



11TH ANNUAL

Anti-Money Laundering & *Financial Crime*

Southern Africa Conference 2026

9 & 10 September 2026 | Indaba Hotel | Johannesburg | South Africa

FEEDBACK REPORT

INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the conference's purpose and objectives, its overall success based on feedback received through participant questionnaires, and how these insights will be used to inform and guide future events.

As is customary, the report has been prepared to provide speakers, delegates, sponsors, and other stakeholders with an overview of the event. It highlights the key successes, challenges, and recommendations identified by attendees.

The report provides stakeholders with a synopsis of attendees' experiences and valuable insights that will assist Trade Conferences International in continuously improving the planning and organisation of future conferences.

The scope of the report includes an overview of the conference proceedings, key themes and presentations, attendee feedback, sponsor feedback, and recommendations for future events.

We also hope that the findings and insights presented in this report will assist stakeholders in making informed decisions regarding their participation in future Trade Conferences International events.



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The annual Anti-Money Laundering and Financial Crime Southern Africa Conference took place on 9 & 10 September 2026 at the Indaba Hotel, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Compared to only five years ago, Anti-Money Laundering (AML) in 2026 has shifted from a static, rule-based, manual documentation process to a dynamic, AI-driven, real-time risk management framework.

Key changes include the mainstreaming of artificial intelligence, stricter global regulations targeting beneficial owners, expanded coverage of digital assets, and the integration of fraud detection with AML.

Despite significant progress in developing a robust AML framework, South Africa still faces challenges in implementing and enforcing its regulations. Limited resources, capacity constraints, and the need for better coordination among regulators and law enforcement agencies have been identified as key obstacles to effective enforcement.

The conference programme addressed and highlighted all these concerns by giving participants the opportunity to gather information on and explore the latest challenges, opportunities shaping the anti-money laundering (AML) landscape.

This event is still the biggest commercial conference of its kind in Africa. Over 260 people attended which was a new attendance record. Altogether 13 sponsors participated.

DRIVING AWARENESS AND ATTENDANCE

Effective marketing ensured that the right audience understand the value of attending the annual AML & Financial Crime Southern Africa Conference. The 2026 event was promoted over a four-month period through email campaigns, media partnerships, industry articles, the TCI website and direct personal engagement.

2026 MARKETING REACH

01 | 100,000+ TARGETED EMAILS
Sent to professionals working in AML, financial crime, fraud, compliance, sanctions, KYC, due diligence, risk, financial surveillance and regulation.

02 | FOUR-MONTH CAMPAIGN
A focused marketing campaign delivered consistently over four months.

03 | 400+ PERSONAL CALLS
Sales calls formed the largest part of our marketing effort, allowing direct engagement with prospective clients.

04 | MEDIA PARTNER PROMOTION
Media partners helped extend the conference's reach across relevant industry audiences.

05 | INDUSTRY & TCI WEBSITES
Articles and event information were published on the TCI website and relevant industry platforms.

06 | EMAIL FOLLOW-UPS
Follow-up correspondence was sent by email to prospective clients identified through previous delegate lists, enquiries and industry research.



OUR SPONSORS

Our sponsors played an important role in the success of the 2026 AML & Financial Crime Southern Africa Conference. Their support, expertise and innovative solutions added significant value to the event, creating opportunities for meaningful engagement, knowledge sharing and industry collaboration. We sincerely appreciate their partnership and continued commitment to strengthening the fight against financial crime across Southern Africa.



OUR DELEGATES





INSIGHTS ON THE CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

We are proud of the fact that we have established a reputation of writing top-notch conference programmes. It takes a lot of research to determine issues that are fresh and pertinent and addressing the current situation.

A well-built conference programme is the difference between an event that energises attendees and one they forget a week later.

We rely on feedback from previous years when putting the programme together to align the programme with expectations of what is important, as well as current research.

By breaking up the programme in sections, we establish a flow from A to Z and a thematic balance so that everything that we think is important, can be addressed.

Our chair person has been praised many times and she allowed enough Q & A sessions to keep the audience alive and create an interactive environment.. All delegates agreed that she did an excellent job, with enough experience to keep delegates interested throughout the proceedings.

