's strength lies in collective action.

Let us continue to build momentum, whilst strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that Facilities Management is recognised as a cornerstone of higher education success.

Enjoy this quarter's newsletter!

HEFMA President

In this newsletter you can expect:

HEFMA 25th Year Anniversary

Introduction of 2026 HEFMA EXCO

HEFMA 2026 Strategic Planning

DHET MOU

2026 COOs Forum

HEFMA 2025 Conference Highlights

HEFMA 25TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY:

A Quarter Century of Facilities Leadership in Higher Education

As the Higher Education Facilities Management Association (HEFMA) Southern Africa celebrates its 25th founding anniversary, the association reflects on a journey marked by collaboration, professional growth, and a shared commitment to strengthening the physical infrastructure that supports higher education across Southern Africa.

For more than two decades, HEFMA has served as the collective voice of facilities management professionals working within institutions of higher learning. Its constituency is drawn from facilities management departments and infrastructure teams responsible for maintaining and developing university and college campuses across the SADC region.

Through this network of professionals, HEFMA has established itself as a vital platform for knowledge exchange, benchmarking, and professional collaboration.

“Celebrating 25 years, HEFMA continues to champion collaborative solutions, forward-thinking leadership, and facilities management excellence.”

**- HLAMARISA KUBAYI
(PRESIDENT)**

Confronted with evolving higher education infrastructure challenges, from sustainability to digital transformation, HEFMA remains committed to collaborative solutions, forward-thinking leadership, and advancing facilities management excellence, strengthening institutional partnerships, and supporting the infrastructure that underpins higher education across the SADC region.

FROM TIMCON TO HEFMA - THE HISTORY OF HEFMA



FOUNDING MEMBERS FROM LEFT: ROBERT QUIN, CEDRIC ARCHILLES, DESMOND KENSLEY, ROBERT KELLY, GARY REYNOLDS, STAN DENNIS, JOHN HARROD, FERDI PIETERSE

HEFMA traces its roots to the early 2000s when the Tertiary Institution Maintenance Conference (TIMCON) laid the groundwork for professional collaboration in higher education facilities management. In 2001, these institutions came together to transform TIMCON into a formal association, HEFMA, establishing a structured platform for professional growth, knowledge sharing, and sectoral collaboration.

“What began as a collaborative forum has evolved into a SADC regional platform committed to advancing excellence in higher education facilities management.”

**- LINDOKUHLE MZOLO
(PAST PRESIDENT)**

Since then, HEFMA has grown into a vibrant, 25-year-old professional community, supported both locally and internationally, and recognised for its commitment to high standards in campus infrastructure, sustainability, and digital transformation. Over the years, the association has strengthened partnerships, built a strong membership base, and positioned itself as the leading voice for facilities management in the SADC Region.

INTRODUCING THE 2026 HEFMA EXCO:

Leadership for a New Chapter of Facilities Excellence

As HEFMA continues to celebrate its 25-year milestone, the organisation enters 2026 under the guidance of a newly constituted Executive Committee committed to strengthening the association and advancing the facilities management profession across the region. The 2026 HEFMA EXCO brings together a diverse group of experienced professionals from institutions across Southern Africa, reflecting the collaborative spirit that has defined the association since its founding.

Leading the association is President Hlamarisa Kubayi of the Durban University of Technology, whose leadership will guide HEFMA through a year focused on strengthening professional engagement, expanding partnerships, and supporting the evolving infrastructure needs of higher education institutions. Supporting the President is President-Elect Benedict Mochesela from the University of the Free State, who will work closely with the leadership team to ensure continuity and the successful implementation of the association's strategic priorities.

Continuity and institutional memory remain an important strength of HEFMA's leadership structure. Immediate Past President Hendrik Esterhuizen of North-West University and Past President Lindokuhle Mzolo from the University of Johannesburg continue to provide guidance and mentorship, helping to connect the organisation's achievements of recent years with its vision for the future.



PRESIDENT: HLAMARISA KUBAYI

"The progress HEFMA has achieved over the years is a testament to the commitment of its members and leaders who continue to build a strong professional network."

**- HENDRIK ESTERHUIZEN
(IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT)**



PRESIDENT ELECT: BENEDICT MOCHESELA



IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: HENDRIK ESTERHUIZEN

The administrative and governance functions of the association are supported by Secretary Swazi Dlamini from the Vaal University of Technology, while Treasurer Themba Mkhize of the University of South Africa oversees the financial stewardship of the organisation. Together, they play an essential role in ensuring that HEFMA's operations remain transparent, efficient, and aligned with the interests of its members.



