



OFFICIAL PROFILES



The Honorable C.M. Lekaukau
*Executive Chairman of the Botswana
 Telecommunications Authority and
 the new Chairman of TRASA*

Chairman Lekaukau, the founding Executive Chairman of BTA, is an attorney of the Courts of Botswana. He obtained a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland in conjunction with Edinburgh University in 1973 and a Master of Laws degree from Columbia University, USA. Chairman Lekaukau's public service career includes serving as a Permanent Secretary. In 1996 he received the Presidential Order of Honour for his efficient and devoted service to Botswana. Chairman Lekaukau hosted the August meeting of TRASA in Gaborone, Botswana.



The Honorable Eddie Funde
The outgoing Chairman of TRASA

Mr. Funde, the former and first TRASA Chairman, is Deputy Chairman of SATRA, the South African Telecommunications Regulatory Authority. Mr. Funde holds a MSc in engineering from the Leningrad Polytechnical Institute. Prior to joining SATRA, Mr. Funde was facilitation portfolio director at the Independent Development Trust. He also was executive director of the South African Research and Development Trust (Sardet). Mr. Funde is a founding member and non-executive director and chairman of Funds for Community Development, a subsidiary of Sardet, which provides for economic development in historically disadvantaged areas.



The Honorable David Magang
*Minister of Works, Transport and
 Communications for Botswana*

Minister Magang has held the position of Minister of Works, Transport and Communications for Botswana since 1991. He also has served as Assistant Minister of Finance and Development Planning, State Counsel and Registrar of Companies and Governor of the African Development Bank. Minister Magang is a member of Parliament.



The Honorable Nkenke Nathaniel Kekana
Chairman, Portfolio Committee on
Communications, South African Parliament

Chairman Kekana has served as a Member of Parliament since 1994. He has served on the Communications Committee and became Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications on August 16, 1999. He is head of the ANC's Department of Information and Publicity in Gauteng, a member of the Provincial Executive Committee ANC Gauteng and a member of the National Executive Committee ANC Youth League. As Chairperson of the ANC Broadcasting and Film Study Group, Chairman Kekana was National Coordinator for the ANC Election Mobile Video Unit, a producer and researcher for documentaries aired on SABC and the BBC, and a Founding Member and National Executive Member of the South African Youth Congress. He has a diploma in computer programming (Globe) and a post graduate diploma in telecommunications and information policy (UNISA).



The Honorable Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri
Minister of Communications, South Africa

Dr. Matsepe-Casaburri became Minister of Communications on June 17, 1999. Prior to this appointment, she taught and worked for the United Nations Institute for Namibia in Lusaka, Zambia and was appointed Executive Director of the Education Development Trust in South Africa, where she was active in the education movement and in policy development in the fields of gender, education, economic development and local government. Dr. Matsepe-Casaburri was the first black woman to chair the South African Broadcasting Corporation. She was the first woman Premier of the Free State Province, and the first woman to be appointed to the Board of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Dr. Matsepe-Casaburri is Chairperson of the Board of SENTECH (Ltd), a member of the Board of Governors of the International Development Research Centre-Canada, a member of the Board of the Women's Development Foundation and a member of the Steering Committee of Public Broadcasters International (PBI).



The Honorable Nape Maepa
Chairman of the South African
Telecommunications Regulatory Authority
(SATRA)

Chairman Maepa obtained a B. Sc. electrical engineering degree from Purdue University, Indiana, USA and a M. Sc. electrical engineering degree from the University of Missouri, USA. He is a registered engineer in the USA and South Africa, and is a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. Before his appointment to SATRA, Chairman Maepa was managing director of Funds for Community Development, a subsidiary of the South African Research and Development Trust (Sardet), which provides for economic development in historically disadvantaged areas.



His Excellency Kobina A. Koomson
Ghanaian Ambassador to the
United States of America

Ambassador Koomson was appointed ambassador to the United States with concurrent accreditation to Mexico in October 1997. Prior to his diplomatic duties, he was President and Chief Executive Officer of Koomson Financial, a professional tax accounting and management consulting firm in Los Angeles, California. Before founding his firm, he worked as an Accounting Manager and Senior Cost and Financial Accountant for two Fortune 500 companies, Beatrice Foods and Genstar Corporation. Ambassador Koomson received a B.Sc. degree in Accounting and Management from the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. Between 1990 and 1997, Ambassador Koomson served on the boards of several non-profit organizations in the Los Angeles area, including the Ghana Development Fund and the Ghana Association of Southern California.



The Honorable John Mahama
Minister of Communications,
Republic of Ghana

Minister Mahama was appointed Minister of Communications in November 1998. From 1991 until 1996, he worked as the information, culture and research officer at the Japanese Embassy in Accra. In 1996, he moved to the Ghana country office of Plan International to serve as its international relations, sponsorship, communications, and grants manager. He attended the University of Ghana from 1978 to 1981, earning a degree in history. In 1986 he graduated from Ghana's School of Communications Studies with a postgraduate certificate in communications.



The Honorable J.K. Gyimah
Acting Director General of GNCA

Mr. Gyimah was appointed Acting Director General of the Ghana National Communications Authority in 1996. Prior to that, he served as the Telecommunications Advisor to the Authority. Between 1964 and 1996, Mr. Gyimah worked in various engineering positions with the Ghana Post & Telecommunications Corporation. Mr. Gyimah received a B.Sc. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Science and Technology, Kumasi, Ghana in 1962. He is a member of Ghana's Institution of Engineers.



Her Excellency Edith Ssempala
*Ugandan Ambassador to the
United States of America*

Ambassador Ssempala was appointed to her post in September 1996. Concurrently, she serves as Uganda's representative to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. From 1986 to 1996, she was Uganda's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden. Prior to her diplomatic duties, Ambassador Ssempala worked as the Quality Controller for Rifa Electronics Company in Stockholm, Sweden from 1981 to 1986. Ambassador Ssempala received a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from Patrice Lumumba University, Moscow, in 1979 and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Strategic and International Studies – Africa Program, Washington, D.C.



The Honorable John M. Nasasira, M.P.
*Minister of Works,
Housing and Communications,
Republic of Uganda*

Minister Nasasira became Minister of Works in July 1996 and has represented the Kazo Constituency of the Mbarara District in Parliament since 1989. His public service career includes serving as Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Works, and Presidential Advisor on Public Works. Minister Nasasira received his B. Sc. in Civil Engineering (Hona) in 1976, is a registered engineer in Uganda and a chartered engineer in the U.K. He holds memberships in the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers, the Institution of Engineers of Kenya and the Institution of Engineers (UK).



The Honorable A.M.S. Katahoire
*Chairman, Uganda Communications
Commission*

Dr. Katahoire is currently a member of the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology and has served as founding member of the Uganda National Bureau of Standards Council. He is a former President of the Uganda Institution of Professional Engineers. Dr. Katahoire has university teaching experience in the field of heavy current systems and technologies with Makerere University. He also headed their Department of Electrical Engineering before retiring into private practice. Dr. Katahoire has various publications based on academic research in these areas.