Rewiring of South Africa's financial industry sector

Dr Thabo Msimango

ORCID: 0000-0001-8724-0717


I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance to the findings of the research that was conducted by Van van Heijden (2005), there are a number of businesses that have been very successful in terms of their commercial endeavours. It is possible that the number of people who are successful despite the fact that they need to reevaluate their strategic management is outnumbered by the number of people who are uninformed that they should be doing so.

For a variety of different reasons, a very small percentage of significant projects really end up being successfully carried out. This is something that may be determined from the lessons learned from prior events by looking back on those experiences. These variables may include the engagement of an unreasonable number of persons as well as the design of a technique that takes up an excessive amount of time. Additionally, these factors may include an unreasonable length of time. There is a lack of clearly defined accountability and obligation, which is one of the other problems that limit execution. Poor coordination, inadequate communication, patchy information sharing, insufficient organisational structures, and a culture that does not adapt effectively to change are all among the additional challenges. A culture that does not readily adjust to new circumstances presents still another obstacle.

Your chances of carrying out the plan effectively are undoubtedly increased by being aware of the dangers that are involved, but this does not represent a guarantee that the plan will be successful. When navigating the process, it is extremely helpful for managers to have a model or a set of principles to look back on and refer to as they make decisions. There is no question that if management gets access to a road map, their chances of effectively putting the company's plan into action will increase.

The financial services industry drives the South African economy and affects the daily lives of every individual. People rely on financial services to facilitate their day-to-day economic transactions, save for their retirement or other long-term financial goals, and protect themselves from unforeseen events.

South Africa's financial industry is crucial to the country's macroeconomic growth, job creation, infrastructure development, and long-term prosperity. The enormous consequences of a poorly regulated financial services sector, however, were brought into sharp focus during the global financial crisis. Financial institutions in South Africa were able to weather the crisis, but the knock-on effect of employment losses was severe (National Treasury, 2011).

II. THE FINANCIAL SERVICE CONDUCT AUTHORITY

The Financial Services Board (FSB) was superseded on April 1, 2018 by the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA), which was established by the Financial Sector Regulation Act 9 of 2017 (the FSR Act). The FSCA will take the position of the FSB as a specialist market conduct organization.

As an example, the Financial Sector Conduct Authority (FSCA) emerged from the Financial Stability Board's (FSB) protective cocoon in the aftermath of the 1998 Financial Crisis. It did so without employing a duplicate copy, despite the fact that many academics dispute this claim to some extent, and it mirrored...
itself flawlessly from the way the Financial Services Authority (FSA) in the UK and Australia did so. It made a few minor changes to address the difficulties it was having in obtaining financial success in its commercial endeavours.

The objective of this paper, however, is not to focus on the aforementioned dispensation; rather, it is to highlight the best possible direction that it might and should have taken given the horrific treatment that the majority of black people were forced to endure throughout apartheid. The goal of this paper is not to discuss the aforementioned dispensation. This treatment was given over a period of several years. The goal of this article is to emphasise the most promising course that it might have taken and should have taken based on the facts offered here.

This was the actual situation in South Africa at the time. The surrounding conditions will continue to change after a decision is taken, and it is difficult to forecast what the outcome would have been if the decision had been made differently.

It is difficult to judge the soundness of a choice just based on its results; rather, the decision should be evaluated totally based on the technique used to obtain that conclusion. It is essential to plan ahead of time.

The recommendations of the Van der Host Committee, which had been assigned by the government with the responsibility of safeguarding users of financial services within their jurisdiction, led to the establishment of the Financial Services Board (FSB) in 1991. In response to the suggestions made by the Van der Host Committee, the Financial Stability Board was founded (Msimango, 2020).

The Financial Services Board (FSB) is in charge of regulating financial markets and institutions, along with brokerage operations, insurance businesses, and investment managers. Also included within its scope are companies in the insurance industry. The South African Reserve Bank, which also serves as the central bank of the country, is in responsibility of ensuring that the country's various laws pertaining to commercial banking are followed and put into practice.

When it came into effect in September of 2004, the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (2002: Online) broadened the scope of the Financial Stability Board's (FSB) authority such that it encompassed aspects of market behaviour in the banking industry. The Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act (2002: Online) was just recently passed when this took place. This act was one of a number of additional measures that had the effect of widening and reinforcing the FSB's duties, and this act was one of them.

