**H.E. BENE L. M’POKO**

 **Ambassador from the**

 **Democratic Republic of Congo**

**to the**

 **Republic of South Africa**

**and**

**Dean of the Diplomatic Corps**



I spent Seventeen years in International Banking as a Vice President with Citibank and Chase Manhattan Bank, respectively, serving in New York, D.R. Congo, Egypt, Greece and Liberia.

After retiring from International Banking, I established a consulting firm in Washington, D.C. undertaking several International consulting assignments with the World Bank and the USAID from 1985 to 1990. I specialized in the restructuring and privatization of State-Owned Enterprises as well as the restructuring of banking systems in a number of African Countries. I also conceptualised the creation of ECOBANK (The Bank of ECOWAS) and the establishment of Offshore Banking in Mauritius.

In 1990, I joined United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in New York and I arrived in South Africa in January 1995 to help establish the UNDP office in Pretoria.

Having retired from the UNDP in 2000, I was appointed DRC Ambassador to South Africa in 2001. Being the longest serving Ambassador in South Africa, I became the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in 2011.

I also served as a member of the Prince of Wales Rainforests Project’s African Advisory Council from 2008-2010 and I am a founding member of Buhle Farmers’ Academy in Delmas, South Africa.

Currently, I am the DRC National Focal Point for the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

I am the first non-South African recipient of the National Prestigious **UBUNTU AWARD** in the category of **Excellence in Diplomacy**.

Educated in the United States, I hold B.A. in Economics and Business Administration from Rockford University and M.B.A. in International Finance and post M.B.A. certificate in Organization Theory and Forecasting from Northern Illinois University.