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CALLING FOR CHANGE: Dr Mamphela Ramphele makes her point during a speech entitled 'Beyond philanthropy and towards investing in the future'.

Future rests with citizens - Ramphele

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Staff Reporter

South Africa needs "coherent citizen action" to create a country that will endure for the nation's children, says Dr Mamphela Ramphele.

Ramphele, a philanthropist and activist and former vice chancellor of UCT, was speaking last night at the university's Alumni Leadership Forum.

Her talk was titled "Beyond philanthropy and towards investing in the future".

Addressing the audience gathered in a lecture theatre in the

Kramer Law Building, Ramphele said she believed that South Africans were living in an extraordinary time, but that this called for extraordinary answers.

"The success to getting to greatness is to start charting a course to the that future in which our children will be able to live," she said.

Education was the first challenge - and that required a fundamental change to ensure that enough time was spent on learning and teaching.

"We have a responsibility - to those to whom much is given, much is needed.

"We need a social movement to

address challenges that underline our concerns as a nation."

Ramphele said South Africa was destined for great things, but that change was necessary.

"We need coherent citizen action.

"We need to lead by example in all spheres of our engagement - in the home, the community, the work place and in civil society." She said.

Ramphele told the Cape Argus that she did not want to chart the way forward but emphasised that it was up to those who attended last night's talk to take what was said and to "stand up"