According to the mission statement of the Financial Services Board, the primary purpose of the institution is to "promote and maintain a sound financial investment environment in South Africa (Msimango, 2020)." This mission outlines the primary goal that the organisation strives to accomplish. On the other hand, it has implemented a strategy that is analogous to that of the United Kingdom and Australia. This strategy was developed as a result of a one-time compliance issue that was rectified to the satisfaction of the regulator rather than the customer; nonetheless, its primary objective is to guarantee that customers are treated fairly at all times.

III. UK FINANCIAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Between the years 2001 and 2013, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) was a quasi-judicial agency that oversaw the regulation of the financial services sector in the United Kingdom (Kenton, 2022). It was first established in 1985 under the name of the Securities and Investments Board, but it is commonly referred to as the SIB. Even though it was entirely separate from the government, the Treasury was in charge of choosing the individuals who would serve on the board of directors of the organisation. It was set up as a limited liability company, and it derived all of its funding from the penalties that were levied against the financial services sector. In response to what was perceived to be a regulatory failure on the part of the banks during the global financial crisis that occurred between 2007 and 2008, the government of the United Kingdom made the decision to reorganise financial regulation and get rid of the Financial Services Authority (FSA). This decision was made as a result of the global financial crisis. In light of the fact that the crisis emerged between the years 2007 and 2008, this decision was arrived at in light of those two years.

IV. AUSTRALIAN REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The primary elements of Australia's financial regulatory framework were put into effect on July 1, 1998, in response to the recommendations of the Financial System Inquiry (also known as the Wallis Committee). The framework is made up of three agencies, (Sanders et al., 2023) each of which is responsible for a different set of specific functional responsibilities. These agencies are the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), which is in charge of prudential supervision; the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), which is in charge of market supervision; and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), which is in charge of consumer protection.

V. COMPLIANCE CHALLENGES

The legislative and regulatory roadblocks are getting harder and harder to surmount. When looking at people with lesser incomes, the total amount of this percentage increase will almost probably be larger. The vast majority of people living in low-income brackets in South Africa conduct the majority of their transactions with cash. This is the case despite the fact that by doing so they put themselves at danger of having their money stolen from them or lost altogether.

When compared to the vast majority of other developing nations, the rate of financial inclusion in South Africa is remarkably consistent across gender lines and geographic regions. This sets South Africa apart from other countries.

Due to a variety of barriers, persons with low incomes and those who are considered to be poor in South Africa are unable to participate in the formal financial system of the country at the present time. The difficulties associated with compliance and legislation are growing.

Two of the most significant factors that lead to financial institutions submitting insurance claims are their concerns regarding compliance and the impact of greater regulatory action.
Changes in the industry's statutory and regulatory framework are ranked as the sector's third most significant risk.

Over the course of the previous decade, the amount of work required to maintain regulatory compliance at financial institutions substantially rose, placing a great burden on their shoulders. The increased willingness of shareholders, lawmakers, and prosecutors to hold banks and senior management accountable for their activities has led to more strict regulatory enforcement. This is the outcome of the increased scrutiny that has been placed on the banking industry. Because of this, the regulatory system has become more strict. At the same time, they are subject to an increasing number of laws and regulations in a variety of fields, such as sanctions, whistleblowing, data protection, and cyber security legislation. The number of laws and regulations that apply to them is growing. To put it another way, they are becoming subject to an ever-expanding body of legislation and limitations.

VI. BUSINESS SUCCESS’S CHALLENGE

According to Van van Heijden (2005), in periods of rapid change, large, well-managed organisations are especially vulnerable to strategic failures resulting from a perception crisis. This risk grows as the rate of change accelerates. He describes this as being so entrapped in an outdated assumption that one is unable to recognise an emerging new reality. As is commonly stated, there is always a fundamental requirement to find the optimal balance in order to ensure efficient execution, which is contingent on effectively managing change.

According to a 2011 report by the National Treasury, the South African financial industry is characterised by excessive and opaque fees and, in some instances, discriminatory client treatment. There is a lack of suitable and affordable options for savers, especially the impoverished and the vulnerable. It is not always easy for debtors to acquire credit, especially for smaller and medium-sized businesses.