100% of all attendees indicated in the questionnaire that she facilitated proceedings well.

On the question if the content of the conference sessions was appropriate and informative, 62% answered by strongly agreeing, and 38% agreed. None indicated that the sessions were not appropriate.

Alltogether 54% indicated that the content strongly matched their expectations and 38% said matched.

Nearly 100% indicated that they were satisfied with the topics that were addressed.

SPEAKER FEEDBACK

We choose our speakers carefully and make sure that our panel are subject matter experts.

Only in rare cases, and where it is warranted, will we repeat certain speakers.

Welcome additions to this year were Lize van Schoor from the Financial Intelligence Centre And Noel Zeeman from the State Security Agency,

We are grateful for the contributions of the regulatory bodies, especially the Financial Intelligence Centre.

58% of respondents indicated that they were very satisfied with speakers, and 58% satisfied.

We will have to minimize the number of speaking slots for sponsors. Although it is not a rule, we did have some sponsors doing sales pitches. This is highly annoying for delegates and led to some complaints.

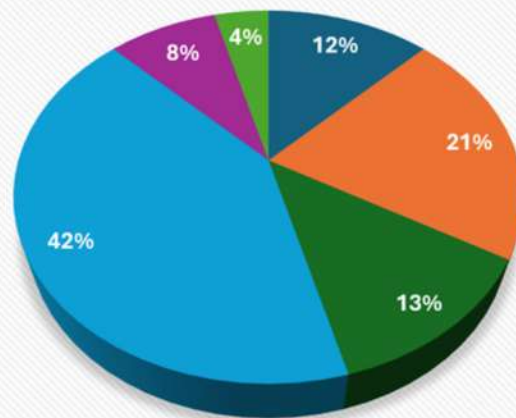
Last year it did not occur.

We will have to closely monitor this next year.



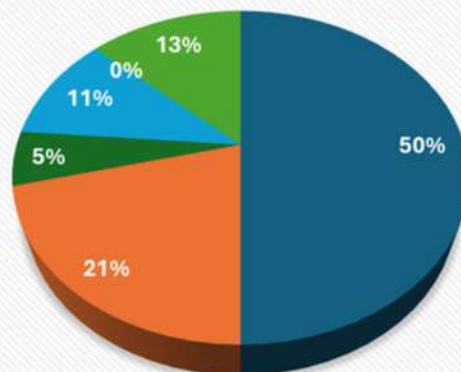
DELEGATE FEEDBACK

How did you hear about conference?



Received the brochure Word of mouth TCI client liason call
Email campaign letters TCI website Internet article

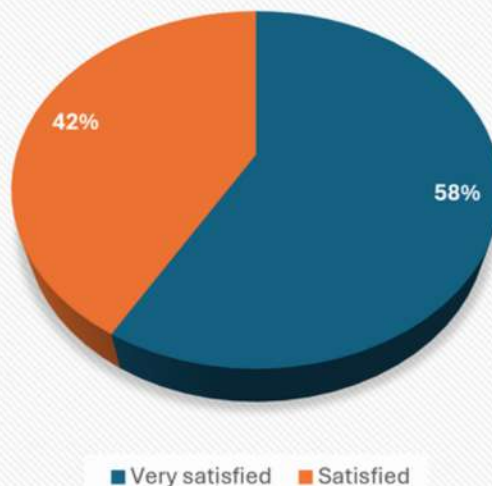
Why are you attending the conference?



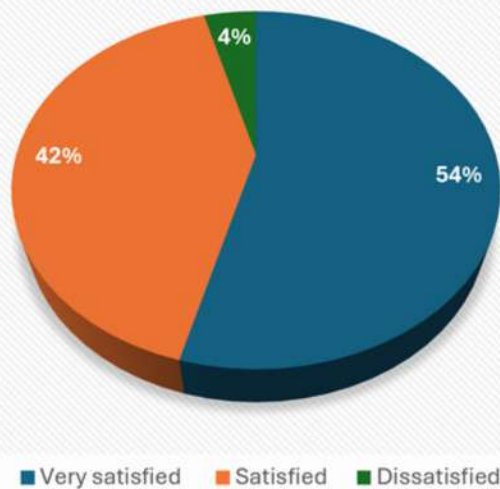
Was booked by the organisation Interesting programme topics
Top-class speakers Networking possibilities
Came as a guest Were part of a group registration

