

DR ANNA MOKGOKONG

– A REMARKABLE **LIFE**: IN PROGRESS –



Dr Anna Mokgokong lives in Waterkloof, Pretoria with her Banker son, Neo, who is 27, and eagerly awaits grandchildren from Dineo (32) and her husband.

A SELF-CONFESSED SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR, Dr Anna Mokgokong flexed her commercial muscles at a young age, trading lunchtime sandwiches for cash at primary school, before going on to complete her education at St Theresa's High School in Manzini, Swaziland.

Following the earning of a BSc from the University of Botswana, she attended the Medical University of South Africa (MEDUNSA), where she not only received her MBChB, but also ensured that colleagues and lecturers were turned out in style with the beautiful handbags she was selling at the time.

She was more recently honoured with an Honorary Doctorate of Commerce by the University of South Africa (UNISA).

It's not often that Academia and entrepreneurial flair meet, but these early indicators have become the roadmap for the personal and professional life that Dr Mokgokong continues to embrace.

Balancing a thriving business career with her passion for learning, in addition to the many and varied social and political causes and entities she has been involved with, make her, truly, one of the most respected and formidable women in South African society.

She has been praised and lauded far and wide, and continues to blaze trails both at home and abroad.

"Lift up your hand, be seen and be counted"

Dr Anna TM Mokgokong

BUSINESS CAREER



HIGHLIGHTS

STARTING OUT AS A REPUTABLE COMMUNITY MEDICAL DOCTOR, with a thriving practice, the heady world of commerce lured Dr Mokgokong from her initial calling during the early '90s.

South Africa was ripe for change, and opportunity was presenting itself everywhere.

With partner Joe Madunganda, Dr Mokgokong, founded and currently chairs Community Investment Holdings Pty Ltd (CIH), with the vision to become "...a prominent black economic empowerment player that participates in the mainstream economy of South Africa."

25 years later, that vision is reality, with the company having significant investment in companies in vital areas of an emerging democracy including Healthcare, ICT, Logistics, Mining, Infrastructure and Power and Energy.

Not only is it important that these growth areas are funded adequately, but Dr Mokgokong and Mr Madunganda have contributed to their further success by actively being involved in the management of the businesses that CIH has acquired, providing strategic direction and guidance, and tapping into their local and global networks to ensure continued growth and input.

As a result of her business accomplishment, Dr Mokgokong has served as a non-executive chairperson for several JSE-listed companies, and sits on the Boards of most of the CIH subsidiaries

She was the first female board member at Shoprite/Checkers and is a member of the Institute of Directors. She has greatly influenced policy around the inclusion of women in leadership structures, and lives by Charlotte Maxeke's philosophy to 'take someone along'.

A committed corporate citizen, she feels compelled to make a difference in the companies she serves, as well as in the communities in and around them.

Dr Mokgokong was South Africa's Businesswomen of the year in 1999.

She is one of just 300 recipients of The Star Group's Leading Women Entrepreneurs of the World awards, and she successfully hosted the nomination event in South Africa in 2007, where she was named as the Honourable Chairperson of the Women of the Year Forum for 2007.



EDUCATION SECTOR



HIGHLIGHTS

INSPIRED BY HER DEAR LATE MOTHER, MARY MOKGOKONG, who was one of the country's pioneering black female mathematicians/scientists; Dr Mokgokong believes that "If we are ignorant, we will always be undermined".

Consequently, she has always been an active figurehead in education, believing it to be a key factor in shaping the world. Dr Mokgokong was the first woman since 1979 to serve as a member of UNISA's council. She was elected Chairperson of the council in 2003,

She also became a University of Pretoria (UP) council member at the turn of the Millennium, and has been a member of the Department of Economic and Management Sciences Advisory Committee there since 2006.

2005 saw her being awarded the prestigious TuksAlumni Laureate Award, and a few years later, in 2008, she received the Chancellor's Medal from UP for her outstanding entrepreneurial spirit.

In 2010, she was the keynote speaker at Harvard at the 'Africa Coming of Age' conference.

Dr Mokgokong recently retired as a Board member of the American University of Nigeria, a post which she held from 2009.

However, this has freed her up to take on her next biggest challenge in the sector.

On June 21, 2019, Dr Mokgokong was appointed as Chancellor of the North West University, a post which she is really looking forward to tackling, promising to add value, insights and inspiration as she continues her secondary career in learning and development,

In addition to her work at learning institutions, Dr Mokgokong, in her personal capacity, sponsors university education in the disciplines of medicine, accounting and law for several young South African women each year.

SOCIO- POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS



HIGHLIGHTING GENDER INEQUALITY

A WOMAN THROUGH AND THROUGH, Dr Mokgokong knows that she is not only defined by her work, so she balances her home, family and faith life in pursuit of being a whole person.

She is a keen gardener – particularly of roses and fresh vegetables – and is a highly accomplished cook. Her oxtail potjiekos is renowned!

Truly embracing all aspects of womanhood and the unique strengths that women possess, Dr Mokgokong is passionate about uplifting all women in South Africa, encouraging them towards both business and personal success.

In this pursuit, she gives many mentorship and motivational talks to young and up-and-coming women's groups on empowerment opportunities.

In August, Women's Month in South Africa, she chooses an annual theme for women, and centres her messaging in this sphere around that.

For 2019/2020 it is 'Outdoing Oneself'.

Dr Mokgokong is a committed Soroptimist International member, which is a worldwide volunteer service for women who work for peace, and in particular to improve the lives of women and girls. In 1994 she was elected Soroptimist Community Person of the Year.

She is a past-president of the South African Women Entrepreneurs (SAWEN) forum, and held the same leadership role at the International Women's Forum of South Africa (IWFSA) between 2007 and 2009, where she spread her unique brand of humility, hope and enthusiasm.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

FUELLED BY A PASSION FOR HER NATION, and taking cognisance of the fact that success in other spheres of life implores you to proverbially 'pay it forward'; Dr Mokgokong has stepped forward when her country has asked her to.

From 2004 to 2009 she served as the Deputy Chairperson of the Independent Commission for the Remuneration of Public Office Bearers, and during this period she was also appointed to the Health Charter task team by the then Minister of Health, Dr Manto Tshabalala-Msimang.

In October 2009, Dr Mokgokong was appointed, by the Minister of Defence and Military Veterans, to serve as a Commissioner on the National Defence Force Interim Commission.

On January 21, 2017, she took over the reins of The Honorary Consul General of Iceland to Pretoria, replacing President Cyril Ramaphosa.



ADDITIONAL AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Apart from the awards and associations already mentioned, Dr Mokgokong has enjoyed the recognition of the following:

