

My Career

Present activities: PR Councillor (Stellenbosch)

Candidate: 2024 Western Cape Parliament

Former position/Job Title: SABC PARLIAMENTARY ASSIGNMENT EDITOR (TV & RADIO)

Date taking up present position: 1 OCTOBER 2011 to 31 March 2019 in Cape Town.

Short description of duties and personal responsibilities:

- Manage the biggest specialist news unit of the largest broadcaster in Africa with fully equipped live TV and radio studios, serving 3 free-to-air and a 24 Hour News channels with 30 million viewers, and 21 radio stations reaching 25 million listeners.
- Staff component: 10 journalists, 5 technical crew, Researcher, IT support, Office Manager, Reception Desk plus freelance workers, and Outside Broadcasting Crews on occasion.
- Co-ordinate live broadcasts from Parliament's Houses and committees, and media briefings.
- Help co-ordinate and prepare for at least three major live broadcasts per year: Opening of Parliament/State of the Nation Address by the President, and Finance Minister's Budget Address, and the Midterm Budget Address in October.
- Network with Members of Parliament, Party leaders, the Presidency and Ministerial Offices, diplomatic corps, Office of the Chief Justice, government department executives, educational institution, NPO's, etc.

Earlier career path: Specialist producer: Current Affairs; Output TV Editor, Senior Political Reporter, News Anchor, Media consultant, Script/Articles writer; President's Council Secretariat staff member

Professional highlights & Specialist experience

Relevant professional achievements

RADIO:

- Co-reported from Parliament on President FW de Klerk's 2 February 1990 speech
- Co-reported from Victor Verster on Nelson Mandela's release in February 1990

TELEVISION:

- Reported on assignment across South Africa on President de Klerk's nationwide 1992 referendum campaign seeking a mandate for constitutional negotiations;
- Did the main report on the collapse of Codesa;
- Part of a team covering the subsequent Constitutional Council's negotiations at the World Trade Centre in Kempton Park;
- On assignment through South America in 1992, to cover political and business delegations under Pres. De Klerk to collect information re political and economic transition processes;
- Various assignments to SADC countries to cover normalization/renewal of diplomatic relations
- Co-anchored the historic 1994 Election Broadcast
- Compiled the main TV report of Nelson Mandela's inauguration;

- Conducted the live commentary on the signing of the Final Negotiated Constitution of South Africa by President Mandela at Sharpeville in December 1996.
- Election broadcasts: worked on every national and provincial election broadcast since 1989 in a variety of capacities: live reporting, studio presenting, producing, media consultancy, etc.
- Election Results broadcasts: between 2004 and 2011 as Head Results Producer, which included tracking pre-election polls and identifying variables that could influence the outcome, help design results graphics, attending IEC systems courses and media relations meetings, overseeing results broadcasts and analysis post election day.
- Produced and assigned from Parliament as part of the week-long special broadcast on the Death of Nelson Mandela in December 2013

Professional experience in Constitutional Development

PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL

Before becoming a political journalist, I was a member of the President's Council Secretariat:

- Supporting the Council in its research to advise government on a new constitutional dispensation.
- Compiled and edited all research material - written and oral - into volumes for Council archives and distribution of copies to the legally mandated libraries, including the South African Library next to the Company Gardens.
- Responsible for designing & launching a Hansard for the President's Council: managing recording, transcriptions, editing, printing at government printers, proof reading, binding, distribution.
- Assisted in the final editing & printing, proof reading and binding of the Council's final Constitutional and Economic Reports.

1983 CONSTITUTIONAL REFERENDUM

After the evaluation of the final PC reports, government drafted a new constitution and submitted it for a referendum:

- Assisted in lectures to inform South Africans on the proposed three chamber Parliament in the run-up to the constitutional referendum.

INTERIM CONSTITUTION OF 1994

- Attended and reported on pre-negotiations deliberations: the Groote Schuur Minute and the so-called 'Talks about Talks' at which Codesa was agreed upon.
- Attended and reported on Codesa in Kempton Park, including its collapse.
- Followed efforts to revive negotiations, that resulted in the establishment of the smaller Constitutional Council that relegated President FW de Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela to the sidelines.
- Attended and reported on renewed negotiations until its conclusion and acceptance by the Old South African Parliament.

CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 1996

- Covered the work toward a final constitution in the capacity as Specialist Producer, including live reporting on the signing ceremony.

Education and professional training

Higher education

x Bachelor's (Political Science, Philosophy, French). Dates: 1978-1980

x HonsB (Philosophy). Date: 1981

x HonsB (Journalism). Date: 1988

Institution: University of Stellenbosch

X Diploma in Tourism (Western Cape) Date: 1999

Institution: Durbanville College

Other: Variety of courses between 1990 and 2011 through the SABC, presented by broadcasters like ABC, CBC, BBC, etc, on scripting, documentaries, news presenting, studio directing, including News Management Course at the Thompson Foundation (Cardiff), in-house courses on social media

SALGA course in Local Government, IEC & other workshops on various aspects of government and the South African democratic system.