

# *CURRICULUM VITAE (CV)*



*Hon. Margaret Natalie Mensah-Williams, MP  
CHAIRPERSON/SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL  
Parliament of the Republic of Namibia*

**Birth Date:** 25 December 1961

**Birth Place:** Mariental, Hardap Region

**Marital Status:** Married and has 3 children

**Languages:** English and Afrikaans (fluent)

## *POLITICAL CAREER:*

- She entered politics while studying at University of Cape Town where she was active in student politics. It was during this time that she was suspended from the University for taking part in a protest.
- Margaret Natalie Mensah-Williams life personifies liberation struggle. She is leading the fight against gender equality, violence against women and children, human trafficking especially of women and children as well as community development. She has sacrificed her private life and her youth for the freedom of her people.
- **08 December 2015 (CURRENT)-** Chairperson of the National Council
- **1998-2015-** Vice-Chairperson of the National Council
- **1997-2006-**Member of the Executive Central Committee of SWAPO Party Women's Council;
- **1997-2006-**Assistant Secretary for Women and Child Welfare of the SWAPO Party Women's Council;

- **1997-2006**-Assistant Secretary of Foreign Affairs for the SWAPO Party Women's Council;
- **1998**-SWAPO Party Councilor for Khomasdal North Constituency (1998);
- **1999**-SWAPO Party Member of Parliament Elected Vice-Chairperson of the Second National Council;
- **2004**-Re-elected Vice-Chairperson of the Fourth National Council.
- Member of the SWAPO Party which is a ruling Party.
- Member of the Central Committee of SWAPO Party.

### ***INTERNATIONAL BODIES:***

She has served international organizations and held various positions: 1<sup>st</sup> President of IPU Co-coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians (2013-2016), Member of the Board: IPU 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President (20-2012). African Women's Development and Network and Vice-Chairperson, Southern Africa (1995); Member of the Women and Shelter, Africa (1996); Member of the National Release: Member of Elected Women's Forum, Member of Parliamentary Women's Forum and Executive Member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary (1997); Member of the Executive of Pan African Women's Organisation (PAWO) Southern Africa Region ; Coordinator of all National Council Standing Committees; Patron of various projects and schools; Member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) National Group (1999); Member of IPU Executive Committee (2003-2007); Ex-officio member of the IPU Women's Coordinating Committee (2003-2007); Member of the IPU Gender Partnership Group (2003-2007).

## *PAPERS PRESENTED AT INTERNATIONAL PLATFORMS*

She has presented several discussion papers on different topics at various international forums: **“Female Genital Mutilation and Violence Against Women”** - A discussion paper, Benin City Edo State, Nigeria (2004); **“Beijing +10: An Evaluation from a Parliamentary Perspective”** - Draft Resolutions for the Third Standing Committee, 111th Inter-Parliamentary Assembly; **“Innovations in Institutional Arrangements for Promoting Gender Equality at National Level”**—A discussion paper, 49th Session of The Commission on the Status of Women, UN Headquarters, NY, (2005); **“Women in Politics”**— A briefing paper to the US Congress, Washington DC, (2005); **“Women and Politics in Post-Conflict Situations”**—A discussion paper, 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, UN Headquarters, NY, (2005); **“Women in Parliament: How to Bring About Change”**

Regional Conference for Women MPs of the GCC States, Abu Dhabi, (2007); **“Sexual Violence Against Women in Conflicts-A** discussion paper, 2008 Parliamentary Hearing at the UN, NY, (2008); **“Parliament Plays a Crucial Role to Enhance Peace, Democracy and Development”**-129th IPU Assembly, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (2009). **The plight of the people of the famine-stricken Somalia and relieve efforts from Members of the IPU**, (2011).



*Chairing an IPU meeting*