

MAURICE SYDNEY LIPWORTH

Maurice Sydney Lipworth was born in Johannesburg and educated at King Edward VII School and at the University of the Witwatersrand, where he obtained Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Laws degrees, both *cum laude*. He was joint winner of the Alexander Aitken Medal in his BComm graduating class and of the Society of Advocates Prize for the best law graduate in his LLB graduating class. He qualified as an attorney in 1955 and was admitted to the Johannesburg Bar in 1956, practising as an advocate for eight years. During this time he joined Dr Donald Gordon in founding the Liberty Life Association of Africa. In the early 1960s Sydney Lipworth moved to the United Kingdom where he founded Allied Dunbar Assurance and, in the following decades, also held a range of prominent directorships and chairmanships in British industry and commerce.

But Lipworth's primary contribution was in the public service. In 1981, he became a part-time member of the United Kingdom Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC), now re-named the Competition Commission. From 1988 to April 1993, he was the full-time chairman of this critical regulatory body, whose decisions have a profound impact on economic growth and regulation both in Europe and throughout the world. When he retired from the position Lipworth's chairmanship was acclaimed as being immune from 'lobbying or political bullying' and, it was said, he had no truck with 'trimming to the fashion of the day' (London *Sunday Times*, 18 April 1993). For his services in this arena, Lipworth was knighted in 1991. In 1993, he was appointed an honorary Queen's Counsel. He has also been made an honorary bencher of his Inn of Court, the Inner Temple.

Lipworth's public service has been enormously influential. He is a Trustee of the International Accounting Standard Committee Foundation and a non-executive director of Carlton Communications plc, Centrica plc and Goldfish Bank plc. Until recently he has been chairman of Zeneca (now AstraZeneca), deputy chairman of NatWest Bank and a non-executive director of Centrica plc.

When he left the MMC, Lipworth became chairman of the Financial Reporting Council (1993-2001). From 1996 to 2002 he was a member of the Senior Salaries Review Body (SSRB), which determines the remuneration of major figures in British public life. He was also chair of the SSRB's judicial subcommittee until 1998. Other public positions Lipworth has held since leaving the MMC include chairmanship of a Department of Trade and Industry Task Force on Deregulation of Services (1993) and membership of the Committee of Financial Aspects of Corporate Governance ('the Cadbury Committee').

Lipworth's roles and commitments are manifold. He is currently chairman of the Philharmonia Trust (of which he has been a member since 1993) and a Trustee of the Royal Academy of the South Bank Foundation. He also chairs the Golden Daffodil Appeal Board of the Marie Curie Cancer Care Foundation and the gala committee of the British Red Cross. He and his wife Rosa, have contributed extensively to major public interest causes in the United Kingdom and elsewhere, often opening their home to receive and entertain potential contributors.

Lipworth has not forgotten his South African roots or his intellectual and academic ties with Wits and with the broader Wits community. He has hosted functions in support of the University, and has been a significant donor to its Law School Endowment Appeal.

In his seventh decade, Lipworth has joined a prominent set of Chambers in London to head a barrister's initiative into mediation and arbitration. His exceptionally broad business experience, together with his years of prominent public service, will make him a formidable figure in this new field.

In recognition of his international public service, together with his continued links with Wits, it is with great pride and pleasure that the University confers on Maurice Sydney Lipworth the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa*.