



**BIOGRAPHY OF HIS EXCELLENCY  
MR. FESTUS GONTEBANYE MOGAE, NYB, MCC, PH, MP  
FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA**

His Excellency was born on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1939 at Serowe in the Central District of Botswana. He matriculated at Moeng College and went on to train as an Economist at the Universities of Oxford and Sussex in the United Kingdom.

He took up post as Planning Officer in 1968 and progressed to become Director of Economic Affairs. He was Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning from 1975 to 1976. He became Alternate Governor for Botswana at the International Monetary Fund, African Development Bank and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development from 1971 to 1976. His Excellency served in various parastatal boards, as, Member of the Board for Water Utilities, Botswana Housing Corporation, Botswana Meat Commission, Botswana Meat Commission (United Kingdom) Holdings, ECCO Cold Stores Limited and Allied Meat Importers Limited. He was also Director, then later Chairman, Botswana Development Corporation, Representative of the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, Director of the De Beers Botswana Mining Company (Pty) Limited (Diamond Mining Company), Botswana RST Limited, Bangwato Concessions Limited (BCL) and Bank of Botswana.

His Excellency served in Washington, DC as Alternate and Executive Director, International Monetary Fund for Anglophone Africa from 1976 to 1980. He then came home to take up the position of Governor of the Bank of Botswana from 1980 to 1981. From 1982 to 1989 His Excellency was Permanent Secretary to the President, Secretary to the Cabinet and Supervisor of Elections.

He was appointed Minister of Finance and Development Planning in 1989 and became Vice President in 1992, until 31<sup>st</sup> March, 1998 when he became the Third President of the Republic of Botswana. He was Chairman of Southern African Development Community (SADC) Council of Ministers from 1992 until 1996. By virtue of his position as Vice President, he was also Leader of the House for Botswana National Assembly. In 1994, he contested in the general elections and won a seat for the Palapye Constituency. He was an active member of the Botswana Democratic Party and served in various committees of the party including, Member of the Botswana Democratic Party Central Committee and Chairman of its Finance and Economic Committee, and Member of the Central Committee responsible for Letswapo Region from 1992 to 1995.

He was also Member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Member of the Parliamentarians for Global Action based in New York and the Global Coalition for Africa based in Washington D.C.

His Excellency was Governor for Botswana for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Member of the Joint Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund on the transfer of real resources to developing countries, Washington DC from 1989 to 1990.

He was also involved in community oriented organisations which include Kalahari Conservation Society, Botswana Society (Research Organisation) of which he is President, Lions Club of Palapye, President of the Botswana Society for the Deaf as well as being Patron of the Junior Achievement Botswana. He is also Chairman of the National AIDS Council (launched 30 March 2000).

His Excellency was awarded the highest honour of the Republic of Botswana, **Naledi Ya Botswana** – Gaborone (30<sup>th</sup> September 2003) and the **Presidential Order of Honour of Botswana** (1989). He was also awarded the **Officier de l'Ordre Nationale D'e Cote d'Ivoire** (1979); **I'Order Nationale du Mali** and the **HATAB's Award** for Outstanding Contribution to Botswana's Tourism Industry (1997); **Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws** – University of Botswana (September 1998); the **Global Marketplace Award** by the Corporate Council on Africa - Houston, USA (May 1999); an **Honorary Fellowship of the Botswana Institute of Bankers** – Gaborone, Botswana (July 1999); the **Distinguished Achievement Award for AIDS Leadership in Southern Africa** by the Medunsa Trust - Washington DC, USA (June 2000); the **AIDS Leadership Award** by Harvard AIDS Institute – Gaborone (December 2001); the **2002 Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference Weekend Chairman's Award** – Washington D.C., USA (September 2002); the **Africa-America Institute National Leadership Award** – New York, USA (September 2002); the **Honorary Fellow** – University College Oxford (2003); **The Knight Commander of the Most Courteous Order of the Kingdom of Lesotho** – Maseru, Lesotho (April 2004); the **Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative (BIPAI) International Leadership Award** – Gaborone (October 2004); the **Golden Plate Award** by the Academy of Achievement - New York, USA (June 2005); the **Grand Croix** - Highest award in Madagascar granted to dignitaries of the Nation) Antananarivo, Madagascar (June 2006), the **Pan African Tsetse and Trypanosomiasis (PATTEC)** by the African Union – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (January 2007), **Doctorate of Humanity** by the University of Limpopo, Gaborone Botswana (January 2008); **The Commander of the Legion d'Honneur Grand Croix of the Republic of France** – Paris, France (March 2008) and **Taylor and Francis Award** for significant contribution to women's development and welfare – Gaborone, Botswana (July 2008)

The Former President's tenure of office ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 and was succeeded by his former Vice President Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian Khama as the 4<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of Botswana. His Excellency is married with three children born between 1969 and 1987.

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