Olisa argues that Financial services, telecommunications, hospitals, and the motor industry have faced significant strategic transformation and change challenges for decades, resulting in a lack of programme structure, behaviour, and operation. These catastrophes were frequently caused by ineffective leadership, the absence of guiding coalitions, and the lack of a distinct vision, mission, and objective. A top-down approach consisted of imposing the change on the workforce rather than providing executive leadership and clear direction regarding the change.

Lynch (2015:8&31) described strategic management as the identification of an organisation's purpose and the creation of plans and actions to achieve that purpose. The objective of a prescriptive strategy has been defined in advance, and the strategy’s primary components have been formulated prior to its implementation. In contrast, an emergent perspective (Lynch, 2015:9–34) defines strategy as identifying market opportunities, experimenting, and gradually acquiring a competitive advantage. The ultimate goal of an emergent strategy is unclear, and its components are developed as the strategy progresses.

VII. POVERTY AND INEQUALITY

This remains a substantial impediment in South Africa, as well as a serious socioeconomic one. According to Mahlako (2022), South Africa is the world's most racially stratified nation, with the richest 10% holding more than 80% of the country's wealth.

According to the findings of a study on equality that was carried out by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRco) (2018), South Africa is the most unequal country in every single region in the whole world. As part of its initiative to eliminate poverty and inequality throughout the nation, the government has implemented a variety of programmes, including redistributive fiscal measures, in recent years.

According to research conducted by Statistics South Africa in 2017, it was discovered that 30.4% of individuals residing in South Africa were living below the poverty line and lacked any means to keep their financial life afloat.

Poor economic development, high unemployment, high costs for basic goods, low investment rates, and an over reliance on high-interest credit loans on the side of many South Africans affected these poverty patterns.

VIII. PROBLEMS SPECIFIC TO BLACK PEOPLE

South Africa is a country of well-known potential and risk (Ikdal, 2017). Despite having the largest economy on the African continent, the country confronts significant obstacles, such as high unemployment, an insufficient educational system, and extensive economic inequality. In a recent Boston Consulting Group examination, South Africa received 149 out of a possible 162 points for its capacity to convert prosperity into happiness. This grade reflects the country's difficulty in converting its vast natural resources and other assets into public benefits.

Even though many South Africans have bank accounts, only a tiny percentage of those accounts are routinely used for financial transactions. This indicates that a substantial number of South Africans lack access to contemporary financial services. Despite this, actual access to financial services remains limited, as evidenced by low account utilisation rates. According to an investigation conducted by Fin-scope in 2021, forty percent of inactive accounts were owned by individuals from low-income households (FSCA, 2021).

South Africa may appear to have a more agreeable culture than other developing countries, but first impressions are seldom accurate. In South Africa, for example, over 70% of the population possesses a transaction account. The proportion of South Africa is greater than that of Brazil, Chile, India, Mexico, or Russia. In addition, South Africa has a higher adoption rate of life insurance than significantly wealthy nations such as Italy and Spain.

The fact that South Africa is still primarily a cash-based society is obscured by the country's relatively high adoption rate of transaction accounts. The majority of South Africans keep their money in transaction accounts. Many of them spend their entire pay check, welfare check, or other public or social payment almost immediately after receiving it, whereas only 24% make more than three withdrawals, transfers, or card swipes per month. Many of them promptly misuse their entire income, welfare check, or another form of public or social assistance.
After receiving it, the vast majority of recipients begin using it almost immediately. Sixty percent or more of all transactions are conducted in cash. At lower income levels, this sum is almost certainly significantly higher. The majority of South Africans with modest incomes we encountered paid for their purchases in cash. Even though their money was at risk of being misplaced or stolen, this was true.

In contrast to the overwhelming majority of other developing countries, South Africa's rates of financial inclusion are extremely consistent across gender and geographical lines. This is one of the many benefits of the country. This is especially true for rural citizens.

According to the National Treasury (2017), the legacy of racism in South Africa hinders millions of people's economic participation. This is a concern due to South Africa's status as a developing nation. As a result, the unemployment, poverty, and inequality rates in the United States are at all-time highs.

