



**ERNEST MATTHEWSON**

+27 (0) 83 455 9468



[ernest@taitacapital.com](mailto:ernest@taitacapital.com)



51 Northleigh Crescent, River Club, Sandton



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ernest-matthewson-97905224/>

## PERSONAL PROFILE

An experienced CEO, Executive and Non-Executive Director, with a particular focus and expertise in Banking, Business Development and Strategy. An Investment Banker, Strategic Thinker and Entrepreneur with more than two decades of investment banking experience in Africa and the UK. Uniquely placed and used to managing international teams, having run the Corporate Finance/M&A division at a large South African domestic bank, being CEO of the UK branch of the same bank, starting up a new Nigerian subsidiary UK bank as its CEO, and being responsible for the African investment banking activities of one of the world's largest banks. Using this experience and expertise in various businesses, providing Board level and C-Suite strategic, fund raising, investment banking and corporate governance advice to listed and unlisted companies. Investor, Venture Capitalist and Entrepreneur. Director of numerous companies.

## SKILLS PROFILE

- Banking & Financial Services
- Audit & Risk Committee
- Fund Raising
- Strategy
- Entrepreneur
- Legal
- Executive & Non-Executive
- Remuneration Committee
- Health & Safety
- Business Development
- VC & Private Equity
- Cross-border Management
- Investment Banking
- Corporate Governance
- M&A & IPO
- Leadership
- Property Services
- Start-ups

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (including a select list of Directorships)

### Taita Capital

January 2014 - Present

#### CEO & Founder

- Provides Strategic, Corporate Finance and Legal advice
- Investment holding company with investments in various companies



### Ecosystem Partners (<https://www.ecosystemholdings.africa/>)

April 2022 – May 2024

#### Partner

- Providing unconventional ecosystem “Commerciality” not just “Corporate Finance”
- “A boutique corporate finance and investment holding group, focusing on Africa; leveraging opportunities and creating sustainable businesses for our partners and ourselves”



### TMARA “MUST-HAVE VALUE FUND” (<https://tmaragroup.com/>)

March 2018 – May 2024

#### Legal Counsel & Philosopher

- TMARA turns entrepreneurs into New Market Category Kings
- Responsible for Financial, Compliance, Statutory, Legal and Regulatory advice to the group



[Excellerate Holdings \(https://www.excellerateholdings.co.za/\)](https://www.excellerateholdings.co.za/)

March 2018 – August 2021

**Independent Non-Executive Director & Member of both the Audit & Risk and Remuneration Committees**

**Chairman of the Occupational Health & Safety Committee**



- With revenue in excess of ZAR2bn, Excellerate is a public (unlisted) company operating in the property services, soft services and supply chain sectors in the UK, South Africa, Africa and the Middle East
- Non Executive Director
- Audit & Risk Committee Member
- Remuneration Committee Member
- Established Occupational Health & Safety Committee and Chairman thereof

[Deep Ocean Capital](#)

August 2015 - Present

**Director & Co-Founder**



- With investors from South Africa, Malaysia and Singapore, Deep Ocean is the African holding company for a network started in SE Asia and which now also spans across the ASEAN and Australasian regions
- Investment holding company with various investments

[Nymbis Holdings](#)

April 2014 – December 2014

**Chairman**



- Responsible for the running of the Board of this cloud computing company (merged with a similar company)

[HSBC Africa](#)

May 2011 – October 2013

**Managing Director, Head of Investment Banking, Africa**



- Responsible for the investment banking activities of HSBC across sub-Saharan Africa
- Recruited and staffed a new investment banking offering
- My teams included M&A, Project Finance, Debt Capital and Global Capital Finance

[Bank PHB UK](#)

September 2008 – May 2010

**CEO**



- CEO of a new Nigerian subsidiary UK start-up bank
- Responsible for hiring of Non-Executive Directors and staff, as well as strategy, business plan, banking model and FSA application
- Set up all Policies & Procedures, including the Risk & Corporate Governance Framework, as well as the integration of the London banking platform with the parent company in Lagos

[Nedbank London](#)

April 2006 – June 2008

**UK Country Head**



- Ran the London branch of one of South Africa's biggest banks
- Had over 60 staff reporting to me
- Started various new initiatives, including M&A, Project Finance, Acquisition & Leveraged Finance, Structured Trade & Commodity Finance
- Chaired the Risk & Compliance, Audit and Investment Committees

[Nedbank Capital](#)

May 1999 – March 2006

**Head of Corporate Finance** (Head from 2004 onward)



- M&A / Equity and Debt fund raisings / IPOs

## Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE)

May 1994 – October 1997

### Corporate Financier

- Responsible for the application of the JSE Listings Requirements



## Tim du Toit & Co Inc

December 1991 – December 1993

### Articled Clerk

- Articled clerk in a Pretoria and Johannesburg based law firm



---

## **EDUCATION, PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

---

- B.Comm / LLB / H.Dip.Co.Law / MBA
- Admitted as an Attorney to the High Court of South Africa
- JSE Issues Services Advisory Committee Member ('99 – '05)
- SA Financial Services Board – Advisory Committee Member on the listing of the JSE ('06)
- Association of Foreign Banks (London) – World Committee Member ('07 – '09)

---

## **REFERENCES**

---

- *Nick Christodolou* – Chairman of the Board of Excellerate Holdings / Member of various Boards within the Sanlam and JHI Property Management Groups / Trustee of the ABSA Equity Investment Trust
  - +27(0) 82 880 1715 (m) / [nick@ambeloui.co.za](mailto:nick@ambeloui.co.za)
- *Gordon Hulley* – Chief Executive Officer of Excellerate Holdings
  - +27(0) 82 566 1736 (m) / [gordon.hulley@excellerate.co.za](mailto:gordon.hulley@excellerate.co.za)
- *Pierre van der Hoven* – CEO of Baobab International
  - +27(0) 83 632 3296 (m) / [pierre@babob.co](mailto:pierre@babob.co)