

## **Dr. Mamphela Ramphela**

*Managing Director  
The World Bank Group*



In May of 2000, Mamphela Aletta Ramphela, a South African medical doctor and anthropologist and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town was appointed Managing Director of the World Bank. As a member of the senior leadership team, Dr. Ramphela is responsible for managing the institution's human development activities in the areas of education; health, nutrition and population; and social protection. She oversees the World Bank Institute and is also responsible for giving leadership to the World Bank's use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to enhance development effectiveness. In addition, Dr. Ramphela is responsible for the World Bank's relationship with the Group of 20.

Dr. Ramphela was born near Pietersburg in South Africa's Northern Province. Growing up in a remote rural region under the dictum "blacks should not be shown green pastures where they would never be allowed to graze" she persevered against all odds to become a medical doctor. She obtained her medical degree at the University of Natal in 1972. As a student, she was involved in the Black Consciousness Movement. While she was banished for her activist efforts by the then government to Lenyenye from 1977 to 1984, Dr. Ramphela continued her work to assist poor rural areas. She also holds a PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Cape Town, a BCom degree in Administration from the University of South Africa and diplomas in Tropical Health & Hygiene and Public Health from the University of Witwatersrand.

For her professional commitment, scholarship, her service to the community, her leading role in raising development issues and spearheading projects for disadvantaged persons throughout South Africa and devotion to the health and social welfare of the poor people, she has received numerous prestigious national and international awards and sixteen honorary doctorates and a Medal of Distinction from Barnard College in the United States. She was elected to the

Institute of Medicine. A former fellow of the Bunting Institute, she was elected an honorary member of Alpha & Iota Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa at Radcliffe and Harvard Colleges and numerous awards.

In 1996, Dr. Ramphela was appointed to the post of Vice-Chancellor at the University of Cape Town, becoming the first black woman to hold this position at a South African University. During her tenure there, Dr. Ramphela worked to ensure racial and gender equity and academic excellence. She was also the first African to be appointed to the position of Managing Director of the World Bank and only the second woman to have held this position.

Dr. Ramphela has published many books and articles on education, health, and social development issues including: *Mamphela Ramphela – Across Boundaries* (Feminist Press - autobiography); *A Bed called Home* (Cape Town: David Philip – on the life of migrant labor hostels in Cape Town); *Restoring the Land* (Panos - on ecological challenges facing post-apartheid South Africa. 1991); *Uprooting Poverty: The South African Challenge* (W.W. Norton & Co - Collaborator with Francis Wilson of UCT drawing together research conducted by the Second Carnegie Inquiry into Poverty and Development in South Africa). For their achievement, the authors received the 1990 Noma Award, an annual prize given to African writers and scholars whose work is published in Africa. She also co-edited *Bounds of Possibility: The Legacy of Steve Biko* (Zed Books).

Inspired by her life, a book written about her, “Mamphela Ramphela: Challenging Apartheid in South Africa,” published by The Feminist Press was chosen for the 2001 New York Public Library’s 100 best books for Young Adults list.

Her more recent book “*Steering by the Stars*” (Exclusive Books, Cape Town, 2002) traces the lives and progress of a group of underprivileged South African youth from the time of apartheid to now.