Even though considerable progress has been made in reforming the financial sector, a substantial amount of work remains. Increase access to financial services by making them more affordable, ensure employment equity at the highest levels of management, provide procurement opportunities, and reform ownership to improve market conduct.

South Africa's banking fees are four times that of countries like Germany, Australia, and India. In South Africa, it is therefore discouraged for the impoverished and those with modest incomes to open bank accounts. Additionally, the majority of financial consumers in South Africa lament that their banked funds frequently depreciate due to the numerous transaction fees levied by banks.

IX. COMMON CAUSES OF FAILED STRATEGIC CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION

There is compelling evidence that the majority of project failures are the result of executive leadership failure and a lack of programme management standards. The stated issues are caused by behaviour and structure rather than technology, systems, processes, and standards. It is difficult to witness what many businesses are going through nowadays. Market factors, technological advancements, and the changing dynamics of a global economy provide substantial challenges to automakers, the news media, the entertainment sector, banks, telecoms, hospitals, big financial institutions, and other businesses. Some of these organisations are battling for existence due to a lack of focus on transformation and change strategies and vision.

According to the author, who cites Kotter (1995:Online), more than 100 organisations have attempted to remodel themselves into much superior rivals during the last decade. Large firms (Ford) and tiny businesses (Landmark Communications) have been among them, as have organisations located in the United States (General Motors) and overseas (British Airways), corporations on their knees (Eastern Airlines) and profitable corporations (Bristol-Myers Squibb). Total quality management, reengineering, proper sizing, restructuring, culture transformation, and turnaround are some of the terms used to describe these activities. However, the primary purpose in nearly every case has been the same: to make fundamental changes in how business is conducted in order to assist cope with a new, more demanding market climate.

X. SUCCESSFUL MODEL

According to Levy et al. (2021) research, the Constitution of this country mandates that the government guarantee that these services will be progressively made available to all citizens. However, this must be accomplished in light of the constraints imposed by the currently available resources. The example of South Africa suggests that a positive trajectory can be maintained so long as influential groups and the populace as a whole are optimistic that inequality and injustice from the past are being addressed. This is supported by the fact that South Africa has maintained a positive trajectory for a relatively lengthy time period.

According to the Department of International Development (DFID, 2015), cited by the OECD (2015), the difference that good governance, or particularly poor governance, makes in the lives of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people is profound: the inability of government institutions to prevent conflict, provide basic security, or provide basic services can have life-threatening consequences; a lack of opportunity can prevent generations of poor families from escaping poverty.

In highly developed nations, the relationship between government power and private capital is governed by formal laws that are widely acknowledged by the public (OECD, 2015). These rules are primarily indirect and impersonal, and the interactions are not especially intimate. These arrangements, on the other hand, are the consequence of a lengthy history of socioeconomic instability and political conflict. They are difficult to replicate, and it is possible that they are not an effective, short-term option for bolstering investment in underdeveloped nations. Therefore, the article argues that administrators in the South African Financial Industry sector require multiple competencies. However, this must be pertinent to the specific requirements of the South African financial industry service environment.

XI. THE PRESENCE OF RELIABLE GUIDES FOSTERS A SENSE OF BELONGING.

It is critical that South Africa strengthens public sector governance and effectiveness. The Financial Industry Sector management must increase revenues in order to support a meaningful commitment to upward mobility and to address the rigidities that impede mobility. It must rekindle a feeling of justice and opportunity. Leadership must take the risk of forming new coalitions capable of overpowering the vested interests that hinder inclusive change. Failure to resolve the aforementioned distributional cliff has been a significant vulnerability in South Africa's growth trajectory (Levy et al., 2021). During the first fifteen years of democracy, the elimination of racial barriers and the country's rapid economic development obscured the fact that the economy was not designed to permit widespread upward mobility.

As the low-hanging fruit of the opportunity provided by the abolition of apartheid's racial privileges disappeared, however, the economic prospects of those who were not favoured became
It has been shown (Naidoo, 2010; Cronje & Willem, 2010; McLennan & Seale, 2010) that successful and sustainable performance in any organisation is linked to its effective leadership approaches and management practises, as well as the capabilities and capacity of individuals and teams. Naidoo and Xolile (2011) discuss the need for an integrated leadership approach and cite these studies in their discussion. They argue that an integrated leadership approach will make the public sector more viable in the future.

