

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

The Strategists

REIMAGINING STRATEGY FORMULATION & INNOVATION



www.thestrategists.co.za
www.averachia.com

OVERVIEW

Abdullah Verachia is a sought-after global speaker, advisor, practice strategist and innovator. He is adept at fusing practice, education, insight, empathy and experience together to add significant value at all levels. Abdullah has served in senior executive and board roles, crafted competitive strategies for leading companies and governments around the world, lectured at some of the top-ranked business schools globally and also built and run a number of successful companies.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Selected for the Brightest Young Minds in South Africa
- Awarded Harvard Business School Dean's Scholarship for leadership and innovation
- Recipient of the 2019, 2020 and 2021 GIBS Excellence in Teaching Award for executive education and academic programmes, as voted by staff and students
- Presented with the 15-year Excellence Award for contributions made towards and development of the Model United Nations
- Made an honorary member of the Golden Key International Honour Society



POSITIONS HELD

CURRENT

- CEO: The Strategists
- Senior Faculty: GIBS
- Programme Director: Harvard Senior Executive Programme for Africa
- Co-Founder: Digicars (a disruptor in the motor industry)

CURRENT BOARD & ADVISORY

- Member: The Institute of Directors South Africa
- Chairperson of the Board: Education Africa
- Board: General Electric South Africa
- Board: Clarke and Sons (including Twizza)
- Social Advisory Panel: Sibanye-Stillwater
- Trustee: Londvolota General Electric Supplier Development Trust
- Member: University of Pretoria Think Tank on the Future of Work

PREVIOUS

- Executive: International at Rand Merchant Bank
- FirstRand India Management Board
- Co-Founder and Partner: Frontier Advisory (acquired by Deloitte in 2015)

PREVIOUS BOARD & ADVISORY

- Advisory Board: Gauteng Innovation
- Task Team: Gauteng Vision 2055
- Brains Trust: Youth Employment Service
- Board: Penryn College Council
- Appointed by the Minister of Trade and Industry as a judge for the South African Premier Business Awards
- Chairperson: South African Model United Nations
- Advisor: Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's Development Centre for the 2011 edition of the African Economic Outlook

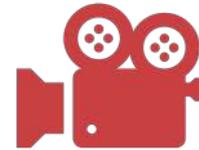
ENDORSEMENTS



Over **12,500** senior leaders in business on LinkedIn, a global social media brand



Over **70 keynote** talks per year to leading companies & executives



Active **media** presence



Over **80 lectures** annually, to managers & executives in over **20 industries**



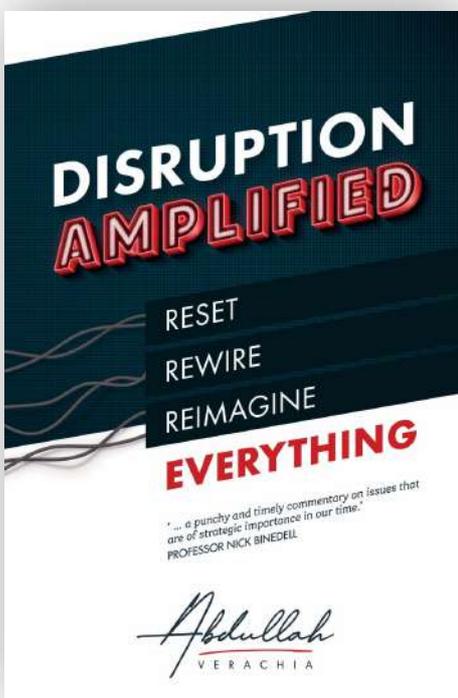
Best selling book **Disruption Amplified**



Strategy & Innovation engagement across sectors at a senior level

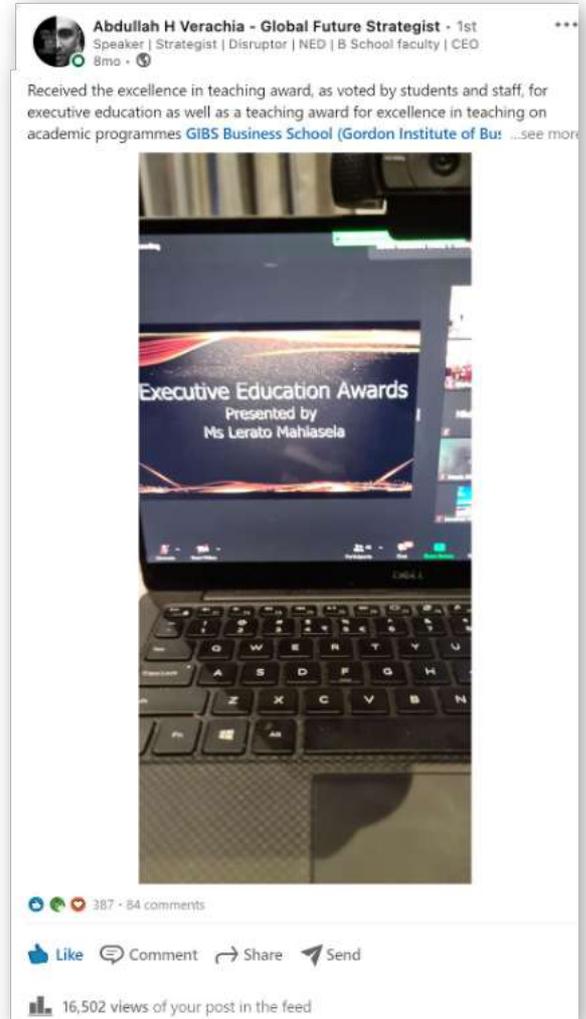


Podcast & LinkedIn Live channel launching in July



Abdullah is a widely respected & sought after **voice** in the business sector

SIGNIFICANT EYEBALLS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



ABDULLAH'S ENDORSEMENT VALUE

1

Global brand and trust as practice strategist, thought leader & disruptor.

