

## 6. PROFILE OF THE PUBLIC PROTECTOR ADV MABEDLE LAWRENCE MUSHWANA

Born in 1948, at Bordeaux in Limpopo Province, Mabedle Lawrence Mushwana studied through the University of South Africa and obtained a B Juris degree. He also attended the University of Zululand where he obtained two legal diplomas and later an LLB degree.

He started his legal career in 1972 as an interpreter of the Magistrate's court in Mhala, Bushbuckridge and became a public prosecutor three years later. By 1977, he had risen to the position of magistrate in Malamulele, Ritavi, Giyani and Mhala districts. At the time of his resignation in 1986, due to political activities, he was Principal Magistrate.

Twice detained under the old Apartheid State of Emergency Regulations, he was later admitted as an attorney of the High Court of South Africa and went on to establish his own law firm in 1992. He was subsequently admitted as an Advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa.

Adv Mushwana had a distinguished career as a member of Parliament from 1994 -2002 and has led a number of delegations on international Parliamentary tours. He also served on several Parliamentary committees, amongst others, he co-chaired the joint Parliamentary Budget Committee and the Code of Conduct and Ethics Committee. He served as Chairperson of Committees and also on the Audit Commission and the Judicial Services Commission. He participated in the drafting of the South African Constitution and served as Deputy Chairperson of the National Council of Provinces. He resigned from this position to take up office as the second Public Protector of the Republic of South Africa.

He is actively involved in community service and is renowned for his language proficiency. As a law student, he obtained a distinction in Practical Afrikaans. He is also fluent in English, Xitsonga, Zulu, Northern Sotho, isiSwati and Xhosa. In addition, he is conversant in Southern Sotho, Tshivenda and Setswana.

