

An interview with C. (Bert) King Chanetsa, Esq.

Bert, please describe your general background and 1-2 highlights of your career:



I was born in Salisbury (now Harare) in the British colony of Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). I was admitted to practice law in Zimbabwe (1979), State of Illinois USA (1982), and South Africa (1996). My early career was focused on civil rights, particularly of political detainees and prisoners, in the lead up to independence in Zimbabwe. My interest shifted to finance and securities when I was awarded a scholarship by what was then the largest international law firm in the world. I worked in this law firm's offices in Chicago, in the United States, and in Sydney, Australia. I made the transition to finance and banking and worked for entities in Boston, Zimbabwe and South Africa. I subsequently responded to the lure of entrepreneurship. In 1999, I set up a multidisciplinary practice in South Africa (legal and financial) focusing on corporate, project and trade finance. In 2009, I was appointed Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Capital Markets and Investment Institutions at the Financial Services Board of South Africa (now the Financial Sector Conduct Authority). The highlight of my years as a regulator was my elections to the board of directors of the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) and the vice chairmanship of IOSCO's Growth in Emerging Markets (GEM) Committee. As vice chair of IOSCO's GEM committee, I was the pen holder for the 2015 publication: "SME Financing through Capital Markets." I am also the author of "Securities and Capital Markets Regulation in South Africa" (Brill, 2018). Currently I am a consultant and capacity-builder working globally in the areas of securities and capital markets, corporate governance and risk-based supervision. I am also a P.R.I.M.E. Finance Foundation Expert.

What in your life has led you to an interest in development and how do you think law can shape positive development trends? What do you think are the most important law and development trends currently?

As I have lived most of my working life in so-called developing countries, I have often found myself navigating developmental issues in emerging markets including the implementation of infrastructure delivery solutions in the context, inter alia, of public-private partnerships (PPPs), trade and project finance. PPPs, which require the development of an appropriate and relevant legal framework traversing multi-jurisdictional legal issues and challenges, were identified as the preferred channel for infrastructure delivery in South Africa during the 1990s and the early 2000s. I was fortunate to work in the capacities of financial adviser, legal adviser and transaction adviser on various PPP projects. Infrastructure development and delivery remain a critical need in developing markets. It has now, however, become necessary to implement solutions that give due regard to environmental (particularly climate), social and governance considerations. Other emerging considerations include artificial intelligence, cyber security and virtual assets.

When were you first introduced to Lex Lead and what are your thoughts on the initiative?

Four years ago, Anne Bodley, Lex:lead's founder, approached me to ask if I would participate in the panel of judges for the essay competitions. I have been a judge since then. The annual essay competition provides young and thoughtful lawyers with the opportunity to independently articulate their thoughts, views and analysis of topical issues. They are encouraged to put forward a considered position, recommendation or solution on the emerging issues. This initiative is definitely beneficial to young lawyers.