

Friday, 03 October 2025

HEFMAmania news letter.



GLOBAL CONNECTIONS, LOCAL
INNOVATION: BUILDING
MOMENTUM TO #HEFMA2025

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

EDITION 03 OF 2025



HEFMA 2025 Conference

[Read More](#)



Regional Chapters

[Read More](#)

 FOLLOW US



Quarterley Newsletter



PRESIDENT - HENDRIK ESTERHUIZEN

Message from the President

As we move into the final stretch of 2025, I am proud of the strides HEFMA Southern Africa has made. From strengthening our regional chapters to amplifying our international presence at AUDE, TEFMA, and SAAMA conferences, we continue to show that facilities management is about more than buildings; it is about shaping spaces where teaching, learning, and innovation thrive.

The upcoming HEFMA 2025 Conference at North-West University (NWU), Potchefstroom, will be a landmark event. With over 300 delegates expected, leaders from Southern Africa and our global partners will gather to reimagine how we innovate campus spaces and position facilities management as a driver of sustainability and excellence.

I am 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. I look forward to welcoming you all to Potchefstroom in October as we write the next chapter together.

Enjoy this quarter's newsletter!

HEFMA President

In this newsletter
you can expect:

**HEFMA 2025
Conference**

**COO Forum
Update**

**Regional
Chapters**

**TVET
Development
Workgroup**

**Business
Partner
Events**

**Workshop
and Sponsor
Updates**

HEFMA 2025 Conference: Innovating Campus Spaces

The countdown has begun for the HEFMA 2025 Conference, where over 300 delegates from institutions across Southern Africa will gather at North-West University (NWU), Potchefstroom, from 13 to 16 October 2025.

This year's theme, ***"Innovating Campus Spaces"***, reflects HEFMA's mission to reimagine the role of facilities management in driving institutional excellence and sustainability.



The conference kicks off with a landmark discussion on the professionalisation of Facilities and Asset Management as a recognised field within the built environment ecosystem.

Esteemed leaders such as Dr Msizi Myeza (CBE CEO), Ms Basetsana Khoza, Mr Simphiwe Hashe (SAAMA President), Mr Lufuno Ratsiku, and Mr Sherif Maged will unpack the roadmap toward full recognition of the profession and the possible establishment of a regulatory body.

A panel of Chief Operating Officers (COOs) will explore how data-driven FM practices can unlock operational excellence.



Meanwhile, Vice Chancellors and Principals from universities and TVET colleges will also come together for a powerful discussion on how Facilities Management can serve as a strategic business function for institutional sustainability.



The programme also brings global perspectives through some of HEFMA's international business partners, such as AUDE (UK), APPA (USA), and TEFMA (Australia). The keynote address will be delivered by Ms Nolwazi Gasa, DHET Deputy Director-General: Physical Planning, Policy & Strategy, setting the tone for an event that promises learning, inspiration, and collaboration.



HEFMA 2025 Conference: Innovating Campus Spaces

Beyond the knowledge-sharing, delegates can expect memorable social experiences, including a welcoming cocktail, traditional braai, and the celebrated HEFMA Gala Dinner, where outstanding individuals and institutions will be recognised with awards.



Mr Lindokuhle Mzolo (HEFMA Immediate Past President) shared his excitement about what the Conference truly presents for all Professionals who will be in attendance:

“The conference offers the biggest insightful learning and professional networking experience in the Southern African region, bringing together experts, leaders, and innovators to co-create collective solutions.”

Preparations are already at an advanced stage, and the excitement is palpable as we prepare to welcome hundreds of delegates to NWU, Potchefstroom. This will be an unforgettable opportunity to collectively shape the future of our campus spaces.



COOs Forum: Update

The Chief Operating Officers (COO) Forum continues to provide a unique platform for strategic dialogue among higher education leaders. To date, three successful forums have been held, with the most recent hosted in a hybrid format at the Central University of Technology.



At this meeting, COOs highlighted the urgent need for a national Indaba with local government stakeholders such as the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent (MISA) and the Institute of Municipal Engineering of Southern Africa (IMESA). The aim is to strengthen collaboration regarding infrastructure management and service delivery in and around Higher Education Institutions.



The Presidency took a special moment to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable women in attendance in honour of Women's Month. Tokens of appreciation were presented to them, accompanied by a powerful message from the President-Elect, Ms Hlamarisa Kubayi. Their dedication and impact in Higher Education Facilities Management and beyond were celebrated for shaping and inspiring future generations.



The next forum is already scheduled for the first quarter of 2026 at Sol Plaatje University (SPU), and anticipation is high for the important outcomes it will bring.

Regional Chapters: Update

HEFMA's regional chapters have been buzzing with activity in 2025, creating vibrant spaces for localised collaboration and shared growth. Two workshops for chapter leaders have been hosted, ensuring leadership development and alignment across the network.

In addition, EXCO members have been actively engaging on the ground, attending several regional chapter meetings in regions including Eastern Cape, South and North Gauteng, Far North, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, and the Central Region. These gatherings have proven invaluable in fostering dialogue, sharing innovations, and strengthening HEFMA's presence across Southern Africa.



The Central Region gathered for a chapter committee meeting on 15 August 2025 at Sol Plaatje University (SPU), North Campus. The chapter was warmly welcomed by Dr David Kanguwe (SPU COO), and the session created a strong platform for collaboration, benchmarking, and knowledge-sharing among TVET and university institutions in the region.

