**Grace Khoza**



Grace Khoza is an expert in Corporate Communications, Strategic Relations and Strategy Development. She holds a Masters’ degree from the London School of Economics (obtained when she was selected as recipient of the prestigious Nelson Mandela Scholarship) and an Honours’ degree in Journalism from Rhodes University.

With a strong and extensive experience in both the public and private sector, Grace’s began her career as a researcher and assistant producer at the multi award winning investigative television show, Carte Blanche. She then worked as a journalist and producer at the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC).

Grace’s career in the public sector culminated at the Department of Foreign Affairs, where she worked closely with former Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma (former Chair of the African Union Commission) - as Head of Strategic Communication and Marketing. In this role, she managed 126 South African embassies globally and also served as the director of South Africa’s participation at the acclaimed 2010 Shanghai Expo.

In the private sector, Grace served as a strategic advisor to leading media houses including M-Net and MultiChoice Africa. She later worked as Head of Public Relations at the acclaimed consultancy Bain International.

Between 2014 and 2018, Grace served as an Executive Director responsible for Corporate Affairs and Group Marketing at the JSE listed healthcare company, **AfroCentric Group**. In this role, Grace was responsible for overseeing all Marketing, PR and Reputation activities of the Group (within South Africa and in the Group’s international operations).

During her tenure at AfroCentric, Grace’s invaluable contribution has been to appropriately position the Group closely to the Public sector (e.g. DoH, and relevant public sector stakeholders) especially in the context of the impending National Health Insurance. This enabled the Group to articulate its strategic position to the relevant public platforms unmediated and therefore gaining much needed positive attraction to the relevant public and private stakeholders.

She guided the AfroCentric Group to gain public sector trust and confidence, ensuring that the Group’s voice is heard in relevant public sector platforms. Grace was also a member of the Department of Health endorsed Public Health Enhancement Fund (PHEF) board and was a representative of the Group both in the public and private platforms. This included facilitating and presenting in BHF (Board of Healthcare Funders) annual Conference and being a member of its exclusive ‘think- tank committee.”

Over the years, she also provided the AfroCentric Group guidance and support on stakeholder relations with government and respective state actors such as the Government Employees Medical Scheme (GEMS), Parliament and the South African Police Medical Scheme (Polmed). Between 2016 and 2018, Grace provided guidance to the AfroCentric Group on their participation in the Health Market Inquiry.

She also created platforms of engagement for the benefit of the group within South Africa and Africa. Her representation on various boards has provided the group with much sought after insight and knowledge of the respective strategic stakeholders.

Grace takes pride in having nurtured and built talent in all her leadership roles. Her experience in the Diplomatic Corps has allowed her to understand government processes, identify relevant stakeholders, monitor and maintain relations both within and outside Government and various industries.

Since September 2018, Grace took up a position of General Manager: Stakeholder Relations at the Council of Medical Schemes (CMS). In this role, she is responsible for reputation management and marketing the council to a broad range of stakeholders: General public, healthcare sector, government and international bodies.

She is also responsible for the education and training function of the council, whose aim is to empower the various stakeholders in medical schemes including: Board of trustees, Principal Officers, Brokers, scheme members and the public. Grace is also responsible for the CMS Contact Centre, which is the main touchpoint between the council and the general public.

**BOARD AFFILIATIONS (2014 – 2018)**

* AfroCentric Group
* Public Health Enhancement Fund
* AfroCentric Health (Pty) Ltd.
* Medscheme Holdings (Pty) Ltd.
* AfroCentric Distributions Services (Pty) Ltd. (BMC)
* Curasana Wholesaler (Pty) Ltd.
* Pharmacy Direct (Pty) Ltd.
* Medscheme Administrators Swaziland (Pty) Ltd
* Medscheme Zimbabwe (Private) Ltd (alternate director)