

BIOGRAPHY: Ms. Fébé Potgieter-Gqubule

Potgieter-Gqubule served as the Deputy Chief of Staff of the AU Commission, based at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia until March 2017. She was appointed to this position in May 2015, after serving as Advisor for Strategy and Planning to the AU Commission Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma since 2012. Prior to joining the African Union, Potgieter-Gqubule was the South African Ambassador and Head of Mission to Warsaw, Poland.

Potgieter-Gqubule currently is a member of the board of the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflections (www.mistra.org.za), and of the African City Alliance Think Tank. She previously served as Chairperson of the Board of the Lejweleputswa Development Agency (2009-2013), as Deputy Chairperson of the State Information Technology Agency, SITA (2010-2013), a member of Council of the Mangosotho University of Technology (2012-2014), advisory board of the University of Witwatersrand's Education Policy Unit (EPU) (2011-2013) and the Board of the Education and Training Unit (2002-2012).

Fébé has a long history in youth development and employment, having served on the National Youth Development Forum and as first female Secretary General of the ANC Youth League during the early 1990s. Fébé has a Master's Degree from the University of Witwatersrand, with her research on youth unemployment and labour market policy and institutions. It is in these areas that she has undertaken work for the Gauteng Provincial Government, the Umsobomvu Youth Fund, the HSRC and the National Youth Development Agency, amongst others.

She worked as NEC Coordinator at the ANC Headquarters from 1998-2004, on the editorial board of the journal *Umrabulo* and served as a member of the National Executive Committee of the African National Congress between 2007 and 2012.

Potgieter-Gqubule served as a Member of Higher Education Restructuring Reference Group (2003-2004), appointed by Minister of Education, Prof. Asmal in May 2003. She chaired the Department of Higher Education's Community and Adult Education Task team (2011-2012), which produced the report on Community Colleges.

Potgieter-Gqubule was born in Humansdorp, Eastern Cape where she completed high school.

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