PAST PRESIDENT: LINDOKUHLE MZOLO

The 2026 EXCO also includes several directors responsible for key strategic portfolios within the association. Lerato Maloka, Director of Information Services from Goldfields TVET College, works alongside Assistant Director Monde Nonjabe of the Durban University of Technology to strengthen communication, knowledge sharing, and information resources for HEFMA members. Their work ensures that the association continues to serve as a valuable platform for professional exchange and sector insights.



SECRETARIAT: SWAZI DLAMINI

Further strengthening HEFMA's engagement with industry and institutional partners is Director of Business Partnership and Professional Affairs Nare Mokobane from the University of the Witwatersrand, whose portfolio focuses on building meaningful partnerships that support professional development and collaboration within the facilities management community.

Looking ahead to one of the association's flagship events, Kennedy John of the University of Botswana serves as the 2026 Conference Convenor and Caretaker Director for Professional Development and Training, ensuring that HEFMA's annual conference and professional learning initiatives continue to provide valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange and sector advancement.



DIRECTOR INFORMATION SERVICES: LERATO MALOKA



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INFORMATION SERVICES: MONDE NONJABE

Together, this leadership team represents a broad cross-section of institutions and expertise within the higher education sector.

Their collective experience and shared commitment to collaboration position HEFMA to continue supporting excellence in facilities management, championing sustainability and innovation, and strengthening the infrastructure that underpins teaching, learning, and research across Southern Africa.

"The next chapter of HEFMA will be defined by innovation, knowledge sharing, and a strong network of professionals working together."

**- BENEDICT MOCHESELA
(PRESIDENT ELECT)**



**CARETAKER DIRECTOR: PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT & TRAINING: KENNEDY JOHN**



**DIRECTOR: BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL
AFFAIRS: NARE MOKOBANE**



TREASURER: THEMBA MKHIZE



**FROM LEFT: MR KENNEDY JOHN, MR THEMBA MKHIZE, MR HENDRIK ESTERHUIZEN, MR BENEDICT MOCHESELA
MS HLAMARISA KUBAYI, MISS NARE MOKOBANE, MISS LERATO MALOKA, MISS SWAZI DLAMINI,
MR LINDOKUHLE MZOLO**

CHARTING THE FUTURE OF HEFMA:

HEFMA's 2026 Strategic Planning Session

As HEFMA celebrates its 25th anniversary, the association looks ahead with renewed purpose and strategic focus. A recent two-day Strategic Planning Session, held at the University of Botswana, brought together members of the Executive Committee to reflect on HEFMA's journey.

"Are we where we should be as HEFMA, and if not, how do we arrive there?"

- MAUREEN MALAKA (PAST PRESIDENT)

The session opened with reflections on the organisation's remarkable growth over the past quarter-century, highlighting the role HEFMA has played in strengthening professional facilities management within higher education institutions. These reflections set the stage for discussions on how the association can continue to support institutions as they navigate evolving infrastructure demands, sustainability imperatives, and digital transformation within the sector. Key discussions focused on aligning the outcomes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting with HEFMA's strategic priorities for the coming year.

Strengthening collaboration within the higher education sector formed an important part of the discussions. The Executive Committee reflected on opportunities arising from HEFMA's partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) and on the importance of continued engagement with international partners such as APPA: Leadership in Educational Facilities, AUDE (Association of University Directors of Estates), and TEFMA (Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association).

"Strategic planning ensures that HEFMA remains responsive to the changing needs of the higher education sector while continuing to serve its members with purpose and vision."

- HLAMARISA KUBAYI (PRESIDENT)

Looking ahead, planning for the 2026 HEFMA Conference, strengthening the COO's Forum and regional chapters, expanding engagement with TVET colleges and enhancing the association's visibility through improved communication platforms were key areas of focus throughout the session.



**MEMBERS OF THE HEFMA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
DURING THE 2026 STRATEGIC PLANNING
SESSION**



2026 HEFMA PRESIDENCY

As HEFMA enters its next chapter, the outcomes of the session will guide the association in strengthening its programmes, supporting its members, and advancing facilities management excellence across the region.

A STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR THE FUTURE:

HEFMA Signs Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET)

In a significant step toward strengthening collaboration within the higher education sector, HEFMA has formalised a strategic partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This partnership marks an important milestone in aligning professional expertise in facilities management with national priorities for infrastructure development within the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector.

As the constitutional custodian and regulator of higher education in South Africa, the Department of Higher Education and Training plays a central role in shaping policy and guiding the development of institutional infrastructure across universities and TVET colleges. Through this MOU, HEFMA and DHET have established a framework for collaboration that will enable the sharing of expertise, knowledge, and best practices in facilities and infrastructure management.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that higher education institutions are supported by well-managed, sustainable, and future-ready infrastructure. Facilities management professionals play a crucial role in maintaining and developing the physical environments that enable teaching, learning, research, and student life. By strengthening cooperation between HEFMA and the Department, the agreement seeks to enhance the sector's capacity to plan, maintain, and optimise institutional infrastructure.

The MOU also provides an opportunity for HEFMA to contribute its professional insights and experience to sector-wide discussions on infrastructure planning, asset management, and sustainability. With its extensive network of facilities management practitioners across the SADC region's higher education institutions, HEFMA is well-positioned to support the Department in identifying emerging challenges and opportunities within the sector.

"This partnership reflects a shared commitment to strengthening the infrastructure that underpins the success of higher education institutions."

**- BENEDICT MOCHESELA
(PRESIDENT ELECT)**

As HEFMA celebrates its 25-year milestone, this collaboration signals the growing recognition of the importance of professional facilities management in shaping resilient and sustainable campuses. The partnership with the DHET represents a step forward in building stronger connections between institutional expertise and national priorities, ensuring that higher education infrastructure continues to support the evolving needs of students, academics, and communities across the region.

1ST COO FORUM FOR 2026:

Driving Collaboration Among Senior Leaders



"The COO Forum creates a space for executive leaders to collaborate, innovate, and drive the transformation of campus operations across the SADC region."

- LINDOKUHLE MZOLO (PAST PRESIDENT)

HEFMA continues to strengthen engagement at the executive leadership level through its Chief Operations Officers (COO) Forum.

This forum provides a strategic platform for executive leaders responsible for campus infrastructure and operations to discuss critical topics, including sustainability, digital transformation, operational resilience, and campus planning.

"Infrastructure Facilities is not just a supportive function; it is a strategic enabler that makes the overall institution strategy achievable."

- HLAMARISA KUBAYI (PRESIDENT)

The **first COO Forum of 2026** will be hosted at the **University of the Western Cape**, from **23-24 March 2026**. Delegates will have the opportunity to share best practices, exchange sector insights, and engage in high-level discussions that help shape the future of higher education facilities management in Southern Africa.

2026 REGIONAL CHAPTERS:

Building Connections Across Southern Africa

HEFMA's Regional Chapters are a cornerstone of the association's commitment to member engagement and professional development at the institutional level. These chapters provide regular opportunities for facilities management professionals from universities and TVET colleges to come together, share experiences, discuss emerging trends, and build strong professional networks.

By strengthening regional platforms, HEFMA ensures that knowledge and expertise are widely accessible, fostering a connected and collaborative professional community across Southern Africa. As the association celebrates 25 years, the growth of its regional chapters reflects HEFMA's commitment to empowering professionals and supporting innovation and excellence in facilities management across the sector.

INNOVATING CAMPUS SPACES:

Highlights from the 2025 HEFMA Conference at North-West University

HEFMA brought together facilities management professionals, TVET and university leaders, DHET officials, industry partners, and international collaborators for the 2025 HEFMA 2025 Conference, hosted by the North-West University (NWU) at its Engineering Campus in Potchefstroom. Held under the theme **“Innovating Campus Spaces,”** the conference provided a vibrant platform for dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge sharing on the evolving role of facilities management in higher education institutions in the SADC region.

Over four engaging days, delegates explored how institutions are responding to the demands of sustainability, digital transformation, infrastructure resilience, and future-ready learning environments. The programme brought together leaders from universities, professional bodies, and industry partners, creating a dynamic environment where ideas and experiences could be exchanged across institutional and national boundaries.

The conference opened with a panel discussion on leveraging collaboration to professionalise facilities management, bringing together representatives from professional bodies across the sector. The conversation highlighted the importance of integrated professional standards and strengthened cooperation between facilities management practitioners, regulators, and industry organisations.



