

SIR ALBERT EDWARD PHENEUS ROBINSON
DOCTOR OF COMMERCE, D Com
28 APRIL 1990

Albert Edward Pheneus Robinson was born in Durban on the 30th December 1915. He received his secondary education at Durban High School and matriculated in 1932. He proceeded to the University of Stellenbosch and then to the London School of Economics. He continued his studies at Leiden University and Cambridge where he graduated his Master of Arts. He also has a barrister at a law of Lincoln's Inn. In 1938, on the completion of his formal education he returned to South Africa to take up a position with the Anglo American Corporation.

In 1940 he volunteered for active service in the Imperial Light Horse and with his regiment saw action in Egypt and Libya. In July 1942 he was wounded at El Alamein. Sir Albert is presently Honorary Patron of the Imperial Light Horse Regimental Association, of the now Light Horse Regiment.

After his return to South Africa from military services, Sir Albert joined the General Mining and Finance Corporation Limited and worked for ten years in the industrial and property divisions of the Corporation. In 1945 at the age of thirty (30) he entered the municipal politics and as United party candidate was elected as a member of the Johannesburg City council, and as Chairman of the General purposes Committee for the period 1945 until 1948. In addition he was leader of the United party in the Johannesburg City Council from 1946 until 1947. As United party candidate Sir Albert moved into the wider political arena and in 1947, fought and won a by-election for the Laanglagte constituency in Johannesburg. He held this seat in the Union parliament from 1947 until 1953 and also served as a member of the Central Executive of the United Party from 1948 until 1953.

In the latter year he took up the permanent residence in Rhodesia, and in 1960 he was appointed to the membership of the Monckton Commission, the aim of which was to review the constitutional future of the Federation. In April of the following year he assumed office in London as High Commissioner for the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, a position he held until the 31st July 1963. In 1962, on recommendation of Federal Government he received knighthood, a well-deserved recognition public service of an exceptionally high order.