

RESUMÉ
PROFESSOR RAYMOND PARSONS
B.Com., B.A (Hons)D. Com (honoris causa)

Professor Parsons was educated at Worcester Boys' High School, where he was awarded the Maskew Miller prize for History. Subsequently he attended the Universities of Cape Town, Oxford and Copenhagen – where he studied economics. He then lectured in economics and economic history for a couple of years at both the Universities of Stellenbosch and the Witwatersrand.

After a spell as the Economist to the Federated Chamber of Industries (FCI), he joined the Association of Chambers of Commerce (ASSOCOM) in 1970 as Deputy Director and Economist. In 1974 he was appointed the Chief Executive of that organisation.

When the Federated Chamber of Industries (FCI) and the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCOM) were merged in 1990 to form the South African Chamber of Business (SACOB) Prof. Parsons became its first Director-General. He held this appointment until May 1999.

In mid-1999 he was appointed a Professor in the School of Economic and Business Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand. For the period 1st January – 30th April 2001 he was Acting Head of the new School of Economic and Business Sciences at Wits University.

In November 1999 he published a well-received book "*The Mbeki Inheritance: South Africa's Economy 1990 – 2004*". In May 2002 his recent book '*Parsons' Perspective – Focus on the Economy*' was published.

His overall focus is on the political economy of South Africa, with special reference to its impact on the environment of business. He also specializes in the determinants of public policy, especially the theory and practice of social dialogue.

Key outside appointments which Professor Parsons currently also holds include:

- Overall Business Convenor in the National Economic Development and Labour Council (NEDLAC)
- Member, Executive Committee and Governing Body, Business South Africa (BSA)
- Vice-President of the Economic Society of South Africa
- Member of the Council of the University of Port Elizabeth
- Member of the Board of Trustees of "Business Against Crime"
- Trustee of Ithuba Trust
- Patron, MTN Foundation

- Board member of Proudly South Africa.

Prof. Parsons participates in broad economic matters through –

- contributions on economic policy to publications such as *Financial Mail*, *Finance Week*, *Business Day*, *Business Report* as well as occasional academic articles on economic subjects in the *SA Journal of Economics* and the *SA Journal of Economic History*;
- addresses and papers to various conferences in South Africa and abroad;
- participation in radio and television programmes on general economic affairs, including a weekly public affairs programme on the DSTV business channel *Summit* called *Parsons' Perspective*.

He was also Chairperson of the Selection Committee for the new Vice-Chancellor of the University of Port Elizabeth (2001), as well as the new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (2002).

Awards and achievements include the following:

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| 1993 | The Order for Meritorious Service by the State President for “outstanding service in the general public interest”. |
| 1994 – 2000 | Honorary Professor in economic policy, University of Pretoria |
| 1996 | Community Health Association of Southern Africa (CHASA) Award “in recognition of his outstanding and enduring community service”. |
| | Elected a Fellow of the Institute of Directors in Southern Africa. |
| 1997 | Honorary doctorate (D.Com.) University of Port Elizabeth. |
| 1999 | Honorary Life Membership, Durban Chamber of Commerce and Industry |
| 2001 | Honorary Life Membership, South African Chamber of Business |

Prof. Parsons is a member of the Rand Club and Johannesburg Country Club.

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