

ABRIDGED CV: ISHMAEL MKHABELA

ISHMAEL MKHABELA, a self-taught freelance Professional Community Organiser, mediator and scenarios-based strategic conversations facilitator, is a graduate of the University of Limpopo (formerly the University of the North). He has successfully completed a Management Advancement Programme (MAP) at Wits Business School and also pursued non-graduation studies in the fields of Education, law and Sociology at the University of South Africa (UNISA).

Mkhabela started his career as a school teacher. He went on to pioneer and establish the efficacy of broad-based community organizing, alternative community organisers training, values-based leadership development, scenarios-based strategic conversations as well as community disputes resolution, mediation, and peacemaking involving community, business, government stakeholders and other interests.

A Black Consciousness and Black Theology proponent, Mkhabela has for over four decades consistently and significantly contributed to nation building with social justice. He has throughout this period consistently served, established and promoted community regeneration institutions and development initiatives. His primary aim and passion was to advance the legitimate rights and interests of vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalised communities and groups.

Mkhabela has, during the apartheid era, founded or served, among others, as member of the national Task Team against Forced Removals, Convener of the Witwatersrand Network for the Homeless and was the founding Chairperson and later elected President of the Azanian People's Organisation (AZAPO). During the transition and post-apartheid periods Mkhabela dedicated himself to nation building programmes. He founded and was Chief Executive Officer of Interfaith Community Development Association after his departure from Wilgespruit Fellowship Centre. He supported the National Peace Accord's peacemaking processes including The Hostels Peace Initiative involving hostel dwellers in the center and surrounding areas of Johannesburg. As vice-chairperson of the multi-sectoral National Housing Forum he facilitated housing negotiations among political, community and business stakeholders, on the one hand, and the last apartheid government, on the other. This led to Mkhabela being appointed chairperson of both the People's Housing Processes Trust that encouraged self-help housing and the National Housing Board that advised the housing Ministry. He further mediated and facilitated the resolution of bond payment boycotts that then adversely affected banks and clients in Pretoria and Johannesburg townships.

In addition, he was a long-serving director of the National Business Initiative, chairperson of New Housing Company, Johannesburg Social Housing Company, Pikitup, as well as that of Soweto and Roodepoort Theatres while serving as director of Joburg Theatre and Joburg Ballet.

Mkhabela is the Chairperson of Steve Biko Foundation and The Johannesburg Inner City Partnership as well as Deputy President of the South African Institute of Race Relations. He also serves as board member of Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital Trust, FinMark Trust, Centre for Development and Enterprise, Mbhetsa Academy for Maths and Science, and Donaldson Trust.

Mkhabela's experience and expertise encompass corporate governance, policy formulation and implementation support, leadership and institution development as well as community and city

regeneration. Stakeholder engagement, awareness raising, advocacy, disputes resolution, mediation and facilitation processes are part of his business.