

Professional Summary

Simi Siwisa

Currently, Ms Siwisa is the Head: Group Public Policy at ABSA Bank covering more than twelve countries. In this role, Ms Siwisa is responsible for ABSA's Public Policy strategy development, execution and oversight.

Prior to this, Ms Siwisa was an executive director of Stratvest, a research and advisory firm focusing on sovereign debt advisory, economic policy development, research, strategy and investment services. She consulted to multinationals and development agencies on emerging market issues, with a special focus on Africa. Projects included regulatory risk projects for AB Inbev, technical capacity building for Aecom funded project and the SADC Wide Sovereign Debt project in partnership with SADC Parliamentary Forum and other multilateral donors.

Previously, Ms Siwisa was the Senior Advisor to the National Treasury based in Paris until December 2016. She led the Development of OECD Strategy and effectively managed SA- OECD relationship in Paris. She also represented South Africa at the Paris Club, and managed approach to sovereign debt management and restructurings.

Prior to that, Ms Siwisa worked at the World Bank - in country operations for Southern Africa responsible for developing the regional engagement framework. She was part of the team which developed the business plan on Climate Innovation. This resulted in the establishment of the Climate Innovation Centre, as part of the Global Infodev Innovation Network. She contributed to the development of key World Bank knowledge and publications: including contributions to financial sector, economic policy, and township economy study.

She led the inaugural World Bank women economic empowerment programme, which was financed by the Nordic Trust fund. Ms Siwisa has extensive experience in private sector development, and was nominated the World Bank Private Sector Liaison Officer for South Africa in 2008-2010. She was also the Director for Economic Policy at Business Unity South Africa from 2007-2010.

During this period her achievements included: successfully leading a three year process on Corporate Law reform culminating in Companies Act (2008); development of business response to Competition Amendment & Expropriation Bills. She has managed policy development processes on key economic regulations in South Africa including the consumer protection legislation, and coordinating the World Economic Forum (Global Competitiveness Survey) and regularly appeared in Parliament to provide expert evidence on key economic policy discussions.

She was appointed by the presidency to serve on the National Advisory Council on Energy in 2008 and was part of the National economic response plan task team 2009-2010. She has served on the Board of Productivity South Africa and was a board member of the Anglo Inyathi Trust. She

has been the business coordinator of the Public Finance and Monetary POLICY Chamber at NEDLAC. She also provided technical support to the Mbeki Commission during their European Tour and received commendations for technical expertise and strategy from the Chair of the Council.

Simi was nominated as member of the 2020/1 WEF Global Future Council on resilient financial systems. She is member of the WEF Task force on Sustainable Finance and a Senior Delegate to the WEF Banking and Finance Deputies Forum. She has advised on economic and digital policy across emerging markets.

Ms Siwisa has an MBA from the University of Cape Town and an MA (international economic management) from the University of Birmingham.

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