



W&RSETA 2025 Research Symposium Programme



-  **Theme:** Research for Sectoral Transformation: Evidence-Based Strategies for a Sustainable Wholesale and Retail Sector
-  **Date:** 18 September 2025
-  **Time:** 09:30 – 14:30
-  **Venue:** Premier Hotel Splendid Inn Umhlanga, KZN

09:00 - 09:30: Arrival and Registration

09:30 - 09:40

Opening Remarks



Ms. Lynette Ntuli
Programme Director

09:40 - 09:55

Welcome Address



Mr. Tom Mkhwanazi,
Chief Executive Officer,
W&RSETA

09:55 - 10:15

Keynote Address



Ms. Zandile Mposelwa ,
Director Corporate Affairs
& Better Days Promise Lead
MENAT SSA, Kellanova



Ms. Lynette Ntuli
Moderator

Topic: Post-COVID-19 Technology Adoption



Dr. Linda Chipunza,
Lead Researcher,
CPUT Research
Leadership Chair

Topic: Navigating the E-Commerce Evolution: Assessing Skills Implications & Workforce Adaptation in the Digital Marketplace



Dr. Makhosazane
Buthelezi, W&RSETA
PDRF,UJ

Panel Discussion: How is digital innovation reshaping the skills landscape in the W&R sector? What strategies are needed to support a future ready workforce?



Mr. Yunus Goolam
Doba, W&RSETA
Research Leadership
Chair, DUT



Mr. Khulekani
Mkhize, GM
Mahogany Ridge
DC, Clicks Group



Ms. Alisha
Sarabjeeth, Head of
Information, Mr Price
Group

11:15 – 11:25: Tea Break



Ms. Lynette Ntuli
Moderator

Topic: Transforming the Township Retail Market



Mr. Jonathan
Aspeling, W&RSETA
Research Leadership
Chair, CPUT

Panel Discussion What does the research tell us about strengthening township economies and unlocking youth potential?



Ms. Charlene Peens,
Group Training
Manager, BOXER



Dr. Poppet Pillay,
Durban Textile and
Leather incubator



Mr. Billy Bokako,
SEDFA: Senior
Manager Incubation



Ms. Noxolo
Mabuza, Executive
Manager Strategy
& Transformation,
Joburg Market



**Dr. Terence
Hermanus**
Moderator

Topic: Food Safety Competence Research (Pilot)



Prof. Lues Ryk
W&RSETA Research
Leadership Chair,
CUT

Topic: Insights into the Challenges, Opportunities & Implications Faced by W&RSETA Bursary Programmes



Dr. Semona Pillay,
W&RSETA Research
Leadership Chair, UJ

Panel Discussion How do we measure long-term impact and ensure sustainability in skills development programmes?



Ms. Mary Ramonyatse,
Deputy Principal
Innovation & Development,
Capricorn TVET College



Mr. Tony Lebese,
Co-Founder and
Custodian, EESUp



Mr. Indongo,
Manager Research &
Planning, NTA



Dr. Deborah Machard,
W&RSETA, Strategic
Planning, Performance and
Evaluation Executive



Ms. Lindiwe Nhlapo,
W&RSETA, Chief Financial
Officer