



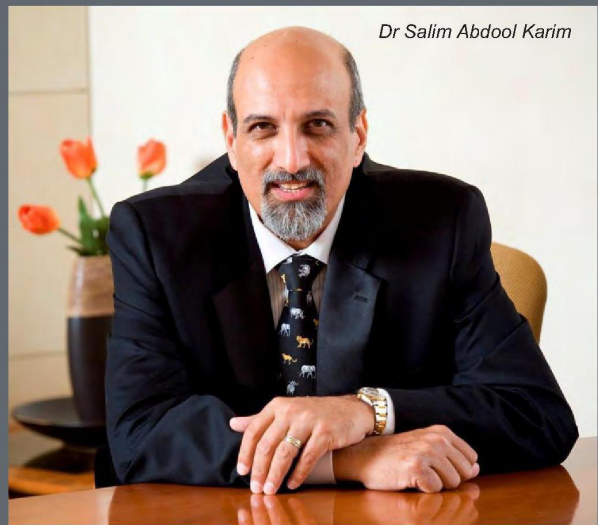
**Greg Blandford**  
*Managing Director at Rubicon Energy & E-Mobility*



**Mike Vincent**  
*Consulting Director, Automotive Deloitte Africa*



**Dr. Joost Kessels**,  
*Head of Technical Engineering at Volkswagen SA and Chairperson of NAAMSA's Electrical, Hybrid and Alternative Fuel Committee (IMG - 20210930)*



*Dr Salim Abdool Karim*

## **World-renowned epidemiologist headlines Chamber webinar on vaccination myths and truths**

The Nelson Mandela Bay Business Chamber hosted a webinar on the Myths and Truths on vaccinations on 20 October 2021, which was headlined by world-renowned South African epidemiologist Dr Salim Abdool Karim, a former Chairman of South Africa's Ministerial Advisory Committee on Covid-19, who unpacked myths and truths on vaccinations. At the onset of Covid-19, he became one of the leading figures nationally who articulated the intricacies of the virus and helped guide South Africa to manage the pandemic.

The webinar formed part of many interventions the Business Chamber is currently rolling out to educate and empower its members and the public on vaccinations. It also formed part of the debate on the importance of mass vaccinations to achieve herd immunity to ensure there are minimal infections and enable the reopening of the economy.

He said people unvaccinated people who became infected presented with a higher level of the virus and this posed a threat to immunocompromised people.

"Former US secretary of state Colin Powell does of Covid-19 complications, though he had received his two shots, because he had cancer. So vaccinated people are the greatest threat to these immunocompromised people," said Karim.

He said in Africa, the continent was still sitting at below 5% of people fully vaccinated.

"Some wealthier countries where most are already vaccinated are nevertheless stockpiling vaccines to deploy in the event of another wave, services by pharmaceutical companies happy to supply their established markets. While that stock in expiring, poorer countries are sitting with a massive shortfall."