SPEAKER FEEDBACK

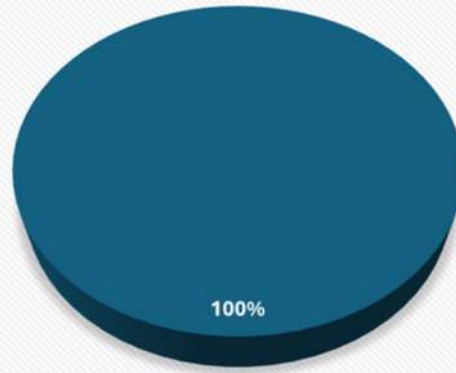
Overall how satisfied were you with the speakers?



Overall how satisfied were you with the topics?

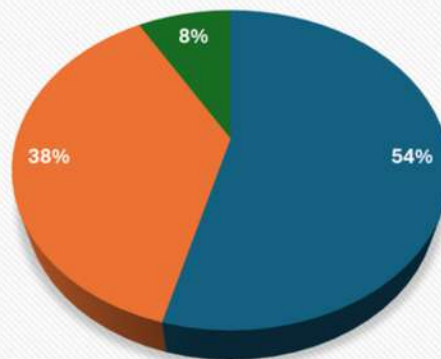


Do you think the chairperson facilitated the proceedings well?



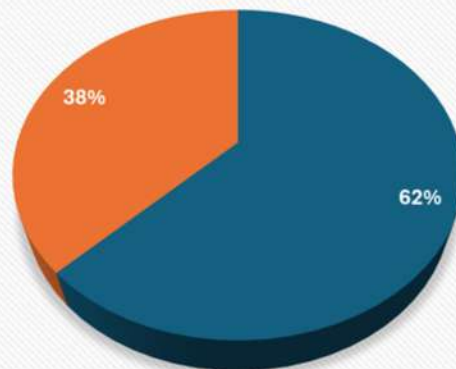
■ Yes

Did the content of the programme meet your expectations?



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree ■ Disagree

Was the content of the conference sessions appropriate and informative?



■ Strongly agree ■ Agree

ISSUES ADDRESSED AT THE CONFERENCE

01

REGULATORY TIGHTENING & ENFORCEMENT

02

STRENGTHENING AML/CFT THROUGH SHARED FORENSIC COLLABORATION

03

GEOPOLITICAL AND REGULATORY SHIFTS SHAPING AML

04

FROM RISK INTELLIGENCE TO ADAPTIVE CONTROLS

05

SEVEN PILLARS OF A COMPLETE AML SYSTEM

06

MOVING BEYOND ALERTS TO DISRUPT FINANCIAL CRIME

07

DATA PRIVACY IN AML STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMMES

08

THE FUTURE OF COMPLIANCE: CLM, TRANSACTION MONITORING & AI AGENTS

09

THE CONVERGENCE OF FRAUD AND AML (FRAML)

10

CUSTOMER DUE DILIGENCE: IDENTIFICATION, VERIFICATION & RISK ASSESSMENT

11

CRYPTO ASSETS: CONTROLS, RISKS & REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

12

KEY AML CHALLENGES IN THE PAYMENTS LANDSCAPE

13

POSITIVE-BIAS REGULATION OF CROSS-BORDER CAPITAL FLOWS

14

AML RISK AND CONTROLS IN FINTECHS AND NON-BANKS

15

TERRORIST FINANCING: KEY MEASURES AND RISK AREAS

16

COMBATING ORGANISED CRIME IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

• **Adv. Jan Augustyn**

Manager Supervision & Enforcement, Financial Intelligence Centre

• **Pieter Alberts**

Senior Operations Manager: Investigative Support Service, Financial Intelligence Centre

