

Curriculum Vitae: Crispin Franklyn Sonn

Date of Birth: 3 February 1968

Citizenship and Residency: South African

Executive summary

Crispin Sonn is a seasoned executive leader with extensive experience across a range of industries, including finance, technology, property development, and renewable energy. Currently, he serves as a Director and Partner at Gamiro Holdings, where he plays a pivotal role in driving investments across nine diverse companies employing over 3,500 people. His strategic acumen and transformative leadership have been instrumental in steering businesses towards growth and operational excellence, making him a prominent figure in South Africa's corporate landscape.

Professional experience

Director and Partner Gamiro Holdings | Current

- Leads investment initiatives across nine companies within sectors including contact centres, technology, events, property development, and renewable energy.
- Oversees a workforce of approximately 3 500 employees across the group, contributing to strategic growth and diversification.

Chairperson of the Old Mutual Foundation - Old Mutual | Until December 2020

- Guided the philanthropic arm of Old Mutual, focusing on Enterprise Development, Skills Development, Education, and Staff Volunteerism.
- Restructured the Foundation to better execute its mandate and impact.

Founding Chairperson: FoodForward SA

(Previously Foodbank South Africa) | Since 2009

- Pioneered efforts in food security, redistributing food to approximately 920,000 people daily across South Africa.
- Continues to lead FoodForward SA's Board of Members, influencing policy and strategic direction.

Chairperson of the Board of Directors: Inclusivity Solutions | Since 2014

- Oversees the development of micro-insurance solutions across Africa, collaborating with mobile network operators in multiple countries.

Non-Executive Director: Accelerate Cape Town | Until 2019

- Advocated for the interests of organized and large businesses in Cape Town and the Western Cape.

Managing Director: Retail Mass Cluster of Business

Old Mutual | 2011 - July 2014

- Managed the Retail Mass Cluster, including Group Schemes, iWyze, Old Mutual Finance, and Foundation businesses.
- Drove service and product innovation for the retail mass markets across Southern Africa.
- Oversaw a workforce of 7,200 employees.
- Spearheaded the introduction of short-term insurance and lending products through partnerships and internal finance solutions.

Executive Director: Corporate Affairs, Marketing and Communication

Old Mutual Emerging Markets | 2008 - 2011

- Directed corporate affairs, marketing, and communications across regions including Africa, Colombia, Mexico, India, and China.
- Chaired the Transformation Committee, advancing Old Mutual from a Level 4 to Level 2 BEE contributor within a year.
- Led the rebranding efforts with the new brand tagline, “Do Great Things.”
- Integrated Marketing, Communications, and Corporate Affairs into a cohesive unit with standardized operating procedures.

Chairperson of the Klein Karoo Kunstefees and Kunste Onbeperk

- Leads initiatives in the arts and cultural sectors, fostering community engagement and support for the arts.

Chairperson of the Council of Bishops Diocesan College, Rondebosch, Cape Town | Since 2022

- Provides leadership and guidance to one of South Africa’s most prestigious educational institutions.

Chairperson of the Board - Western Province Professional Rugby (Pty) Ltd | December 2021 - May 2023

- Steers the board in overseeing the operations and strategic growth of Western Province Professional Rugby.

Previous experience

Executive General Manager - Old Mutual Personal Financial Advice and Private Wealth

- Focused on improving sales, product persistence, and reducing channel costs.
- Enhanced productivity and optimised shared services across the retail business

General Manager: Operations - Old Mutual Personal Finance | Joined in 2003

- Managed Finance, Marketing, HR, Product Integration, and IT, with a focus on reducing operational costs and restructuring the business for efficiency.
- Successfully implemented a new operating structure and sales support model in 2005.

Non-Executive Director - CapeSpan (Pty) Ltd

- Contributed to the strategic direction of South Africa's largest fresh-produce sourcing and distribution company, with a global trade network spanning 36 countries.

CEO - Family-owned businesses | Prior to 2003

- Led and managed a series of family-owned businesses, driving growth and sustainability.

Education

- Advanced Management Program - Harvard Business School | 2013
- Honours Degree in Business and Administration - Stellenbosch University | 1992
- Bachelor of Arts in Social Science and Humanities - University of Cape Town | 1990

Awards and recognition

- Cape Times Editors Award for Business Enterprise | 1998
- Christo Wiese Medal of Entrepreneurship - Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns | 2000
- Jaycee Award for Most Outstanding Young Person in the Western Cape | 2001

Board memberships and advisory roles

- Council Member - University of Cape Town | 9 years (prior to the 2024 SU Council term)
- Board of Advisors Member - Graduate School of Business (GSB), University of Cape Town | 10 years
- Participated in the GSB's EQUIS accreditation process, ensuring global standards of excellence.

Personal interests

- Family: Married to Lisa, with four children.
- Hobbies: Regular cyclist, runner, and avid rugby supporter.