Organisations must maintain a positive mindset. One strategy for achieving this objective would be to collaborate in order to execute strategic operations more efficiently and promptly. This provides the company with a competitive advantage. In order to support a genuine commitment to upward mobility and address the rigidities that impede mobility, the country's revenue must increase. It is essential to cultivate an entirely rewired and revitalised sense of fairness and opportunity in the rewired financial services industry that encompasses everyone.

According to Naidoo and Xolile (2011), the leadership of the Financial Industry Sector needs to be willing to take risks to establish new coalitions that are capable of challenging entrenched interests that block inclusive change. Naidoo and Xolile (2011) issue this warning. Can the authorities in South Africa and other countries where a comparable disenchantment has taken root conjure up the fortitude to face this challenge?

The ability to adapt to changing conditions is required for transformation, according to Steyn and Schmikl (2020:68). Leaders of change must understand human behaviour and be able to construct organisational structures to enable that behaviour. Everything must be based on a clearly established strategy for the organisation's growth. Corporate synergies can also be achieved by leveraging links across several business divisions to provide customers with lower pricing, more convenience, or solutions that are more comprehensive than those offered by specialised competitors (Kaplan and Norton, 2016).

A risk-averse culture is becoming increasingly prevalent among leaders, with the result that only short-term outcomes of the company can be predicted. Managing and leading in a culture of risk and uncertainty that is new and still emerging within organisational structures requires more fundamental adjustments than ever before. According to PMI (2013:40), the current state of the corporate world needs leaders who are capable of detecting changes in their environments and reacting to those changes with actions that are targeted, quick, and adaptable.

XII. CONCLUSION

Individuals with limited financial means are often excluded from participating in financial inclusion initiatives due to their inability to accumulate funds for crucial socioeconomic necessities such as healthcare and education. The deleterious impact of this phenomenon on the advancement of socioeconomic progress and the elimination of poverty is noteworthy. The underlying reason for this phenomenon is the exclusion of individuals with meagre financial resources or restricted incomes from engaging in the financial realm.

Individuals who earn meagre incomes and possess limited financial assets face significant challenges in accumulating funds for critical socioeconomic necessities, such as healthcare and education. This constitutes the primary causative factor behind the observed phenomenon. This phenomenon can be attributed to the financial constraints experienced by individuals with modest incomes or those employed in occupations that offer limited remuneration, which impede their capacity to accumulate savings or discharge extant liabilities. Consequently, a mounting peril exists whereby individuals of limited means residing in South Africa, as well as those perceived to be destitute, may encounter rejection when attempting to gain entry into the nation's financial infrastructure. Consequently, the acquisition of even rudimentary financial amenities and goods has transmuted into a prodigious and protracted undertaking.

The novel architectural designs must exhibit a remarkable degree of adaptability and flexibility. As per the findings of Van den Berg et al. (2018), to effectively realise the benefits and thereby accomplish strategic objectives, it is imperative for the organisation to initially discern the drivers of benefits. The framework's tools can be employed by managers at various echelons of the organisation, ranging from regional sales managers to group CEOs, to propel the performance of their respective units. The utilisation of strategy maps, as proposed by Kaplan and Norton (2016), provides managers with a means to construct and articulate the causal relationships that underlie their unit's value proposition. In turn, the implementation and evaluation of the unit's strategy can be effectively facilitated through the use of a scorecard, which serves as a potent tool in this regard.

The benefits drivers are propelled by the wants and desires of the consumer. During the era of Industrial 4.0, CEOs must uphold steadfast and well-established mindsets. By doing so, their enterprises are more likely to spearhead transformative advancements in this epochal period of Industrial 4.0 (Cugno et al., 2021). As per Olisa's (2022) citation of Steyn and Semolic's (2017) work, it is imperative to impart and enhance the cognitive abilities of organisations to enable effective project and programme management amidst this era of radical metamorphosis. South Africa must undertake measures to enhance and revamp its governance framework and the operational efficacy of its financial industry, to cater to the welfare of individuals whose identities remain undisclosed.

