

Hon. Manqoba Khumalo profile

The Honourable Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade Manqoba Khumalo is serving in his second term in Cabinet, having held the same position between 2018-2023.

But Hon. Khumalo's career began almost 30 years ago, just after graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree (Bio-Chemistry) from the then University of Swaziland. His first job after graduating in 1994 was as a Maths and Science Teacher at Emvimbeko High School in the Manzini region of Eswatini. His teaching career was very brief as he joined Conco Limited (Coca-Cola Swaziland) as a Lab Chemist in 1995. He moved up the ranks in various positions and was eventually offered the opportunity to head various Operational Excellence projects within The Coca-Cola Company across a number of continents namely, North America, South America and Europe.

In January 2008, Hon. Khumalo was appointed to head the Peterborough Juice Plant in Canada, a position he held until June 2009. That year, he returned home to take up the reins as General Manager, Conco Limited (Coca-Cola Swaziland), a position he held from July 2009 to January 2016. He was then assigned another international post, this time to head up the Athy Concentrate Plant in Ireland from January 2016 up until he was appointed by His Majesty King Mswati III first as a Senator and then Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade in November, 2018.

Hon. Khumalo's areas of expertise include the provision of strategic leadership; change management; value creation; and corporate governance. He possesses a proven track record of delivering the highest standards of manufacturing excellence whilst maintaining best in class employee engagement.

In 2020, Honourable Khumalo was bestowed with the African Trade Promotion Excellence Award and Hall of Fame medal by the renowned African Leadership Magazine for his outstanding leadership acumen. A year later, Hon. Khumalo was presented with the Leadership Excellence Award again by the African Leadership Magazine for his outstanding contributions to economic development in Africa and his excellence in leadership.

Honourable Khumalo has had the opportunity to serve in a number of Boards in the Kingdom of Eswatini, namely the Royal Eswatini Sugar (RES) Corporation as member and Chairman of the Risk Committee; Tibiyo Taka Ngwane as a Board member; Standard Bank Swaziland as a Board member; Eswatini Chamber of Commerce (now Business Eswatini) as an Executive member; as well as Enactus as Chairman. He has also held the position of Trustee and Public Officer to The Coca-Cola Africa Foundation.

Honourable Khumalo also holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (thesis on Strategy Execution) and further went on to complete his BSc (Hons) in Digital Technology from the Dublin Institute of Technology, graduating in October 2018. A devout Christian, Honourable Khumalo is an Executive member in his home-based church, the Free Evangelical Assemblies (FEA) as Chairman of the Central Administration Committee.