



FW de Klerk
FOUNDATION

Theuns Eloff

Dr Theuns Eloff was born in 1955 in Potchefstroom and obtained bachelor degrees in law (1974) and theology (1980, *cum laude*) at the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education (PU for CHE). During his two years of compulsory national service, he completed his Masters degree in Theology (*cum laude*). While he was a minister of religion of a congregation at the University of Pretoria for a period of six years, he completed his Doctorate in Theology.

In the wake of difficulties resulting from his inclusion in the delegation, which, in July 1987, met with representatives of the ANC in Dakar, he decided to leave the ministry in 1989 and join the Consultative Business Movement (CBM), where he was appointed as Executive Director in 1990. He helped plan and facilitate the National Peace Convention, which led to the signing of the National Peace Accord in September 1991. He headed the Process and Secretarial Services in CODESA and headed the Administration of the Multi-Party Negotiating Process after CODESA.

He received a number of awards in recognition of his role in the negotiation process including the World Economic Forum's honour as one of "100 Global Leaders for Tomorrow" (1996).

In January 2002, he became Vice-Chancellor of his Alma Mater. He established a new management philosophy and played a leading role in the merger of the Potchefstroom University with the University of North West. In May 2004 he was appointed as the first Vice-Chancellor of the new North-West University (NWU). Under his leadership, the NWU has accomplished one of the most successful, stable mergers in South Africa's higher education sector and is on its way to establish itself among the top six universities in South Africa. Dr Eloff completed his term at NWU in March 2014.

In 2005 Dr Eloff was elected as vice-chairperson of Higher Education South Africa (HESA) and in 2007 as chairperson for a term of two years. He was also elected as vice-chairperson of the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) for the period 2007 to 2009. He was elected as Chairperson for the period 2009 to 2011. In addition, he was elected president of the national Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut for 2011 and 2012.

Dr Eloff is a Chairman of the Board of Astral Foods, Dagbreek Trust and the FW de Klerk Foundation. In 2008, he received an Honorary Doctorate in Law from the London South Bank University.