

**THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
(HONORIS CAUSA)**

MR MAVUSO WALTER MSIMANG

MAVUSO MSIMANG WAS BORN TO TEACHER PARENTS IN EDENDALE, 10 KM SOUTHWEST OF PIETERMARITZBURG. WHEN HIS PARENTS DIVORCED, HE TRAVELLED WITH HIS MOTHER TO LIVE WITH HIS MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS IN MASSONDALE, OUTSIDE NEWCASTLE IN NORTHERN KWAZULU-NATAL. HE ATTENDED JOBSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL AND WAS SENT TO BOARDING SCHOOL AT INKAMANA HIGH SCHOOL, A CATHOLIC MISSIONARY SCHOOL IN VRYHEID, WHERE HE MATRICULATED IN 1960. HE STUDIED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FORT HARE. ON THE INSTRUCTION OF THE UNDERGROUND LEADERSHIP OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, HE ABANDONED HIS STUDIES AND LEFT THE COUNTRY WITH THE VIEW TO FURTHER HIS EDUCATION ABROAD. WHEN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ANC WAS ARRESTED IN RIVONIA ON 11 JUNE 1963 MSIMANG, WHO WAS ALREADY IN FRANCISTOWN, BOTSWANA ON ROUTE TO DAR ES SALAAM, CHANGED HIS MIND AND DECIDED TO UNDERGO MILITARY TRAINING AS AN UMKHONTO WE SIZWE CADRE. HE WAS SENT TO MOSCOW, RUSSIA WHERE HE UNDERWENT A ONE-YEAR PROGRAMME IN URBAN GUERRILLA WARFARE, SPECIALISING IN HIGH-FREQUENCY RADIO COMMUNICATION.

AFTER FINISHING HIS TRAINING IN MOSCOW IN 1964, MSIMANG WAS STATIONED IN KONGWA, CENTRAL TANZANIA, AT A TRANSIT MILITARY CAMP PROVIDED BY THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT TO SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION ORGANISATION MEMBERS WHO WERE STILL ENGAGED IN ARMED STRUGGLE. FOR SECURITY REASONS, HE HAD ADOPTED THE NOM DU GUERRE, WALTER MAVUSO. HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO ZAMBIA WHERE HE SET UP A RADIO COMMUNICATION STATION. IN 1966, HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE MK MILITARY HIGH COMMAND, SERVING UNDER JOE MODISE, THEN COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. WHEN THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLES REVOLUTIONARY ARMY (ZIPRA) AND THE ARMED WING OF THE ZIMBABWE AFRICAN PEOPLES UNION (ZAPU) JOINED FORCES WITH UMKHONTO WE SIZWE LEADING TO COMBAT IN WANKIE (1967) AND SIPHOLILO (1968), MSIMANG BECAME A MEMBER OF THE JOINT ZIPRA-MK HIGH COMMAND RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERALL COMMUNICATION.

AFTER THE HISTORIC 1969 MOROGORO CONFERENCE, MSIMANG WAS APPOINTED SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT OLIVER TAMBO IN 1972. HE SUBSEQUENTLY RESUMED HIS STUDIES, OBTAINING A BSC DEGREE, MAJORING IN ENTOMOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA. HE LATER GRADUATED WITH A MASTER'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, USA.

ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1973, MSIMANG MARRIED NTOMBI MAGAGULA AND THE UNION WAS BLESSED WITH THREE DAUGHTERS, SISONKE, MANDL'SILO AND ZENGEZIWE. AFTER NTOMBI'S DEATH IN 2014, MSIMANG MARRIED THEMBEKILE KUNENE.

MSIMANG STARTED HIS PROFESSIONAL CAREER WITH THE UN WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME AS A UN VOLUNTEER ASSIGNED TO HEALTH AND REFUGEE PROGRAMMES IN ZAMBIA. HE SUBSEQUENTLY JOINED THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME IN KENYA. MSIMANG LATER TOOK UP A POSITION WITH THE WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE/CANADA (WUSC) IN OTTAWA, RESPONDING TO THE FAMINE IN ETHIOPIA THAT MADE WORLD HEADLINES. IN 1984, WUSC SENT HIM TO ADDIS ABABA AT THE HEAD OF A TEAM OF SIX CANADIAN EMERGENCY PROGRAMME SPECIALISTS, TO IMPLEMENT A RELIEF HEALTH, FOOD DISTRIBUTION, AND POTABLE-WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME IN THE OGADEN REGION OF ETHIOPIA. MSIMANG LATER TRAVELLED TO OTTAWA TO BECOME DIRECTOR OF THE WUSC RELIEF AND REHABILITATION PROGRAMME. HE SUBSEQUENTLY JOINED CARE-CANADA AND WAS SENT TO KENYA AS COUNTRY DIRECTOR WHERE HE OVERSAW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, AGROFORESTRY, WATER RETICULATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES. IN 1989, MSIMANG JOINED UNICEF AND WAS GIVEN CHARGE OF ITS EMERGENCY PROGRAMME IN ERITRIA, BEFORE IT SECEDED FROM ETHIOPIA.

