

**ETV**

**Sunrise**

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Duration: 7 Mins

**Presenter:** Let's go back to that package that we promised you earlier on with Dr Ramphele Mamphela talking about scenarios that South Africa needs to focus on if we want to move forward as a nation. Let's take a look.

**Reporter:** They say great strides have been made towards achieving a democratic and more prosperous society but mistakes have also been made which, if not addressed, could become critical. There is a diverse group of 35 South Africans from civil society, government, various political parties, trade unions, business, religious groups, academia and the media – together they call themselves the Dinokeng Scenario team. Here's what they stand for as described by the Dinokeng Convener and Participant - Dr Ramphele Mamphela.

**Dr Ramphele Mamphela:** Dinokeng, which means a Place of Rivers, where rivers come together-we took a look around the country and said this country has got full potential but it has got huge risks that are accumulating. This is the middle of last year and remember at that time we had - post-Polokwane - we had instability within the ruling party and by the time we met at the first workshop which was in August in a place called Dinokeng in the Hamaanskraal area, already there were rumblings about the removal of the President. And indeed by the time we met the second time the President had been removed. At a time of uncertainty and instability scenario exercises have been shown to be very useful because they force you to stand away from the problem, look at it with fresh eyes and say: 'if we continue along this pathway' what's likely to happen? Are there other alternative ways of doing things? And what are those alternatives? And how do we mobilize the rest of society to really come to a place where we have serious conversations?'

**Reporter:** Here she explains what the team has done to galvanize support to their greater goal of Dinokeng.

**Dr Ramphele Mamphela:** We produced a draft and we used the draft to go around to some political parties, to some trade unions (the big ones), to the private sector, to NGOs, to faith based organizations – to say this is what we are thinking and many of them said: ‘you are on the right track’ and others said: ‘yes, but you have got this gap’ and others said: ‘well, it doesn’t really matter. It’s not about right or wrong, it’s about putting issues on the table for conversations’ - because South Africans towards the end of the last Presidency became very reticent to even talk amongst themselves. People were afraid to even to been seen to be disloyal by being critical.

**Reporter:** Education is priority as this team describes it as a sure way of buying away poverty. Remember the saying: ‘Education Is the Key to Success?’

**Dr Ramphele Mamphela:** Any education system that is deemed successful must be able to produce graduates who are able to read and write, to do arithmetic or mathematics and to reason in a logical fashion. And those things come out nurturing from primary right through the university level. And we often find that the choice of Outcomes Based Education has left many teachers feeling bewildered about how do they now teach reading and writing arithmetic and reasoning. They’re expected to be facilitators of an informal learning environment – they have never experienced it; it’s a problem.

**Reporter:** The scenario team has some advice for the incoming government led by Jacob Zuma. Dr Ramphele Mamphela says leadership will be key, particularly in ensuring that our education system comes right and is given a chance to flourish and produce students that will stand the test of time.

**Dr Ramphele Mamphela:** We need discipline amongst teachers – teachers in many of our poor schools do not show up on time; don’t come prepared; many drink at work. We have got cases of teachers impregnating young girls – it is appalling. I think that the main reason for that is leadership of institutions, accountability of that leadership – not just in the university but nationally, some are abusing academic freedom to be unaccountable and we also have a problem that our government has not sufficiently leveraged information and communication technologies to make sure that every student, every teacher has got access to a laptop that is connected to the wealth of knowledge;

that everybody – even in rural Ghana, in Malawi, in Rwanda – people are just click of a mouse; they are in Google, they're into this, they are doing projects – why can't we do it in this very sophisticated country? It is because Telkom has not been managed as a national asset to help in this. It is being run as a monopoly, overcharging and therefore being unable to generate that environment which would make information technology affordable.

**Reporter:** The scenario's team says it wants to create space and language for open, reflective and reason strategically [position] among citizens about possible futures for the country, opportunities and risks.