Payments Conference 2026

South African Reserve Bank

REWIRING PAYMENTS:

Open. Connected. Inclusive.

20 and 21 October 2026



Payments Conference 2026



South African Reserve Bank

Programme

Day 1: The world is changing and this is where we stand

20 October 2026

Time	Session	Speakers
08:00–09:00	Registration and networking	
09:00–09:10	Welcome and opening remarks	**Nozipho Tshabalala** – Programme Director
09:10–09:30	**Opening keynote:** Catalysing change in payments, together	**Lesetja Kganyago** – Governor, South African Reserve Bank
09:30–10:30	**In conversation:** Building inclusive payment infrastructure through access, competition and adoption	**Harish Natarajan** – Practice Manager: Financial Inclusion and Infrastructure, World Bank (virtual) **Pradeep Maharaj** – Executive Director: Payments Ecosystem Modernisation Programme, South African Reserve Bank **Ana María Prieto Ariza** – Head: Payment Systems, Central Bank of Colombia **Chris Hamilton** – Former Chief Executive Officer: BankservAfrica (now PayInc); Payments Expert and Founder: Hamilton Platform **Moderator:** **Brendan Pearce** – Chief Executive Officer, FinMark Trust
10:30–11:00	**Tea break**	
11:00–12:00	**Special feature:** Digital payments and cash in an inclusive economy	**Lucy Nshuti Mbabazi** – Managing Director, Better Than Cash Alliance **Cowhan Govender** – Group Head: Personal Banking, Standard Bank Group **Dr Balakrishnan Mahadevan** – Former Senior Leadership at India's Payment Utility, and author **Moderator:** **Nomcebo Hadebe** – Head: Africa Regional Office, Alliance for Financial Inclusion
12:00–13:00	**Panel engagement:** Modernising core infrastructure to strengthen settlement efficiency and system resilience	**Michael Jones** – Director of Payment Operations, Bank of England (virtual) **Thomas Lammer** – Deputy Head of Secretariat: Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures, Bank for International Settlements **Paolo Bramini** – Deputy Head: Payment Systems Directorate, Banca d'Italia **Moderator:** **Nomwelase Skenjana** – Divisional Head: Domestic and Regional Settlement Services, South African Reserve Bank

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Time	Session	Speakers
13:00–14:00	**Lunch**	
14:00–15:00	**The African perspective:** Advancing Africa's payments integration through cross-border and multi-rail connectivity	**Timothy Wafula** – Deputy Director: Banking and Payment Services, Central Bank of Kenya **Clarence Blay** – Head of Payment Systems, Bank of Ghana **Irene Venter** – Deputy Director: Digital Payments Oversight, Licensing and Policy, Bank of Namibia **Moderator:** **Tim Masela** – Former Head: National Payment System Department, South African Reserve Bank
15:00–16:00	**Panel engagement:** Strengthening financial integrity in payments through risk and fraud prevention	**Dorethee Delort** – Senior Financial Sector Specialist, World Bank (virtual) **Henock Shilongo** – Head: Product and Ecosystem Activation, Instant Payments Namibia, Bank of Namibia **Chipo Mushwana** – Divisional Executive: Emerging Payments, Nedbank Group **Moderator:** **David Fowkes** – Adviser to the Governors, South African Reserve Bank
16:00–17:00	**Leadership insight:** The future of tech and the impact on payments	**Cheslyn Jacobs** – Chief Executive Officer, GoTyme Bank
17:00	**Cocktail function – networking**	

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Day 2: The system South Africa chooses to build

21 October 2026

Time	Session	Speakers
08:30–09:00	**Arrival and tea/coffee**	
09:00–09:05	Welcome and opening	**Nozipho Tshabalala** – Programme Director
09:05–09:20	**Opening address:** Shaping the next frontier of payments: Integration, innovation and resilience	**Rashad Cassim** – Deputy Governor, South African Reserve Bank
09:20–10:20	**Panel engagement:** Exploring the future of money through tokenisation, digital assets and new payment models	**Federico Grinberg** – Chief of Staff (Assistant to the Director), Monetary and Capital Markets Department, International Monetary Fund **Shelley Havemann** – Head of Payments, VALR **Stafford Masie** – Executive Director, Africa Bitcoin Corporation **Moderator:** **Lyle Horsley** – Divisional Head: Fintech, South African Reserve Bank
10:20–10:50	**Tea break**	
10:50–11:50	**Expert talk:** Payments in a fragmenting world: Sovereignty, strategy and system design	**Denis Beau** – Deputy Governor, Banque de France (virtual) **Naomi Takeda** – Assistant Director: Monetary and Capital Markets Department, International Monetary Fund **Moderator:** **Nozipho Tshabalala** – Programme Director
11:50–12:50	**Panel engagement:** Strengthening trust through resilience, AI and financial integrity	**Fernando Lozano Vazquez** – Policy Analyst, Financial Action Task Force (virtual) **Clement Kapalu** – Director General, Financial Intelligence Unit Zambia **Bongi Kunene** – Managing Director, Banking Association South Africa **Moderator:** **Annah Masoga** – Divisional Head: Policy, Regulation and Licencing, South African Reserve Bank

Payments Conference 2026



South African Reserve Bank

Programme

Day 2: The system South Africa chooses to build

21 October 2026

Time	Session	Speakers
12:50–13:50	**Lunch**	
13:50–14:30	**In conversation:** Lessons from BRICS: Insights from India	**Ghita Erling** – Independent Adviser **Dr Balakrishnan Mahadevan** – Former Senior Leadership at India's Payment Utility, and author
14:30–15:30	**Panel engagement:** Building a modern, inclusive and resilient payments system for South Africa	**Tumi Sefolo** – Executive: Currency Cluster, South African Reserve Bank **Douglas Arner** – Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance/University of Hong Kong/ Queen Mary University of London **Israel Skosana** – Chief Product and Scheme Officer, PayInc **Mellanie de Jager** – Programme Delivery Director: Payments Ecosystem Modernisation Programme, South African Reserve Bank **Moderator:** **Chantal Maritz** – Partner, PwC South Africa
15:30–15:45	**Tea break – networking**	
15:45–16:45	**Closing panel:** Defining the future role of central banks in strengthening mandate, legitimacy and ecosystem trust	**Fundi Tshazibana** – Deputy Governor, South African Reserve Bank **Farzana Badat** – Deputy Commissioner, Financial Sector Conduct Authority **Stephen Linnell** – Chief Executive Officer, PayInc **Moderator:** **Arif Ismail** – Head: National Payment System Department, South African Reserve Bank
16:45–17:00	Closing remarks	**Nozipho Tshabalala** – Programme Director