



PHUMZILE MLAMBO NGCUKA

1955-PRESENT

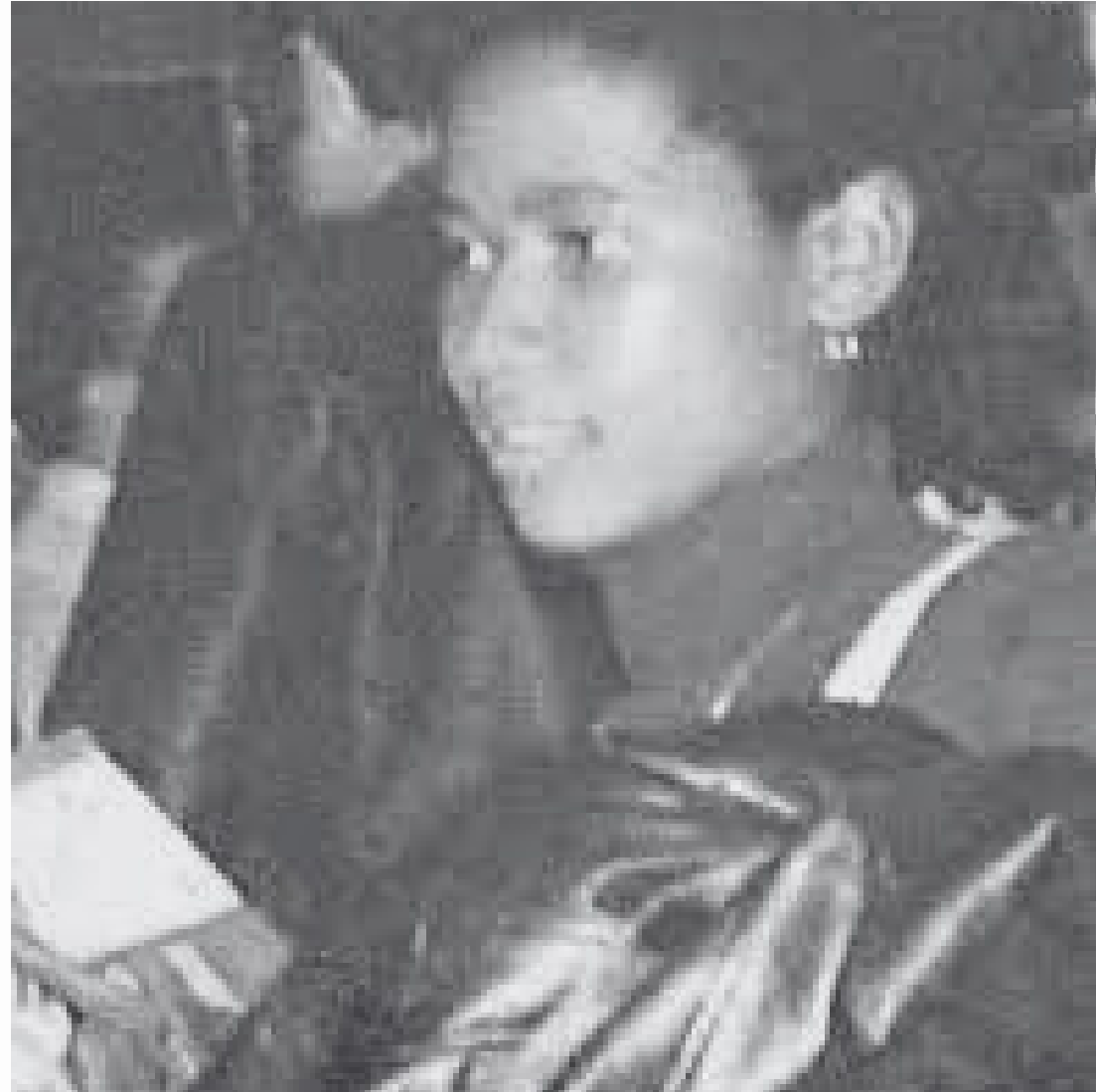
HER EFFORTS

List of Publications

- Progress towards gender parity still slow, uneven- Interview: Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
- The United Nation at 70 and the ongoing quest for gender equality
- Becoming UN Women: A journey in realizing rights and gaining global recognition
- Sexual Health and Women's Rights
- Mobile learning facilitated ICT teacher development : innovation report
- Rural women: the invisible mainstay of sustainability
- UN Women bids farewell to Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

Other activities

- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Ex-Officio Member of the Committee of Cosponsoring Organizations (since 2013)
- Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, Member of the Board (since 2016)
- Princess Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al Khalifa Global Award for Women's Empowerment, Member of the International Jury (since 2016)[30]
- African Leadership Academy (ALA), Member of the Global Advisory Council
- International Gender Champions (IGC), Member
- Mandela Rhodes Foundation, Member of the Board of Trustees



EARLY LIFE

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka was born 3 November 1955. Mlambo-Ngcuka was the first woman to hold the position and at that point the highest ranking woman in the history of South Africa. During her period as deputy president of South Africa, she oversaw programmes to combat poverty and ensure the poor benefit from the advantages of a growing economy.