• **Charmian Simmons**

Principal Strategic Advisor, Symphony AI

• **Nicola Eschenburg**

EMEA AML Strategy Leader, Nice Actimize

• **Rakhee Dullabh**

Director - Technology and Data Privacy, ENS

• **Rahul Pagare**

Co-Founder & Head of Middle East & Africa, Zigram

• **Dirk Findeisen**

Managing Director, msg Rethink Compliance

• **Jessie Johaar**

Associate, Deneys

• **Deon Griessel**

Director, Werkmans

• **Johan Hetzel**

Global Head: Compliance & Anti-Money Laundering, Luno

• **Lize van Schoor**

Senior Legal and Policy Advisor, Financial Intelligence Centre

• **Neil D’Rosario**

VP: Buyside Product, Fenargo

PANEL DISCUSSION SPEAKERS

PANEL DISCUSSION: Impact of geopolitical changes and regulatory shifts on anti-money laundering

- **Lerato Lamola**
Partner, Webber Wentzel
- **Kathy Nicolaou-Manias**
Programme Director, International Economic Partnership Programme
- **Patricia Zvarayi**
Senior Analyst for Financial Institutions, GCR Ratings
- **Kevin West**
Senior Managing Director: Forensic & Litigation Consulting, FTI Consulting

PANEL DISCUSSION: Convergence of fraud and AML (FRAML)

- **Kgothatso Mahlangu**
Head of Fraud Operations Management, African Bank
- **Ursula Pearson-Williams**
Head: Fraud Intelligence, Payinc
- **Francois Combrinck**
Financial Crime Technology Specialist & CEO, Frame AML
- **Davina Myburgh**
Senior Director: Fraud & Emerging Markets, Transunion
- **Andrew Keightley-Smith**
Senior Associate: Forensics, ENS
- **Graham Pampel**
Manager: Risk Advisory, Deloitte
- **Wesley Thebenare**
Head of Product: Risk, Lexis Nexis South Africa

PANEL DISCUSSION: Key AML challenges in the payments landscape

- **Angus Brown**
Chief Executive Officer, Minit Money
- **Kate Barnes**
Payments Head, FirstRand Bank
- **Nadiah Maharaj**
COO FSR Platform and Payments, Firstrand Bank
- **Shaun de Villiers**
Head: Operations & Compliance, Treasury One
- **James Saunders**
Founder & Chief Technology Officer, RelyComply

PANEL DISCUSSION: Challenges of combatting organised crime in southern Africa

- **Carina Coetzee**
Senior State Prosecutor, National Prosecuting Authority
- **Steven Powell**
Head: Forensics Department, ENS
- **Lucinda Steenkamp**
Senior Legal Advisor: Corporate Legal and Policy Support, Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC)
- **Willem Els**
Senior Training Coordinator and Senior Researcher in the ENACT programme, Institute for Security Studies

DELEGATE PROFILE

All in all, over 80 companies participated in the conference.

Altogether 38% came from the main banks. Last year it was 40%. As last year the participation was not only centred around departments dealing with AML, but also risk, compliance and audit.

Good support was also received from insurance companies and regulatory bodies.

67% indicated that they are either from middle management and top management, which indicates a strong contingent of decision makers at the event.

70% said they are dealing with AML more than 10 years, while 28% said more than 5 year. This is a good sign again.

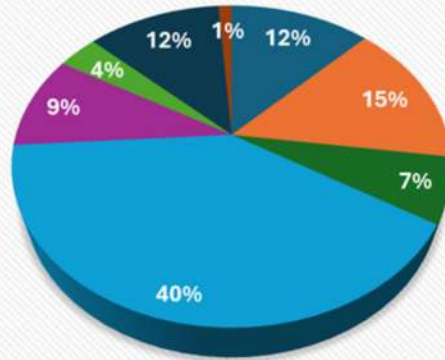
This means that the seniority level of attendees was quite high.

The programme is compiled with high level topics and although there is a perception that entry level workforce members will benefit by attending, it is not the case.

Most delegates registered because they found the topics particularly engaging, while others highlighted the high-calibre speaker lineup as their primary motivation for attending.

