

ZAMA BEKEWENI PROFILE

Surname	Bekeweni
First name	Zama
Home address	Friedman Street, Kempton Park, 1619
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Educational qualifications

- BA Hons (Translation), Witwatersrand University
- Certificate in Language Practice, Technikon SA
- Management Development Programme (General Management), Unisa School of Business Leadership
- Certificate in Basic Principles of Public Relations, Prisa
- Certificate in Business Interaction, Unisa Centre for Business Management
- Middle Management Programme (Henley Business School)

Professional body

African Translators' Institute (SATI): accredited translator for the language combination English into isiXhosa. Also translates from Afrikaans into isiXhosa.

Worklife

I have spent the better part of my work life in the language environment – no less than 40 years, to be precise. I entered this field in the late 70s through my employment at the Department of Justice of the then Transkei, where I served as an interpreter – interpreting between English, Afrikaans, isiXhosa, and Sesotho.

During my career as a teacher after having left the Department of Justice, I specialised in teaching English and Afrikaans at the secondary school level. In the '80s worked for a number of law firms in Johannesburg, where I served as interpreter and client liaison clerk, interpreting between English, isiXhosa, isiZulu, and Sesotho. I also had a stint at the then Independent Mediation Services of South Africa (IMSSA), a predecessor of the current Commission for Conciliation, Mediation, and Arbitration (CCMA), where I interpreted between English, Afrikaans Xhosa, Zulu, and Sotho. I most proficient in isiXhosa, English and Afrikaans.

In 1994, I joined Eskom as the first African language practitioner (other than Afrikaans), on the company's Language Services team. When I was appointed as manager of the Language Services Unit, I extended the team by bringing on board three language practitioners responsible for Sesotho, Sepedi, and isiZulu, respectively.

Furthermore, I initiated the revision of the *Eskom English/Afrikaans Dictionary* and commissioned the compilation of a glossary of energy terms for isiXhosa, isiZulu, Sesotho, and Sepedi. On scrutiny by the Pan South African Language Board, the glossary of energy terms was hailed by that institution as a worthy contribution by Eskom towards language development in South Africa. Similar comments emanated from the African Association of Lexicographers (Afrilex), an organisation of which I am a founder member.

Another highlight of my career at Eskom was my ability to successfully pilot company language policies that incorporated the principles of multilingualism.

I also served as an external marker and examiner for Unisa's postgraduate studies in Translation and am currently a mentor and marker for Wits University's postgraduate studies in Translation Studies (Employee No. A0029669).

In 2009, I was awarded a certificate of recognition by the South African Translators' Institute (SATI) for putting my knowledge and expertise at the service of the Institute and the profession by acting as an adjudicator for the 2009 SATI Prize for Outstanding Service Translation. I was once more been appointed by SATI to be an adjudicator for the 2018 SATI Prize for Outstanding Translation.

In July 2015, I was commissioned to assess different types of documents that had been translated from English into Xhosa for the Western Cape Provincial Parliament (WCPP), providing the WCPP with a comprehensive report indicating the quality of the translation and any gaps identified and making recommendations on how the WCPP could address the identified gaps. These documents included order papers, question papers, minutes of proceedings, Hansard debates, and the 2013-14 Annual Report.

Apart from having held leadership positions at the middle management level at Eskom, I served two terms on the Council of the Vaal University of Technology, where I had the opportunity to be Chairperson of the Finance Committee, the Investment Committee, and the Building and Projects Committee.

Clients

- Language Centre University of Stellenbosch
 - The Translation World
 - Mosekola Language Solutions
 - ICON PLC Language Services
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