2

Global reach with daily interactions with leaders & managers through strategy interventions, keynote talks & lectures.

3

Trust & market reputation.

4

Active social media brand with a targeted audience.

5

Launch of new LinkedIn Live & YouTube channels.

NEWS FLASHES

The Media Online

Ties that bind: Exploring India South Africa relations

Abdullah Verachia, faculty member at the Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) welcomes everyone to the event. Consul General Dr KJ ...
13 Jul 2017



News24

WATCH: 'The horror show' – The implications of Covid-19 on the economy

Faculty professor Adrian Saville is joined in conversation with lecturer in strategy Abdullah Verachia in a LinkedIn session, in which they ...
17 Mar 2020



News24

ICT will drive the economy but first we need solid foundations

Abdullah Verachia. In a world where technology continues to change our lives on every conceivable level, remaining up to date and relevant as ...
08 Nov 2017



BusinessLIVE

New Frontier says portfolio may be undervalued

ABDULLAH VERACHIA AND ADRIAN SAVILLE: We have a chance to ensure inevitable change is for the better. The pandemic will shift the ...
22 Jul 2020



Moneyweb

The balancing act

Abdullah Verachia, global strategist and senior faculty member at the University of Pretoria's Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS), ...
3 weeks ago



GLOBAL STRATEGIST

Abdullah serves as CEO of The Strategists, where he plays an active role in assisting companies and organisations to craft competitive future strategies and build innovation functions. He is renowned for his expertise in building ambidextrous organisations. With significant expertise in strategy, innovation and disruption, Abdullah facilitates numerous high-level strategy sessions and breakaways for companies and governments, and is an authoritative speaker on the world stage regarding these matters.

He has led strategy, innovation and consulting assignments in an array of sectors including banking, mining, finance, asset management, construction, insurance, legal, audit, FMCG, telecoms, retail and automotive. Abdullah and his team have consulted and guided more than 200 global multinationals firms (listed and non-listed) to build disruptive, ambidextrous organisations, with a focus on building success in the now and the next.

Abdullah led the team that crafted the 2017-2030 Gauteng Economic Development Strategy in association with the province's Premier and Executive Council. He also led the 2017 Mauritius Competitiveness foresight strategy and continues to play a vital role on the Oxford University and Gates Foundation programme on South Africa in a Digital Age.



GLOBAL SPEAKER

Having presented and consulted in more than 60 cities globally, Abdullah has been recognised as a leading speaker, disruptor, strategist and thought leader on disruption and the interplay between strategy and disruptive innovation. His experience makes him a sought-after global speaker in these areas.

In December 2017, Abdullah received a standing ovation at the acclaimed TEDx Euston in London. Abdullah was also invited to be the keynote speaker at the 2018 World Speech Day. Having built numerous disruptive and truly innovative companies, Abdullah is able to fuse experience, insight, strategy and expertise into a beautiful and relevant tapestry that has application to companies and organisations around the world.



Abdullah has delivered presentations around the world to leading listed firms, international organisations and governments. He has captivated audiences in Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, Mumbai, Bangalore, Dubai, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, Accra, Dar Es Salaam, Nairobi, Frankfurt, Munich, Copenhagen, Madrid, Paris, London and New York. Some of the world's leading institutions, including the School of Public and International Affairs at Columbia University in New York, TEDx Euston, the OECD Paris and Casa Asia in Madrid, are among the acclaimed bodies that have invited Abdullah to present at their events.

EDUCATION

Abdullah is a PhD candidate with a focus on strategy and dynamic capabilities.

He is a Harvard Business School alumnus, having completed the acclaimed Harvard Business School General Management Program, and also holds a Bachelors in Law and a Masters in Management (cum laude).

Abdullah has also completed a number of executive programmes namely:

- Strategy and shared value, with Professor Michael Porter's Institute of Strategy and Competitiveness at Harvard Business School.
- Executive programme at University of Oxford's Said Business School
- Executive programme on broadcast technology at Columbia Business School

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Abdullah is a regular media commentator for a number of global news outlets and publications including CNBC Africa, BBC, CCTV, CNN, SABC, MoneyWeb, Business Day, SAFM, 702, Al Jazeera, New York Times, Financial Times, Reuters and the Sunday Times.



Abdullah is the author of 'Disruption Amplified: Reset, Rewire, Reimagine Everything', which was published in 2020. He also co-authored a book on the commercial corridor between Africa and India, and contributed to 'The Book Every Business Owner Must Read'.

Abdullah has authored a number of academic journal articles and business school case studies.

BOARD & EXECUTIVE ADVISOR

Abdullah sits on several boards and also serves as an EXCO advisor to leading companies. Companies and organisations have found Abdullah's unique blend of legal, business, emerging market, digital, strategy, innovation, academic and human capital experience to add significant value to their organisations. Many companies have gone on to build successful, long-term partnerships with Abdullah as a trusted EXCO advisor.

An ability to advise and guide senior leaders and teams to build disruptive and ambidextrous organisations sets Abdullah apart and has solidified his reputation as a globally sought-after advisor and strategist.



ADVISORY ROLE:
BOARDS & EXCO

Abdullah
VERACHIA

CONTACT US

www.thestrategists.co.za

www.averachia.com

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/abdullah-h-verachia-global-future-strategist/>

“Abdullah, you have served as a guide, a mirror and a voice on our board. We are truly indebted to you”.

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