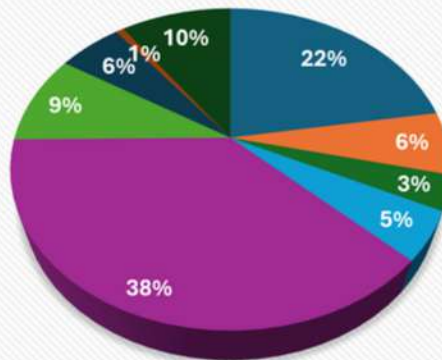


Delegate breakdown: AML & Financial Crime Conference 2025



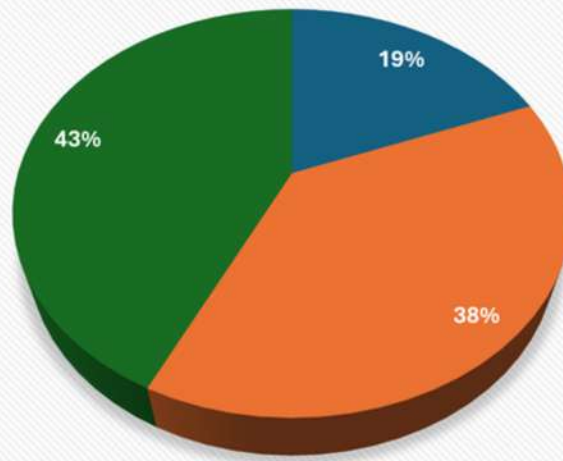
■ SADC
■ Other
■ Service providers
■ Main banks
■ Insurance
■ Investments
■ Regulators
■ Small banks

Delegate breakdown: AML & Financial Crime Conference 2026



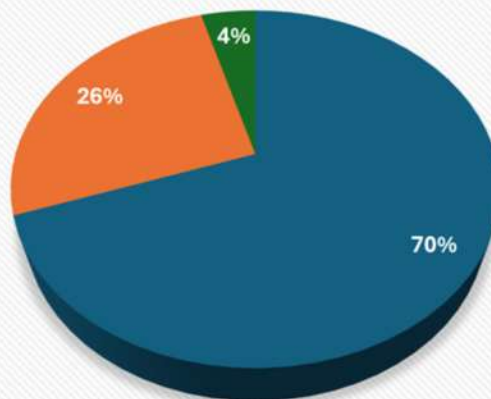
■ Regulators
■ Insurance
■ Legal
■ Investment
■ Main banks
■ Other
■ SADC
■ Small banks
■ Service providers

What is your level of seniority?



■ Top management ■ Middle management ■ AML/compliance officer

How many years are you dealing with anti-money laundering or compliance?



■ More than 10 years ■ More than 5 years ■ Recently started

DELEGATE COMMENTS

Compliments (Tell us what you liked most about the conference?)

- Great insights on evolving trends, regulatory updates and thought-provoking discussions on the strategic use of AI in compliance – **Jodie Marques, FirstRand**
- The food was great and the speakers were brilliant. Topics were relevant and the programme has evolved – **Adrianne Alberts, Standard Bank**
- Thank you once again for hosting such a professional and well-organised conference. It was a pleasure to be part of the event, and we sincerely appreciate all the effort that went into making it a success. The quality of the programme, speakers and overall organisation was excellent. – **Lizette Sander, Bateleur Software**
- I've heard nothing but good things about the conference. – **Rakhee Massey, Head of EMEA Marketing, Nice Actimize**
- Great topics and well planned. Speakers were knowledgeable and shared great insights and learnings – **Jessica Naidoo, World Remit**
- Very well organised conference, great round of speakers, very insightful – **Jenica Gezels, Snapscan**
- Highlights were insights on evolving trends, regulatory updates and thought-provoking discussions on the strategic use of AI in compliance – **Jodie Marques, First Rand**
- The whole event was well organised. Big up to the lovely team – **Mankgong Nchabeleng, IDC**
- As a fourth time attendee, I thoroughly enjoyed attending the conference – **Avitha Sukhraj, First Rand**
- The mix of speakers from various areas within the AML space with their different perspectives on topics, was refreshing – **Vumande Mjanyelwa, Co-operative Computing**
- Speakers were well selected, the host was very quick on her feet to allow relevant questions – **Victoria Ntsana, Financial Intelligence Centre**
- It was a very informative conference – **Mbali Ndlovu, Motus Mobility Solutions**
- MC was brilliant – **Nosipho Mukwaraya, Motus Mobility Solutions**
- This is the third time I have attended the AML Conference. And each year it is better – **Tanya Dhamini, Nedbank**
- The conference was very well organised and had informed speakers. I liked how the audience engaged and was afforded opportunities to ask questions – **Siyanda Dindi, Nedbank**
- I really enjoyed the conference, thank you for a great speaker/panel line up of industry experts and seasoned professionals. – **Lebo Monakhisis, CIPC**
- Thank you once again for hosting the AML & Financial Crime Conference. It was a valuable event, and I appreciated the opportunity to attend. – **Bonisiwe Mandiwana, Mozn**
- Thank you for a successful two days at the AML & FinCrime Conference, and congratulations on the 11th annual edition of the event. The team thoroughly enjoyed the conference and felt they had a number of valuable conversations with key accounts and personas. Overall they felt the event was well represented across the region, and it was clear to see that the hard work and preparation from your team in the lead-up paid off – **Laragh Hoey, Fenargo**

