

National Planning Commission Mourns the Passing of Commissioner **Dr Vuyo Mahlati**



The NPC is saddened by the untimely passing of one of our own, Dr Vuyo Mahlati, a member of the Commission since its inception in 2010.

Dr Mahlati's contribution to the development of our democratic state and the betterment of the country, especially the poor, is immeasurable. She was dedicated to transformation, the emancipation of women and an inclusive economy, among key pre-requisites for

social cohesion and nation-building in South Africa. She completed a doctoral degree from the University of Stellenbosch, in which she researched the mainstreaming of rural entrepreneurs into global markets. She was an erudite scholar and contributed to the writing of the National Development Plan - Vision 2030 (NDP). But her contribution was not just academic, and saw her at the forefront of turning ideas into actions, as witnessed by the many causes for which she rolled her sleeves, helping to move South Africa forward.

Dr Mahlati was a champion of the poor and the downtrodden. She fought passionately for the empowerment of black farmers and rural women to become an integral part of the mainstream sector. She founded Ivili Loboya, one of Africa's first indigenous wool processing plants located in rural Butterworth, Eastern Cape province. Amongst other corporate positions and directorships, she was the president of the African Farmers' Association of South Africa, director of the International Women's Forum, as well as the Chairperson of the Presidential Panel on Land Reform and Agriculture.

Dr Mahlati was a staunch commissioner of the NPC, first appointed at the beginning of the Commission in 2010, and re-appointed for the current second term, where she offered her expertise, sharp intellect and passionate advocacy for the NDP, in particular the empowerment of women and black people in general. Her decade-long service on the Commission represents vital institutional memory and a critical resource she availed across many sectors and organisations.

Her shocking passing away will leave the Commission and the country poorer. We find solace from the fortune of having worked with her during the height of her career and her rise as a decorated leader within and outside South Africa. Our deepest condolences go to her family and friends.

May her departed soul rest in peace.



**national planning
commission**

Department:
The Presidency
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

