

Willem Jacobs

Director



Willem Jacobs is a Director in our Corporate & Commercial practice. Willem led the Corporate & Commercial team for 11 years before stepping down to focus on the day to day running of his practice. He also serves on the firm's Executive, Fincom and Africom Committees. As evidenced through market recognition, Willem is regarded as one of South Africa's foremost M&A specialists. Willem's areas of expertise are corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, private equity, black economic empowerment transactions, and structuring and restructuring of businesses.

About Willem

Credentials

Education

- BCom Law, LLB, Dip (Insolvency), HDip (Tax), University of Johannesburg
- Year of admission as an attorney: 1997
- Registered with the Legal Practice Council

Experience

• Retailability

Advised Retailability, a group with over 400 retail stores in Southern Africa, in respect of its acquisition from Edcon (in business rescue) of approximately 130 Edgars retail stores in South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, eSwatini and Lesotho, including extensive due diligence (2020/2021).

• Actis and Harborough

Advised Actis and Harborough on the disposal by Harborough of Ghana Home Loans Bank – circa GH¢161,202,078 (2020).

• Tiso Blackstar

Advised Tiso Blackstar on the disposal of Gallo Music Investments and Indigenous Film Distribution to Arena (Lebashe Investments) - circa ZAR 75 million (2020).

Contact Willem

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[Willem on LinkedIn](#)

Expertise

[Corporate & Commercial Law](#)

[Consumer Goods, Services & Retail](#)

Corporate Governance

Listings, Stock Exchanges & Public Documents

Mergers & Acquisitions

[Mining & Minerals](#)

[Private Equity](#)

Location

Johannesburg

Language

English

- **Lereko Metier Capital Growth Fund II,**

Advised Lereko Metier Capital Growth Fund II, LMCGF II Parallel Trust, Metier Capital Growth Fund II Partnership, MCGF II Investments and RMB Ventures in a complex set of transactions in terms of which certain existing shareholders in Vox Telecoms exited and certain new shareholders were introduced through a combination of share repurchases, new subscriptions and the conversion of preference shares into ordinary shares – circa ZAR 2.5 billion (2019).

- **Metier Capital Growth Fund II**

Advised Metier Capital Growth Fund II and Rand Merchant Bank in the recapitalisation and restructuring of the shareholding structure of Vox Holdings in partnership with management (2019)

- **Lereko Metier Sustainable Capital Fund Trust**

Advised Lereko Metier Sustainable Capital Fund Trust on its acquisition of an interest in Tecroveer Holdings and Becon Watertech (2019)

- **Tiso Blackstar Group**

Advised Tiso Blackstar Group in respect of Lebashe's acquisition of Tiso Blackstar's media, broadcasting and content businesses in South Africa, Ghana, Nigeria and Kenya – circa US\$71 million (2019)

- **Séché Environnement**

Advised Séché Environnement in its take private acquisition of 100% of the issued share capital of South African waste management company, Interwaste Holdings - circa US\$40 million (2019)

- **Metier Capital Growth Fund II**

Advised Metier Capital Growth Fund II and MCGF II Investments, in their take private acquisition of 100% of the issued share capital of South African packaging company, Master Plastics - circa US\$18.9 million (2018).

- **YeboYethu**

Advised YeboYethu, the main broad-based black economic empowerment (BEE) shareholder of Vodacom, in a BEE deal, in terms of which the current shareholders in Vodacom's 2008 BEE deal reinvested their equity for a further 10 years and geared that equity to acquire greater exposure to Vodacom - circa US\$1.2 billion (2018)

- **Investec Bank**

Advised Investec Bank on the disposal of its private equity portfolio (some 16 investments) to a special purpose vehicle, Investec Equity Partners, which is owned by Investec Bank, management and several strategic investors - circa ZAR7.6 billion (2017)

- **Liquid Telecoms**

Advised Liquid Telecoms on its acquisition of Neotel - circa ZAR6.55 billion (2016)

- **Industrial Partnership Investments**

Advised Industrial Partnership Investments on its disposal to TSB Sugar Holdings of a 76% stake in RCL Foods, and the subsequent acquisition by RCL Foods from TSB Sugar Holdings of 100% of the issued ordinary shares in TSB Sugar RSA and TSB Sugar International (2014)

- **Tiso Group**

Advised Tiso Group on its merger with Kagiso Trust Investments to form Kagiso Tiso Holdings, a major black economic empowerment investment holding company with a net asset value of approximately ZAR8 billion (2009).

News

"Business as usual" at the CIPC amidst ongoing COVID-19 pandemic

In its latest notice, the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) announced that, as of 1 December 2020, there will be a re-commencement of companies and close corporations' regulatory compliance obligations and that the interim measures granted during the lockdown period would be discontinued.

[Can companies trade recklessly during COVID-19?](#)

In response to the declaration by President Cyril Ramaphosa of a national state of disaster on 15 March 2020, the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) issued Practice Notice 1 of 2020 (Practice Note) on 24 March 2020, in terms of which CIPC temporarily suspended some of the powers afforded to it under section 22 of the Companies Act 71 of 2008 (Companies Act). The Practice Note lapses 60 days after the national state of disaster has been lifted.

[Are you compliant? CIPC Compliance Checklist now mandatory](#)

During the latter part of 2019, the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) issued Notice 52, announcing a CIPC Compliance Checklist (Checklist) requiring companies to declare their compliance status in relation to specific sections of the Companies Act when submitting their Annual Return. As of 1 January 2020, the Checklist is mandatory and is applicable to all companies, including private companies, public companies, state-owned companies, non-profit companies and personal liability companies. At present, close corporations are not required to complete the Checklist.

[Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr says that there are opportunities for investors who take a longer-term view](#)

While the deal pipeline has slowed in the past year, business law firm Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr (CDH) says that, notwithstanding the current volatility, there are opportunities for investors who take a longer-term view.

[Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr says that there are opportunities for investors who take a longer-term view](#)

[All news by Willem Jacobs →](#)

Recognition

- Chambers Global 2014–2024 ranked Willem Jacobs in Band 2 for corporate/M&A and in 2022–2024 ranked him in Band 3 for corporate/M&A: private equity.
- The Legal 500 EMEA 2024 recommended Willem in the 'Hall of Fame' for commercial, corporate/M&A.
- The Legal 500 EMEA 2016–2023 recommended him as a leading individual for commercial, corporate/M&A. Willem was also recommended in 2012–2016 for mining.
- IFLR1000 2018–2023 recommended Willem as a highly regarded lawyer for M&A, and private equity.