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**ADVOCATE Pansy tlakula**

**CANDIDATE for election to the committee on the elimination of racial discrimination (CERD) 2020-2024**



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**MAIN ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD RELEVANT TO THE MANDATE OF THE TREATY BODY CONCERNED**

During my tenure at the SAHRC, I was designated as the focal point for programmes and projects related to racism and racial discrimination. I participated in all the Commission’s national enquires on racism and racial discrimination which included racism in schools, in residences of selected universities and in the police service. I was also part of the team that adjudicated individual complaints of human rights violations. Since the Commission was established at the dawn of democracy, most of the complaints related to racism and racial discrimination. In 2000, the Chairperson of the Commission and I co convened the first National Conference on Racism in preparation for the 2001 WCAR, which I attended. I was part of the team that drafted the first National Action Plan on Racism. At the ACHPR, I participated in the examination of more than twenty state reports submitted in terms of the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and drafted concluding observations. In addition to adjudicating individual and interstate communications, I undertook promotional and fact-finding missions to several African countries. In 2016, I led the fact-finding mission to Burundi.

# **personal**

Name and first names: Tlakula, Faith Dikeledi Pansy

Date and place of birth: 12 June 1957, South Africa

Working languages: English

**present activities**

I am the current Chairperson of the Information Regulator of South Africa. The Regulator is a statutory body whose mandate is to promote and protect the right of access to information in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act and the right to privacy as it relates to data protection in terms of the Protection of Personal Information Act. It is independent and subject only to the Constitution of the Republic. The Regulator is accountable to the National Assembly. The five members of the Regulator are appointed by the President on recommendation of the National Assembly.

**MaiN Professional activities**

For the past 35 years I have occupied leadership positions in the public and private sectors and academic institutions nationally and in the region. These includes, Commissioner of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) (1995-2001), Chief Electoral Officer and Chairperson of the Electoral Commission (2002-2014), Commissioner and Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information of the African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR) (2005- 2017) and Chairperson of the Commission (2015-2017). These positions have equipped me with skills and experience in governance and organizational development. In the two years that the Regulator was established, my colleagues and I have already established governance frameworks and structures, adopted policies and established the organizational structure. I have extensive experience in the promotion and protection of human rights both nationally and in the region. My tenure at both the SAHRC and the ACHPR, which are both quasi-judicial bodies, has equipped me with skills to adjudicate complaints of human rights violations and to interact and communicate with elected public representatives and government officials at the highest level.

**educational background**

Board Leadership Programme (Certificate) - The Gordon Institute of Business Science, 2010

Honorary Doctorate in Legal Studies- Vaal University of Technology, 2006

LL.M. -Harvard University, 1989

LL.B. - University of the Witwatersrand, 1983

B.Proc. -University of the North (now University of Limpopo), 1981

**publications**

Throughout my career, I have written and delivered papers in many conferences, workshops and seminars nationally, on the African Continent and internationally on various aspects of human rights, including, the right to freedom of expression, the right to access to information and the rights of LGBTI community. In December 2018 I delivered a paper at a high-level working group meeting on mitigating the disruptive application of ICT on the electoral process in Africa which was convened by former President of Nigeria, President Obasanjo. These papers are usually published in the conference publications.