

# **ABRIDGED CURRICULUM VITAE**

## **ADVOCATE MTHUNZINI WILLIAM MAHLANGU**

### **Candidate for Appointment as Commissioner**

South African Human Rights Commission

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#### **1. PROFESSIONAL PROFILE**

Advocate Mthunzini William Mahlangu is an accomplished education leader, legal practitioner, and public administrator with more than 30 years of distinguished experience in public service, governance, leadership, and community development. His professional career reflects a steadfast commitment to constitutional democracy, social justice, ethical leadership, and the advancement of human rights in South Africa.

Adv. Mahlangu possesses extensive expertise in governance, policy implementation, institutional leadership, labour relations, stakeholder engagement, and public administration acquired through senior leadership positions within the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education and through legal practice as an admitted Advocate of the High Court of South Africa.

He is deeply committed to the constitutional values of dignity, equality, accountability, transparency, and the rule of law. His experience in legal advocacy, public service leadership, and community activism has equipped him with the independence of thought, integrity, and professional competence required to serve effectively as a Commissioner of the South African Human Rights Commission.

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#### **2. MOTIVATION FOR CANDIDACY**

I am strongly committed to the protection, promotion, and advancement of constitutional democracy and human rights in South Africa. My professional journey in public service, education leadership, legal practice, and community activism has cultivated a deep understanding of the challenges affecting vulnerable and marginalised communities.

I possess the ethical leadership, sound judgement, independence, and courage necessary to execute the mandate of the South African Human Rights Commission without fear, favour, or prejudice. I fully appreciate the constitutional responsibility entrusted to the Commission in safeguarding human dignity, equality, freedom, and social justice.

My combined experience in governance, public administration, legal advocacy, and grassroots community engagement positions me to contribute meaningfully towards strengthening constitutional institutions and advancing the human rights culture within South Africa.

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### **3. PUBLIC SERVICE EXPERIENCE**

Adv. Mahlangu served with distinction in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education for approximately 30 years, occupying various leadership and management positions of increasing responsibility.

His career progression includes:

- Educator at Langelihle High School
- Educator at Shayina High School
- Principal at Sizaminqubeko Combined School
- Superintendent of Education Management (SEM) for Kosi Bay Ward under the former Obonjeni District
- Chief Education Specialist (CES) responsible for the Ubombo, Ingwavuma, and uMhlabuyalingana circuit clusters
- Cluster Management Coordinator (CMC) responsible for uMhlathuzana Circuit in the Pinetown District

Throughout his public service career, he acquired extensive experience in:

- Strategic leadership and management
- Public sector governance
- Policy development and implementation
- Institutional administration
- Stakeholder engagement
- Labour relations and dispute management
- People management and organisational development
- Oversight and accountability mechanisms

His service record demonstrates a consistent commitment to excellence, accountability, ethical governance, and service delivery within the public sector.

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#### **4. LEGAL PRACTICE EXPERIENCE**

Adv. Mahlangu obtained his LL.B degree from the University of South Africa and was admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of South Africa in 2016 in the Gauteng Division.

He is a duly registered member of the Legal Practice Council (Membership No. 133791).

Since entering full-time legal practice in 2024, he has developed practical litigation experience in:

- Civil litigation
- Labour law
- Family law
- Constitutional and administrative law matters

He regularly appears in both the High Court and Magistrates' Courts in opposed and unopposed matters, demonstrating strong legal reasoning, advocacy, drafting, negotiation, and dispute resolution competencies.

His legal experience has strengthened his understanding of constitutional rights, access to justice, procedural fairness, and the protection of vulnerable persons within the justice system.

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#### **5. HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE EXPERIENCE**

Adv. Mahlangu's commitment to human rights and social justice dates to his formative years and has remained a defining feature of his professional and community life.

##### **Key Human Rights Involvement**

- Active involvement with ISIDIDI, an anti-forced removals civic organisation in the Maputaland region during the late 1980s.
- Participation in advocacy initiatives with Manguzi Hospital/Ngezandla Zethu and local non-profit organisations supporting persons with disabilities, including blind persons and wheelchair users.
- Worked alongside the Maputaland Development Organisation (MDO) and the Association for Rural Advancement (AFRA) on programmes focused on:
  - voter education,
  - rural empowerment,
  - civic participation, and

- development initiatives for marginalised communities.

These experiences strengthened his understanding of socio-economic rights, community mobilisation, participatory democracy, and grassroots advocacy.

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## **6. LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE**

Adv. Mahlangu has demonstrated exceptional leadership and governance capabilities throughout his career in both the public and legal sectors.

His professional experience has equipped him with:

- Strategic leadership skills
- Institutional governance expertise
- Public policy insight
- High-level decision-making capabilities
- Conflict resolution and mediation skills
- Ethical leadership practices
- Accountability and compliance oversight
- Stakeholder and community engagement expertise

He has consistently led diverse teams and managed complex institutional responsibilities while maintaining professionalism, integrity, and adherence to constitutional principles.

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## **7. INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE**

In 2011, Adv. Mahlangu participated in the International Leadership Programme (ILP) in the United States as part of a United States–South Africa educational exchange initiative.

The programme focused on:

- Comparative education systems,
- governance and institutional leadership,
- public administration, and
- educational policy development.

This international exposure broadened his global perspective on governance, democratic institutions, leadership, and human rights, while enhancing his ability to contribute meaningfully to institutional development and policy discourse.

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## **8. PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES**

Adv. Mahlangu is recognised for:

- Unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and human dignity
  - High ethical standards and professional integrity
  - Independence of thought and sound judgement
  - Courageous and principled leadership
  - Strong interpersonal and communication skills
  - Ability to engage effectively with diverse stakeholders
  - Commitment to constitutional values and democratic governance
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## **9. ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS**

- LL.B – University of South Africa
  - B.Paed – University of Zululand
  - B.Ed – University of Natal
  - B.A. Honours (History) – University of South Africa
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## **10. SPECIALISED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATES**

- Certificate in Governance, Compliance and Ethics – University of Cape Town
  - Certificate in Contract Management – University of Pretoria
  - Certificate in Legislative Drafting – University of Cape Town
  - Certificate in Labour Law – South African Legal Academy
  - Certificate in Litigation Skills – University of Cape Town
  - Certificate in Competence Project Management – University of KwaZulu-Natal
  - Certificate in African Political Economy – TMALI
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## **11. CORE COMPETENCIES**

- Human Rights Advocacy
- Constitutional Governance
- Public Administration
- Legal Practice and Litigation
- Strategic Leadership
- Policy Development and Implementation
- Ethical Governance and Compliance
- Stakeholder Relations
- Community Engagement
- Labour Relations
- Institutional Oversight
- Conflict Resolution and Mediation
- Public Sector Management

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