



A POLITICAL ACTIVIST AND A WOMAN OF GOD

Thami was admitted to study a National Diploma in Public Health (now Environmental Health) at MUT and graduated in 1991. She achieved the honour of receiving a Pfizer award for being the student with the highest marks in Public Health.

Thami Matshego - Class of '88

An active student, she was elected as Woman Organiser for the South African National Student Organisation (SANSCO) which later merged with NUSAS to become the South African Student Organisation (SASCO). Thami was also the first woman to be elected as the Secretary of the Student Representative Council (SRC) and also chaired the Cultural Committee of University Students. As a former trade unionist, a political activist and a workplace leader, Thami has mentored and coached a number of young professionals, some of whom now hold senior positions in their organisations and in government.

Thami grew up and schooled in the township of Montshiwa in Mahikeng, North West Province. Her career began in 1992 as a Veterinary Public Health Officer for the former Agricultural Corporation of Bophuthatswana. She moved up the ranks to become a Senior Environmental Health Officer and then acting Chief Environmental Officer. More recently she has worked as Director for Community Services in the Department of Sanitation and Disaster Management, as a Director for the Bojanala Platinum District Municipality (where she established the Department of Health and Environmental Services, which she later headed) and as Chief Director for Environmental Services with the North West Provincial Government.

Moving to Gauteng Province, she was then appointed as an Executive Manager: Community Services in the Rand West City Local Municipality. She is currently employed by the Mogale City Local Municipality as an Executive Manager responsible for Integrated Environmental Management Services. Presently Thami is registered for a PhD degree with a special interest in the field of climate change.

As a woman of faith in action, Thami has served in various community-based organisations and faith-based organisations. "I serve as a chairperson in the Women's Department in my church, I am actively involved in the mentoring of youth, and I also assist with the development of sound administrative processes and systems in the church," Thami adds.

Thami has served as a member of the MUT Council as a Convocation representative. During her tenure she was deputy chairperson of the Institutional Forum. Currently she is a board member of the Cradle of Humankind Local Tourism Association and also volunteers in the Cradle of Humankind Ambassador Programme. Thami is married to Dr Caleb Matshego and they are blessed with three children.