- Exceptional speakers were selected for the conference – **Marcia Chiloane, Nedbank Corporate Investment Banking**
- Great conference and speakers. Everything was great – **Yondela Maduneni, Financial Intelligence Centre**
- Conference was well organised – **Mfundo Xoko, Momentum**
- Good speakers from the industry. Panel discussions were good – **Varushka Mothilal, First Rand**
- Well prepared speakers and interesting topics – **Tshepiso Mogudi, First Rand**
- Interactive panel discussion and the Q&A segment were the best. Splendid – **Vincent Kambanga, Insurance Council of Zimbabwe**
- I have enjoyed seeing familiar faces and greeting to meet new people in the AML space – **Yolanda Silva, Financial Intelligence Centre**
- Well organised with friendly staff. Cocktail party was nice. Great panel discussions and good presenters overall – **Collin Maphutha, Standard Bank**
- Quality of speakers and topics were high – **Pieter Rossouw, Gatekeeping Consulting**
- Excellently organised, amazing topics and speakers – **Lucinda Steenkamp, CIPC**
- Speaker line-up was excellent. For a professional who is more on the regulatory side of AML/CFT, it was eye opening to listen to presentations how AI can be implemented to combat ML and TF – **Lebogang Monaknisis, CIPC**
- Panel discussions were great. Noel and Lize were amazing – **Cari du Buisson, Nedbank**
- The crypto topic was good and informative – **Michael Mpiti, Nedbank**
- It was my first time attending the conference and loved how informative the panel discussion was. The topics were thought provoking and forward thinking. Love everything about the conference – **Katleho Maseko, First Rand**
- Professionalism on point. Keep it up – **Calvin Ramakulukusha, Standard Bank**
- Time management was good. Networking was good. Knowledgeable speakers – **Kathleen Ramothan, Standard bank**
- Excellent information shared by speakers – **Funiswa Mthethwa, Standard bank**
- Well-structured and well managed. Well done! – **Fadheelah Hunter, First Rand**
- The panels were very informative, it was interesting to see the panels engaging in the different topics – **Basetsana Mashamba, CIPC**
- Time management, networking and knowledgeable – **Kathleen Ramouthan, Standard Bank**
- Very informative and relative to the current financial crime landscape plus not too many vendors trying to just sell products, but rather practical use cases and implementation scenarios – **Chad Brown, Standard Bank**
- Day 2 conference was a lot more informative than day 1 programme – **Samantha Lupton, Nedbank**
- The panellists and speakers presented well. They revealed a genuine understanding of the topic – **Mokokole Lesito, OM Bank**
- Panel discussions are more interesting – **Hlamulo Mathonsi, FirstRand**
- It was my first time attending a conference, and I loved how informative the panel discussions were. The topics were thought-provoking and forward thinking. Loved everything about the conference – **Katleho Maseko, FirstRand**
- Congratulations on another well-organised conference. We greatly appreciate the effort that went into making it a success and look forward to an even bigger and better event next year. – **Pieter Alberts, Financial Intelligence Centre**

Complaints (Tell us what you liked least about the conference?)

