

Biography of Minister Naftali Bennett

Naftali Bennett is the Minister of Economy, Jerusalem, and Diaspora Affairs of the State of Israel and a Member of the 19th Knesset from the Jewish Home (*HaBayit Hayehudi*) political party, of which he is Chairman.

Bennett joined the Knesset after careers in the Israeli hi-tech sector, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), and public service.

As a commander in one of the IDF's most elite combat commando units, Bennett led a team of one hundred soldiers on counter-terrorism missions deep inside enemy territory. Today, he is a Major (Res.) in the IDF command Unit, "Sayeret Matkal"

In 1999, Bennett co-founded with three friends and served as CEO of Cyota, an anti-fraud software company until it was sold in 2005 for \$145 million. Today, Cyota (now RSA-Security) employs over 300 people in Israel.

After his 'Exit' and service in the Second Lebanon War, Bennett turned to public service, where he served as Chief of Staff to then-opposition leader Benyamin Netanyahu, contributing to the growth of Likud from 12 MKs to 27 . In that period Bennett was also the leader of the Likud's education reform team.

Before running for Knesset, Bennett served as the CEO of the Council of Judea and Samaria (*Yesha*) and created a non-profit organization, MyIsrael, which connected the broader Israeli public with Zionism and Jewish values.

Born to American immigrants, Bennett grew up in Haifa, received his Law Degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and currently lives with his wife and four children in Ra'anana.