



**Dr Vuyisile Phehane** is the Executive: Bio-Economy at South Africa's national Technology Innovation Agency (TIA) and has a demonstrated history of working in technology development, innovation and commercialisation of Intellectual Property (IP). Vuyisile completed his doctoral studies at the University of Cape Town in the Department of Chemical Pathology, studying the inhibition of malarial purine salvage enzymes.

His working career started at SA Bioproducts, in Durban South Africa, responsible for bioprocess development of amino acid production technologies. He later joined the Council for Scientific and Industrial Relations (CSIR), as Process Scientist in the Biocatalysis Group of the Biotechnology Division. His work at the CSIR sparked an interest in technology management, in particular the commercialisation of R&D outcomes. His stay at the Innovation Fund as Program Manager, and then Commercialisation Manager developed his skills in the evaluation, funding, management and commercialisation of technology, which was pursued further at BioPAD (an initiative of the then Department of Science and Technology) as Industrial Biotechnology and Bioprocessing Portfolio Manager.

Previously, he served as the Senior Manager: Commercialisation at the Agricultural Research Council (ARC) of South Africa. He has served on the boards of a number of start-up companies, and has a keen interest in the licensing of technologies as well as the creation of viable spin-outs based on solid R&D outcomes.