MSIMANG RETURNED TO SOUTH AFRICA IN 1993. BASED IN DURBAN, HE WAS APPOINTED CEO OF UMTHOMBO PRIDE, AN EU/KAGISO TRUST-FUNDED PROJECT THAT WORKED WITH COMMUNITY-BASED RURAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE NORTHERN PLAINS OF KZN. IN 1994 MSIMANG BECAME THE FIRST BLACK CHIEF EXECUTIVE (1994-96) TO HEAD UP SOUTH AFRICAN TOURISM (THEN CALLED SATOUR). HE BRIEFLY RETURNED TO KZN IN 1997 TO SET UP TOURISM KWAZULU-NATAL FOLLOWING WHICH HE WAS APPOINTED CEO OF SANPARKS.

AN EXTENSIVE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME SAW SANPARKS BUILD A STRONG TRIPLE BOTTOMLINE OF SUSTAINABLE BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT, GOOD FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CORDIAL SANPARKS RELATIONS WITH COMMUNITIES NEIGHBOURING NATIONAL PARKS. KEY PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CEO WAS ACHIEVING A 15 PER CENT INCREASE IN VISITS TO NATIONAL PARKS BY THE BLACK POPULATION WITHIN FIVE YEARS; TOURISM COMMERCIALISATION, INCLUDING THE INTRODUCTION OF HIGH-END LODGES; AND THE FACILITATION OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE FROM NEIGHBOURING COMMUNITIES. THESE OBJECTIVES HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE TIME MSIMANG LEFT SANPARKS SEVEN YEARS LATER, IN 2003.

MSIMANG WAS SUBSEQUENTLY APPOINTED CEO OF THE STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGENCY (SITA), THE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AGENCY. SITA HAD LOST THE CONFIDENCE OF BOTH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY. HE ACHIEVED A REMARKABLE TURNAROUND WHICH RESTORED STAKEHOLDERS' CONFIDENCE IN THE ORGANISATION.

JUST BEFORE HE WENT ON RETIREMENT IN 2007, MSIMANG WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS (DHA), SPECIFICALLY TASKED TO SHORTEN THE TURNAROUND IN BIRTH CERTIFICATE, ID AND PASSPORT PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION. HE HAS BEEN CREDITED WITH HAVING ACHIEVED THE MOST REMARKABLE TURNAROUND IN THE DEPARTMENT. IN 2010, PRINCETON UNIVERSITY NOTED THAT IRREVERSIBLE CHANGES HAD BEEN ACHIEVED AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOME AFFAIRS. IN THE SAME YEAR, THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA) RECOGNISED DHA AS THE MOST ENABLED GOVERNMENT USER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN AFRICA. HE WAS HONOURED WITH THE WWF-SOUTH AFRICA "LIVING PLANET AWARD" IN 2018 DURING THE WWF'S ANNUAL THOUGHT LEADERSHIP EVENT AS WELL AS THE WESSA NATIONAL GOLD AWARD THE SAME YEAR.

DURING A CAREER THAT SAW HIM TRANSFORM AND IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF STATE INSTITUTIONS, MSIMANG EARNED HIMSELF THE NAME OF "MR FIX IT".

MSIMANG IS PASSIONATE ABOUT CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT. HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER OF THE WWF SOUTH AFRICA BOARD SINCE FEBRUARY 2011 AND CHAIRS ITS SOCIAL, ETHICS AND TRANSFORMATION COMMITTEE. HE IS DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF AFRICAN PARKS NETWORK, SERVES ON THE BOARD OF PEACE PARKS FOUNDATION, AND COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AFRICA, IS A MEMBER OF WILDLIFE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE OF SOUTH AFRICA (WESSA) AND PARTICIPATES IN MANY CONSERVATION COLLOQUIMS.

A VETERAN OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS (ANC), MSIMANG IS OUTSPOKEN ON ISSUES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND CORRUPTION. HE CURRENTLY CHAIRS CORRUPTION WATCH.

THE LIFE OF MAVUSO MSIMANG IS A TRUE DEFINITION OF WHAT SERVICE TO HUMANITY IS ABOUT. BEGINNING FROM HIS WILLINGNESS TO VOLUNTEER MILITARY SERVICE FOR THE LIBERATION OF HIS COUNTRY; WORKING AS A UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEER, SERVICE IN COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS; AND OUTSTANDING SERVICE AT PUBLIC SERVICE LEVEL, IS MORE THAN AMPLE JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS RECOGNITION.

WE ARE TRULY HUMBLED TO BE ABLE TO HONOUR MAVUSO WALTER MSIMANG WITH THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (*HONORIS CAUSA*) IN THE COLLEGE OF ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION).