

MERWE VILJOEN

Merwe completed his article at Ernst & Young in Johannesburg and successfully sat for the Chartered Accountants Admission Exam in 1987. He subsequently did a Masters Degree in Tax at the University of Pretoria.

After two years with the South African Revenue Services, Merwe started an auditing firm known as Viljoen and Nieuwoudt, which later changed its name to Ashton Chartered Accountants. He acted as managing partner until 2004. He then ventured into private business.

Merwe built up a substantial commercial client base during his sixteen years as auditor. He conducted the audit. He has been involved in various capacities with companies listed on the Johannesburg Securities Exchange, as well as a spectrum of other businesses such as:

- the King Pie franchise, of which he was a founder member and was instrumental in establishing the brand in the United Kingdom;
- Zongoene Lodge;
- Tinga Private Game Lodge in the Kruger National Park, a five star lodge and rated as one of the top five star lodges in Mpumalanga, South Africa;
- the South African micro-finance industry through Credit U as an initial shareholder and director of this listed company;
- structuring finance for different projects in Africa through the Development Bank of Southern Africa, and commercial banks, including the first phase of toll roads operated by Intertoll and build by Group Five;

Merwe has his own private investment fund which owns several companies, including:

- Tixsa an on-line ticket sales organisation;
- various commercial and residential property developments in South Africa, including Centurion Close, Ashton House, Lynnwood Manor, and a few other developments; He also acted as auditor of several Body Corporates.
- He is a shareholder and director in First Global Group Wealth a prominent asset manager for select high net worth individuals and First Global Consulting, an asset manager for Corporate Clients;
- Delavia Estate, and Soleil-Au-Cap Estate, wine farms in Stellenbosch.
- Mattfin Group, a company rendering financial services and house bonds to the individual market with offices in Gauteng and Western Cape.
- Jodibex, a company which rents out big plant and Machinery.
- GLOBAL TOWERS, a Cell-phone Tower Company which focuses on constructing cell towers to rent out to the various cell phone operators.