The implementation of Industry 4.0 has the potential to bring about significant transformations in various domains, including work, operations, and communities, as noted by Steyn and Semolic (2022) and Abdelmajied (2022). Notwithstanding, the author posits that there exists a singular certainty: Industry 4.0 has indeed manifested, and as such, those in positions of leadership must be primed to acclimatise accordingly. It is patentely evident that traditional modalities of task execution are no longer commensurate with the demands of contemporary times. Those who evince a wholehearted willingness to embrace the manifold prospects that Industry 4.0 proffers shall undoubtedly emerge triumphant.

As posited by Semolic and Steyn (2017), the current state of the global economy is characterised by a shift away from the previous era of globalisation and Industry 3.0 business environment. During this period, the primary focus was on the optimisation and automation of an organisation's resources. The degree of competitiveness exhibited by an Industry 4.0 enterprise...
is contingent upon not only the ingenuity, streamlining, and competitiveness of its assets, but also the collective inventiveness of its inter-organizational value chain and the complementary technologies, products, services, and systems provided by its partners.

The purpose of this manuscript is to introduce a cohesive leadership approach aimed at enhancing the extant leadership strategy within the South African Financial Industry domain. Given the current circumstances, it would be prudent for the South African government to adopt a comprehensive leadership approach. The formulation of this approach ought to duly consider the obstacles that confront executives in the public sector, in addition to the contextual milieu and discourses. All commercial endeavours and operations must be bolstered by sophisticated and streamlined digital communication technologies and systems. The interconnectivity of contemporary enterprises is becoming more and more intertwined with both regional and global virtual value chains. For optimal success, all stakeholders must exhibit a shared commitment towards fostering industry growth and propelling cycles of innovative investment.

The author posits that leadership has the potential to effectuate substantial change provided that it is accompanied by a suitable mindset, alacrity, ambitious objectives, and unwavering attentiveness. The financial industry constitutes a pivotal element of the economy and catalyses the growth and development of all other sectors. For the nation to progress and attain its objectives, a substantial overhaul of the financial industry is imperative. Moreover, to foster a culture of innovation within the financial sector, it is imperative that leaders across all echelons of the industry, with particular emphasis on upper management, adopt a more progressive mindset.

As per the scholarly work of Naidoo and Xolile (2011), the hallmark of effective leadership encompasses a multitude of factors, including but not limited to superior quality of goods and services, individual growth and advancement, amplified levels of contentment, clear direction and foresight, inventive and imaginative thinking, and a stimulating and dynamic organisational milieu. It is imperative for leaders to not only assume the role of leading but also to establish a conducive atmosphere by taking into account the factors delineated by Van Wart (2003). The notion of a collective identity and shared purpose not only enhances an entity’s efficacy but also facilitates the attainment of its objectives. The leaders of South Africa are confronted with the formidable task of appeasing the multifarious stakeholders, in light of the nation’s heterogeneous populace and democratic ethos. This entails discerning the extent of completed tasks and the outstanding objectives yet to be fulfilled.

The presence of a compelling objective has the potential to elevate the spirits, productivity, and drive of employees, while also catalysing transformative action. Moreover, it has the potential to foster a milieu of resourcefulness and assurance within the realm of finance. The financial sector plays a crucial role in the economy, serving as a driving force that exerts a significant impact on all other industries. For the nation to progress and attain its objectives, a substantial overhaul of the financial industry is imperative. Given the vast scope of the industry, it has the ability, resources, and motivation to swiftly adopt a forward-thinking perspective, ensuring a symbiotic approach to implementing innovative and long-lasting foundational strategies that will address the current challenges confronting the country.

What is the ultimate goal of your vocational endeavours? Is your impetus for participating in work primarily driven by financial remuneration, familial responsibility, personal pleasure, or do you experience a more profound sense of gratification from the constructive impact you are making through your vocational pursuits? An individual may contemplate analogous inquiries pertaining to the interrelationships among all aspects of their being. The correlation between overlapping domains is positively correlated with the probability of exhibiting one’s core values, irrespective of the circumstances or role assumed. Strive to achieve a harmonious balance among the diverse aspects of your being.

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AUTHORS

First Author – Dr Thabo Msimango