

## **Sizwe Nxasana**

Sizwe Nxasana is a South African business executive and a qualified chartered accountant.

He was born on 7 August 1957 in Lamontville, KwaZulu-Natal. He matriculated at Marianhill in 1976. Mr Nxasana holds a BCom from the University of Fort Hare, a BCompt (Hons) degree from Unisa and a CA (SA) qualification. He was one of the first 10 African CA's in South Africa.

Nxasana worked for Unilever and PricewaterhouseCoopers before establishing Sizwe & Co in 1989, the first black-owned audit practice in KwaZulu-Natal. In 1996, he became one of the founding partners of Nkonki Sizwe Ntsaluba, the first black-owned national firm of accountants, where he served as national managing partner until 1998.

In 1998, he joined Telkom SA as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and was responsible for its listing on the JSE and New York Stock exchanges. The innovative public share-offering created a broad base of black shareholders.

Before becoming CEO of FirstRand Banking Group in 2010 he spent four years in charge of FirstRand Bank, where he was responsible for all FirstRand banking operations, including First National Bank (one of the country's leading retail banks), Rand Merchant Bank (a leading corporate and investment bank) and WesBank (a leading car financing company).

Nxasana holds numerous non-executive roles, including non-executive directorships with MMI Group, Zenex 1995 Trust, and Zenex Foundation.

He serves as chairman on various foundations and trusts. He is the co-founder and chairman of the National Education Collaboration Trust. He was appointed chairman of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme in August 2015 taking on the new role right in the midst of the Fees Must Fall campaign. He was chairman of the Ministerial Task Team developing a new funding model for students who come from poor and "missing middle" backgrounds and president of ABASA (Association for Advancement of Black Accountants). Sizwe is also a member of South African Institute of Chartered Accountants.

As a social entrepreneur he recently founded Future Nation Schools which is a chain of affordable private schools in South Africa. He also founded Sifiso Learning Group which is involved in Edtech, academic publishing and real estate.

Nxasana has been conferred with honorary doctorates by the Universities of Fort Hare, the Durban University of Technology, the University of Johannesburg and the Walter Sisulu University.