

Renier Stephanus Schoeman was born and educated in Durban, KZN and graduated from the University of Natal with a degree in Political Science and Afrikaans Netherlands. He joined the civil service in 1963 and left it in 1981 to enter politics.

In 1985 he became a Member of Parliament where he remained until 2004, after nineteen years as an MP, seven years of which as a Deputy Minister. In 1992-1994 he served as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs under President F. W de Klerk. In 1994-1996 was the Deputy Minister of Education under President N.R. Mandela. From 2002 to 2004 he was Deputy Minister of Health under President Thabo Mbeki. Subsequently, from 2006 to 2014 he was National Co-ordinator Corporate Liaison in the office of the ANC Treasurer General based in Luthuli House.

He has travelled widely internationally and visited 55 countries. He is married and has two adult children. In April 2014, he was appointed as a part time CRL Rights Commissioner and was re-appointed with effect from 1 July 2019. He chaired the Committee for Corporate Liaison and International Linkages during this period and has now been appointed as the Chairperson of the Committee for Communication, Marketing and International Linkages.