

Brief Overview of dr Theuns Eloff

Theuns Eloff obtained bachelor degrees in law and theology from the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education, as well as Masters and PhD in theological ethics. He was minister at the Reformed Church Pretoria-Brooklyn. After leaving the ministry in 1989 as a result of being part of a delegation that met with the ANC in Dakar, Eloff joined the Consultative Business Movement (CBM). As head of CBM, Eloff helped facilitate the signing of the Peace Accord (1991), lead the secretariat at CODESA (1991-2), and became head of administration of the Multi-Party Negotiating Process (1993-4). He was also deputy director of the Transitional Executive Council in 1994. In 1995 Eloff became CEO of the National Business Initiative (NBI) and under Eloff's leadership it facilitated business' support for the new democracy, through large initiatives like Business Against Crime and the Business Trust.

In 2002 Eloff became Vice-Chancellor of his alma mater, and in 2004 he was appointed as the first vice-chancellor of the newly merged North-West University. He helped to establish the NWU as one of the top six universities in South Africa, leading in terms of corporate governance, management and academic quality. It is the second largest university in SA by headcount, with more than 60 000 students in 2013. In September 2013, the NWU recognized Eloff for his "visionary, inspiring and exceptional leadership qualities that contributed greatly to the successful and stable merger".

Between 2005 and 2013 he served as:

- Chairman of Higher Education South Africa and the Association of Commonwealth Universities
- Chairman of Aardklop Arts Festival
- President of the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut (AHI)
- Deputy chair of the FW de Klerk Foundation
- Trustee of the Dagbreek Trust
- Director of Astral Foods (Pty Ltd)

He received several awards, amongst which were the JCI's *Ten Outstanding Persons of the World* and the World Economic Forum's *100 Global Leaders for Tomorrow*. He received an honorary doctorate from London South Bank University and the IABC's *Africa Excellence in Communication Leadership*. He is an extraordinary professor at the Potchefstroom Business School.

After 25 years in senior management, he now utilizes his experience and networks as a non-executive director. This includes Astral Foods, Die Dagbreek Trust and the FW de Klerk Foundation, now chairman at all three. He also does consulting and facilitation work in a variety of fields.

He lives in Pretoria with his wife Suzette, and they have two daughters and three granddaughters.