EDUCATION



Mlambo-Ngcuka obtained a bachelor's degree in social science and education from the National University of Lesotho in 1980, as well as a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Cape Town in 2003, which dealt with educational planning and policy. In 2013 she completed a doctorate from the University of Warwick. The work covered using mobile technologies to support Teacher Development in resource poor nations. She was awarded an honorary doctorate from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in 2014.

From 1981 to 1983 Mlambo-Ngcuka taught in KwaZulu-Natal, after which she moved to Geneva to work with the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) from 1984 to 1989, as the organisation's Youth Director, where she advocated for job creation for young people within the UN system and promoted development education in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Mlambo-Ngcuka was the first president of the Natal Organisation of Women. During this time she also founded and directed the Young Women's International Programme.

From 1987 to 1989 Mlambo-Ngcuka was director of TEAM, a developmental Non-Government Organisation (NGO) in Cape Town, as well as being involved with squatter women and African independent churches to promote economic self-reliance and running skills training programmes. From 1990 to 1992 she was director of World University Service, a funding agency, as well as being involved in the management of funds donated to development organisations by Swedish and Swiss government development agencies. She started and managed her own management consulting company, Phumelela Services, during 1993 and 1994.

Throughout her career, Mlambo-Ngcuka directed her energy towards issues of human rights, gender and youth development, equality and social justice.



CAREER IN NATIONAL POLITICS IN SOUTH AFRICA

In 1994 Mlambo-Ngcuka became a Member of Parliament, chairing the Public Service Portfolio Committee. She was deputy minister in the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) from 1996 until 1999, during which time she also was a founding member of the Guguletu Community Development Corporation. From 1997 she served as member of the national executive committee of the African National Congress (ANC), as well as being the provincial vice-chairperson of the ANC Western Cape.

Mlambo-Ngcuka was Minister of Minerals and Energy from June 1999 to June 2005. During this time she was a driving force behind the government's policy of creating New Order Mining Rights which ended a period where big mining firms which controlled nearly all South Africa's minerals reserves, were able to hold mining rights to them in perpetuity. Mlambo-Ngcuka's policy of 'use it or lose it' created a situation where mining rights became available to a much broader segment of the population including many previously disadvantaged black people. She served as acting Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology from February 2004 to April 2004.

She led the Southern African Development Community mission to observe the 2005 Zimbabwe parliamentary election, which congratulated "the people of Zimbabwe for holding a peaceful, credible and well-mannered election which reflects the will of the people."

DEPUTY PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

On 22 June 2005, President Thabo Mbeki appointed her as deputy president of South Africa, after he relieved Jacob Zuma of the post the week before. Mlambo-Ngcuka's husband, Bulelani Ngcuka, was head of South Africa's National Directorate of Public Prosecutions at the time and charged with fighting organised crime. It was the NDPP which had determined that criminal charges should be brought against Zuma. It is Zuma's position that the charges against him are politically motivated. Soon after her appointment she was booed by Zuma supporters at a rally in KwaZulu-Natal, an incident that was not covered by the public broadcaster, the SABC, which led to accusations of bias.

In August 2005, commenting on the slow pace of the Willing Buyer Willing Seller land reform program in South Africa, she stated that South Africa could learn about land reform from Zimbabwe. This comment caused alarm and was condemned by the parliamentary opposition.



In December 2007, she lost her position on the ANC's National Executive Committee after party delegates elected a pro-Zuma slate. President Mbeki resigned in September 2008 after the National Executive Committee, objecting to Mbeki's alleged role in Jacob Zuma's prosecution for criminal activities, decided to recall him. On 23 September, in the wake of this, most of the South African cabinet resigned, Mlambo-Ngcuka among them.

Mlambo-Ngcuka joined the ANC breakaway party, Congress of the People (COPE) in late February 2009, but shortly after rejoined the ANC.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN WOMEN



On 10 July 2013, Mlambo-Ngcuka was appointed as Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. She was sworn into Executive Director of UN Women on 19 August 2013.

Under Mlambo-Ngcuka's leadership, UN Women worked with Publicis and Ogilvy on launching the HeForShe campaign. In November 2017 Mlambo-Ngcuka welcomed the Elsie Initiative to help increase women's participation in peacekeeping operations in a joint statement with fellow UN Under-Secretary-General Pramila Patten.



In addition to her role at UN Women, Mlambo-
Ngcuka also served a two-year term as member of
the World Bank Group's (WBG) Advisory Council on
Gender and Development from 2015 until 2017. In
November 2018, United Nations Secretary General
António Guterres appointed her to the United
Nations' Task Force on Digital Financing of
Sustainable Development Goals, co-chaired by
Maria Ramos and Achim Steiner.

She was awarded the Cannes Lion Heart Award in
2019 for her work for UN Women and Unstereotype
Alliance. Mlambo-
Ngcuka left UN Women in August
2021 after serving two terms.

Resources

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phumzile_Mlambo-Ngcuka

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