

## **Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba BSc. MBA. LLB.**

Hon. Bencher , Honorable Society of the Middle Temple

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Mmasekgoa Masire-Mwamba completes two terms, as the Deputy Secretary-General for The Commonwealth. There she provided support and leadership for the work of the Commonwealth on Political, Human Rights, Legal and Youth Development. She also represented the Commonwealth on global development and democracy issues. As the most senior woman in the organisation, she actively encouraged women as agents of change, in leadership and at different levels throughout the Commonwealth.

She is a national of Botswana and has extensive management experience in technical, development and the diplomatic fields. She was previously the Chief-Executive Officer at the Botswana Export Development and Investment Authority (BEDIA), Botswana's national Investment Promotion Agency. Mmasekgoa's role included attracting Foreign Direct Investment and promoting national exports as a key to diversifying the economy from diamond mining. Her top priority was to promote Botswana as a premium investment destination. There was need to refocus and profile Botswana's image, differentiating and branding Botswana, something for which Mmasekgoa had a lot of passion. She initiated and successfully managed the process of Branding Botswana.

Her engineering and commercial experience at the Botswana Telecommunications Corporation (BTC) placed her at the forefront of addressing challenges of the digital divide. She gained an appreciation of the pivotal role that telecommunications and information communication technology play in addressing the broad economic objectives. Almost 16 years after joining BTC, she emerged as one of the most influential female executives' and continued to apply her skills and experiences in a broad range of economic fields.

Her first degree was obtained at University of London, where she graduated with a BSc electronics and physics major. She complimented this with a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Pittsburgh in 1990. Her formal qualifications have been further enhanced by a continuous learning culture and discipline, completing a Bachelor of Law degree and an Advanced Management Program whilst holding down her various demanding roles. She has also served on various boards and community service institutions in the fields of tourism, business, civil aviation, and banking among others.

She has been recognised in the legal field by the Honourable Society of Middle Temple Inn awarding her Honorary Bencher status in 2009. She also served as the President for Botswana Women in Business before taking up her position in London.