

Liza Harmse – Founder & Managing Director

Executive Summary

Liza is a Chartered Accountant (CA(SA)) with 23 years' experience in the financial services industry. Her experience ranges from enterprise wide risk management, credit approval for lending to SME's, to project finance, and for the last 10 years she has been specialising in Risk Finance (self-insurance, cell captive and UMA's) environment. Her last position in corporate environment prior to entering the consulting space in 2019, was that of MD of a short-term insurance cell captive licence with a turnover of R2.7bn in gross written premium. She has experience in managing teams of people with varied specialities and experience. She is both strategically minded, but practical in the application and implementation of systems and processes.

Key Career Accomplishments

- Consulting in various arenas relating to the cell captive industry. Clients include APPETD who own a cell captive company, as well as King Price and ABSA insurance company.
- MD at Mutual & Federal Risk Financing Limited (MFRF). Role included Sales and marketing for new business opportunities, Interactions with clients at CEO / MD level on strategic and other issues. New product development and coordination, as well as collaboration with external partners. Board meetings at cell captives and MFRF, ensuring compliance with regulations via team and interacting with regulator (Financial Services Conduct Authority (FSCA) and the Prudential Authority (PA)). Monitoring and management of capital within SCR requirement. Interacting across the Old Mutual Group to realise cross sell opportunities, including close interaction with OMART, the life cell captive business. Grow business from R800m to R2.7bn in 3 years and significantly improve processes.
- At Alexander Forbes Risk Services and later MARSH Advanced Risk Consulting, as head of risk finance, she advised clients through broking and placement of contingency facilities, and first party cell captives including mine rehab guarantees. This included the structuring of these policies and the policy wording. Consulting to clients included review of self-insurance options for the clients' employee benefit funds.
- Managing and interacting with clients at the Board level for wholly owned captive insurance companies. Oversight of a full captive accounting function as well as set up of financial statements (Whilst at Alexander Forbes Risk Services)
- Risk management reporting including development of an enterprise wide risk management framework for Standard Bank.
- Development of the first market publication made by ABSA Bank for Basel II.
- Business analyst and business plan evaluation including risk analysis of several SME businesses (more than 20 over 2 years). This included financial modelling of multiple cash flow models to determine viability of expansion plans of SME's for the purposes of determining funding and investment decisions whilst at IDC.
- Financial Modelling and scenario running of large agriculture and mining projects for purposes of obtaining funding from DFI's. This included discussions with DFI's (internationally) for funding for the said projects. – e.g. Corridor Sands Titanium project in Mozambique.
- Project management relating to the approval requirements to ensure the SAPS obtain the grant from the French government and then the implementation of the AFIS fingerprinting system for SAPS.
- General audit experience during articles to a wide range of companies.

Professional Experience

- Mutual & Federal Risk Financing: Managing Director (cell captive insurer)
- Marsh Risk Consulting: Broker and advisory in risk finance structures and risk management consulting. (team lead) – including mine rehab structures.
- Alexander Forbes (risk services) – Broking in Risk Finance and management of Captive accounting and administration team. – including mine rehab structures
- ABSA – Risk appetite and credit risk reporting and related projects
- Standard Bank – Credit risk management and reporting of group performance
- Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) – Risk management.
- Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) – Project Finance – mining and agricultural projects.
- Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) – business analysis, and modelling for lending decisions (SME's)
- PricewaterhouseCoopers – Articles

Education, Certification, Memberships

- CA (SA),
- CIMA
- M.Com (Fin Man) - Rand Afrikaans University (Now UJ)
- B. Compt Accounting (CTA) – University of South Africa
- B. Com (Acc) – Rand Afrikaans University (Now UJ)
- Member (SAICA) – South African Institute of Chartered Accountants
- Member (CIMA) – Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
- RE1 and RE5
- Languages – English (fluent), Afrikaans (fluent)