PANEL DISCUSSION:
HEFMA, SAFMA, SAAMA, ECSA, SACPCMP



NWU DEPUTY VICE CHANCELLOR:
PROFESSOR DARRYL BALIA



HEFMA 2025 CONFERENCE:
INNOVATING CAMPUS SPACES

The official welcome was delivered by North-West University Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Darryl Balia, followed by President Hendrik Esterhuizen's address, which reflected on HEFMA's growing impact and the importance of collaboration in shaping sustainable campus environments. The first day also featured a thought-provoking Vice-Chancellors and Principals Panel Discussion, offering a rare “view from the top” on the strategic importance of facilities management in supporting institutional success.

INNOVATING CAMPUS SPACES:

Highlights from the 2025 HEFMA Conference at North-West University

Throughout the conference, a wide range of presentations showcased emerging innovations in the sector. Topics ranged from AI-driven supply chain optimisation for digital campus infrastructure and smart water infrastructure frameworks, to the adoption of Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies in campus transport systems. Delegates also explored how data-driven facilities management, digital twins of campus infrastructure, and integrated project management systems are reshaping how institutions manage their built environments.



VCS & PRINCIPALS PANEL DISCUSSION:
UJ, VUSELELA TVET COLLEGE, SPU, NWU

The conference also provided a platform for knowledge sharing across South Africa's higher education sector. Case studies from institutions such as the University of Johannesburg, University of Pretoria, Mangosuthu University of Technology, and Stellenbosch University highlighted innovative approaches to campus sustainability, digital transformation, and infrastructure planning.



PANEL DISCUSSION BY INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS:
AUDE, APPA, TEFMA, HEFMA

A particularly valuable highlight of the programme was the engagement with HEFMA's international partners, including representatives from APPA – Leadership in Educational Facilities, AUDE (Association of University Directors of Estates), and TEFMA (Tertiary Education Facilities Management Association). These discussions provided global perspectives on facilities management trends and reinforced HEFMA's position within the international professional community.



COO'S PANEL DISCUSSION:
COO'S: UJ, UP, SPU, NWU, APPA



TVET MATURITY DEVELOPMENT PRESENTATION:
MISS LERATO MALOKA & MISS SWAZI DLAMINI

Innovating Campus Spaces:

Highlights from the 2025 HEFMA Conference at North-West University

Beyond the formal sessions, the conference created numerous opportunities for networking and collaboration. Delegates participated in campus tours, stakeholder engagements, and social events that strengthened professional relationships across institutions and industry partners. The Strategic Stakeholder Dinner, campus braai, and the elegant Gala Dinner at Feather Hill Boutique Hotel provided memorable moments for the HEFMA community to celebrate shared achievements and build lasting partnerships.

The conference concluded with reflections on the future of facilities management within higher education, as well as HEFMA's Annual General Meeting, where members reviewed progress and set the course for the association's continued growth.

The 2025 conference once again demonstrated the strength of the association's professional community and its commitment to building smarter, more sustainable, and future-ready campuses across the SADC region.



**PRESIDENTIAL SPECIAL AWARD:
LINDOKUHLE MZOLO**



**TVET APPRECIATION AWARD:
NORTHLINK TVET COLLEGE**



**AWARD FOR BEST PERFORMING REGIONAL CHAPTER:
CENTRAL REGIONAL CHAPTER**



**TVET APPRECIATION AWARD:
IKHALA TVET COLLEGE**



**AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN FACILITIES MANAGEMENT:
UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG**



**LONG SERVICE AWARD:
VENESSA RANJIT**

DHET PARTNER RECOGNITION AWARD:

Celebrating Strategic Collaboration

At the HEFMA 2025 Conference, the association proudly recognised the DHET (Department of Higher Education and Training) with the Partnership Award, presented in the form of a certificate and trophy.

“Strong partnerships like this are the foundation of HEFMA’s success and the continued growth of professional facilities management in higher education.”

- HENDRIK ESTERHUIZEN
(IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT)



PARTNERSHIP AWARD: DHET

This award celebrated DHET’s ongoing support and collaboration with HEFMA, acknowledging the department’s pivotal role in advancing facilities management excellence, sectoral partnerships, and strategic initiatives across Southern Africa.



#HEFMA2025 CONFERENCE: Business Partners & Sponsors

HEFMA extends heartfelt thanks to all our 2025 Conference Business Partners and Sponsors for their invaluable support in making the event a resounding success.”

