

The Honorands of The 2001 Commencement

Mamphela Ramphela Doctor of Laws

Dr. Mamphela Ramphela, managing director of the World Bank, is the former vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town, South Africa. She started her career in the 1970s as a student activist in the Black Consciousness Movement. She has worked as a medical doctor, civil rights leader, community development worker, academic researcher, and a university administrator. She joined the University of Cape Towns as a research fellow in 1986, and was appointed deputy vice-chancellor five years later. In September 1996, she took up the post of vice-chancellor, becoming the first black woman to hold that position at a South African university.

Dr. Ramphela qualified as a medical doctor at the University of Natal in 1972. She holds a Ph.D. in Social Anthropology from the University of Cape Town, a B.Com. degree in Administration from the University of South Africa, and diplomas in Tropical Health and Hygiene and Public Health from the University of Witwatersrand.

From 1977 to 1984, Dr. Ramphela was banished by the South African Government to the remote township of Lenyenye near Tzaneen. There she continued her work with the rural poor and established the Ithuseng Community Health Program. She has received numerous prestigious national and international awards, including ten honorary doctorates acknowledging her scholarship, service to the community, leading role in raising development issues, and spearheading projects for the most disadvantaged sectors of the community in South Africa.

She has also been honored widely for her contribution to the struggle against apartheid. Dr. Ramphela has published extensively on the challenges facing post-apartheid South Africa, including her autobiography, *Across Boundaries*. Bowdoin owes her a great debt for her role in establishing the Colby-Bates-Bowdoin program of study in Cape Town.