"The meeting revealed just how many challenges our institutions share, but also reaffirmed the power of collective solutions through HEFMA."

— Central Regional Chapter

The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Regional Chapter held its face-to-face meeting on 26 September 2025, hosted by the Mangosuthu University of Technology (MUT), with 29 attendees representing both universities and TVET colleges. The meeting was marked by constructive discussions and important decisions that will shape the chapter's activities going forward.



Members welcomed HEFMA's presence and engaged in discussions that clarified its role in strengthening facilities management across the sector.

"We deeply appreciate this platform, as it enables us to learn from every participating TVET and University."

— KwaZulu-Natal Regional Chapter

Ms Hlamarisa Kubayi (HEFMA President-Elect) shared her excitement on the progress seen throughout the chapters:

"We are excited to see chapters making progress and fostering localised collaboration and the presence of TVET Colleges in these Regional Chapter meetings."

TVET Maturity Development: Workgroup

The TVET Maturity Development Subcommittee has made remarkable progress in 2025, driving forward the facilities management agenda within the TVET sector. With a strong focus on strengthening sector-wide maturity, advancing compliance initiatives, and creating clear development pathways for TVET professionals, the subcommittee has cemented its role as a key driver of change.

This year's work has included updating institutional contact details across all 50 colleges, conducting a national assessment of TVET Facilities Management maturity, submitting a CETA Candidacy Pathway application, supporting compliance with Energy Performance Certification (EPC) requirements, and hosting monthly TVET institutional workgroup meetings. Each of these activities has deepened sector alignment and enhanced collaboration.

A major achievement was the creation of a comprehensive national contact database, including Principals, Deputy Principals: Corporate Services/Finance, Facilities Managers, and Project Managers. Already shared with regional chapters, this resource has boosted participation in workshops and strengthened engagement across the country.

Another milestone was the successful submission of a CETA application under the 2025/26 Special Discretionary Grant Funding Window. This opportunity will assist TVET FMs to pursue candidacy pathways.



SWAZI DLAMINI
HEFMA SECRETARY GENERAL
TVET SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

The Facilities Management Maturity Assessment has progressed significantly through a national desktop study. Findings, presented at the September TVET workgroup meeting, revealed common strengths and gaps. Recommendations are being refined into the TVET Maturity Development Report, to be officially presented at the HEFMA 2025 Conference.

Looking ahead, the Subcommittee remains committed to guiding the sector with vision and determination. By addressing both immediate regulatory priorities and long-term strategic objectives, it continues to ensure that facilities management in TVET colleges is not only compliant, but also positioned as a critical enabler of institutional excellence.

Ms Swazi Dlamini (HEFMA EXCO & Subcommittee Chairperson) shared her excitement about the progress seen throughout the Subcommittee:

"The TVET Subcommittee and Workgroup are not just addressing compliance; it is building capacity and strengthening the future of facilities management across the TVET sector and the Higher Education industry as a whole."

HEFMA at #TEFMA25: Global Collaborations in Brisbane

HEFMA's participation in the #TEFMA25 Conference in Brisbane was a powerful reminder of why facilities management matters. While often seen as a technical field, the real impact of FM lies in shaping the student experience. From classrooms to residences, from social spaces to digital connectivity, facilities define how students live, learn, and grow on campus.



TEFMA25 highlighted a deeper truth that the heart of the FM profession is the student experience. From the moment a student steps onto campus, facilities shape not only their academic journey, but also their social, emotional, and personal growth.

The TEFMA25 Conference in Brisbane reignited something essential for higher education facilities leaders: a renewed passion for the role that infrastructure and facilities management play in shaping the student journey.



HEFMA President-Elect Ms Hlamarisa Kubayi captured it best:

“We may be behind the scenes, but what we do is felt in every corner of campus life.”

The event also reinforced the strength of HEFMA's global alliances with TEFMA, AUDE, and APPA, proving that by working together, facilities leaders are not just sharing knowledge but actively shaping the future of campuses worldwide.



HEFMA

Workshops

HEFMA has hosted six webinars, with the latest held on 28 August 2025, focusing on Computerised Maintenance Management Systems (CMMS) and system integration. Held monthly, these sessions continue to provide members with valuable insights and practical knowledge to strengthen institutional implementation of facilities management practices.

Upcoming Business Partner Events

UPCOMING EVENTS:

PURCO Conference

01 - 03 October 2025

SACPCMP Conference

13 -14 October 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

SAFMA: Roots & Routes Festival

22 - 23 October 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

GBCSA Convention

11 - 13 November 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

AFMA Conference

19-20 November 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

CBE: DRAM Colloquium

05 December 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

HEFMA

Advisory Panel

HEFMA's Advisory Panel, made up of past presidents, continues to serve as a trusted compass for the Executive Committee. Meeting at least three times during this term, the panel ensures continuity, shares institutional memory, and provides strategic counsel.

The final meeting before the HEFMA 2025 Conference is set to bring further guidance as HEFMA prepares for its flagship event.

"The Advisory Panel remains a pillar of continuity and wisdom; further strengthening HEFMA's strategic direction."

- HEFMA EXCO



#HEFMA2025 Conference: Business Partners & Sponsors