- The tables are not compatible on the edges – **Nicole Henderson, Westbrooke**
- Can speakers have more time? Sponsor speakers take up bulk of the time– **Christo Bruwer, Nedbank**
- The team and lunch breaks feel a little rushed due to trying to network – **Chad Brown, Standard Bank**
- Didn't enjoy day 1 of the conference. Too much time was allocated to the sponsors to sell products – 4 sessions. In addition, bathroom facilities were not cleaned adequately– **Samantha Lupton, Nedbank**
- The constant focus spent on the value of information sharing between financial institutions – **Xolani Ngwabeni, Nedbank**
- Due to time constraints, some speakers were rushed and that took away the quality of what was presented – **Charese Geldenhuys, FNB**
- I do wish you would supply better halaal options – **Jenna Pypers, FirstRand**
- Too little time for questions. Possibly the programme is too full – Pieter Rossouw, Gatekeeping Consulting
- Need to make coffee available throughout the day – **Zaida Harneker, Werksmans**
- Too many topics of discussion were focused on selling a product on day 1 – **Varushka Mothilal, FNB**



SPONSORSHIP SUPPORT & NETWORKING

Sponsorship plays an important role in the success of our annual AML Conference.

It also provides enhanced credibility as we are partnering with top class AML brands. It definitely better the attendee experience.

We have again maintained the support of Nice Actimize, msg Compliance and Symphony AI, which is a huge plus for us. They are all well-known global brands.

As usual our interaction with sponsor was very good. Some sponsor indicated that they met good quality contacts.

After 11 years, we are still marketing this event as the go to event for any company dealing with AML and compliance in southern Africa. It increases market position and brand visibility. Service providers are exposed to an audience of high calibre (all delegates pay to attend).

In addition it creates a platform for thought leadership.

Over the years the successful partnerships with sponsors makes us proud and we can call all our sponsors friends.

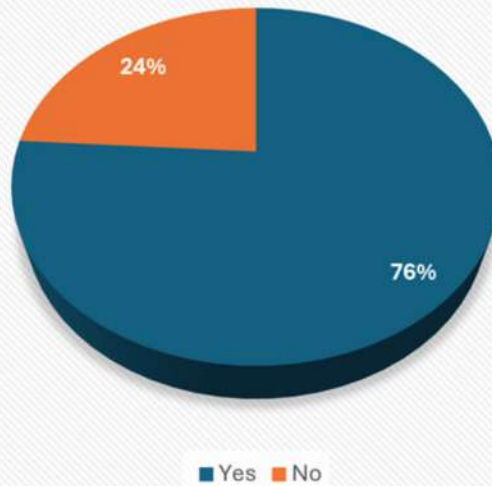
Conferences not only serve as platforms for sharing expertise and learning from others, but it also create invaluable networking opportunities.

As we have mentioned before, conferences is not only about the programme and speakers anymore. It became a meeting place for individuals sharing the same professional interests and goals.

Feedback from delegates once again indicated that they enjoyed the networking opportunities. We repeated the cocktail party after the first day's programme, which was again supported well by delegates. This was mainly done to give sponsors better exposure and to increase their credibility amongst future contacts.



Do you think the sponsors contributed to the conference?



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

We take feedback seriously and use information from both from the questionnaire and our own personal contact with speakers, sponsors, delegates and exhibitors to find out what worked and what failed. We are open to criticism as it gives us an opportunity to continuously up our game.

Here are some of the key achievements and recommendations:

- Attendance was still high, but little bit lower than last year. Altogether 240 people attended.
- The quality of attendees was high.
- Feedback was excellent.
- Satisfaction rates were very high – above 90%.
- Our biggest supporters were once again the main banks in South Africa. Attendance of smaller banks and non-bank financial institutions has improved, but it is still weak.
- The support from regulatory bodies were very good, however the SA Reserve Bank did not attend, which was a disappointment to us.
- We repeated the mistake of too many sponsors presenting. Next year ONLY gold and silver sponsors will be allowed on the main speaker panel.
- We succeeded in cutting down on online attendance.
- Sponsors must be encouraged to market their participation in a pro-active way.
- Our exhibition booths were designed a lot better this year.