

**SABC 2**

**Morning Live (Vuyo Mbuli)**

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**Vuyo Mbuli:** How will our country look in 2020? The Dinokeng Scenario Team is a group of 35 South Africans from different sectors. They came up with three scenarios for South Africa's future. The aim is to stimulate debate and encourage communities to participate in governance. Joining us now from our studios in Sea Point is Dr Mamphela Ramphele one of the prominent participants in the Dinokeng Scenarios. Dinokeng means 'a place of rivers'. Dr Ramphele, good morning to you. Welcome and thank you for joining on Morning Live.

**Dr Mamphela Ramphele:** Good morning Vuyo and good morning to your listeners.

**Vuyo Mbuli:** How did the Dinokeng Scenarios come about?

**Dr Mamphela Ramphele:** It came about as a result of concern by people who were looking at South Africa in the middle of last year and amongst those was Old Mutual and they decided that instead of just simply worrying about things around dinner tables, why don't we sponsor a process which involves a diversity of South Africans to take time out. Between the middle of the year and the end of the year we did three workshops out in the sticks on the outskirts of Hamanskraal in a place called Dinokeng. We lived in tents and we really thought out of the box to say to ourselves, given the gains that our democracy had made since 1994, what are the challenges that remain and how would those challenges unfold? We were very different in how we approached the problem because of our diversity of backgrounds – political leaders, business people, trade unionists, academics and people from civil society as well as the faith-based organisations. Its amazing what South Africans are able to do when they come together in their diversity, celebrate that diversity but look at the things that are common. It is the common concern about South Africa that allowed us to emerge with a view that we face enormous challenges but we can use our gains to address those challenges, if only we have bold, courageous leadership as well as an active citizen.

**Vuyo Mbuli:** Lets talk about the challenges. What are these enormous challenges?

**Dr Mamphela Ramphele:** We identified four main challenges – education, unemployment and poverty, safety and security and health. But underpinning all of that was the concern about South Africans not yet recognising and acting as a united nation.

**Vuyo Mbuli:** Education, what is the problem with education? Is it simply resources, is it the many changes that we've seen over the last while, is it the fact that our education system does not seem to be providing the talent that is needed in many of the key areas of our society?

**Dr Mamphela Ramphele:** The problem of education is not resources. We spend more money than many developing countries in the world. Our problem is the management of the education system and by management I mean what we chose as a curriculum, given the legacy of apartheid was totally inappropriate. Outcomes-Based education has not worked in a single country anywhere in the world. In addition to that, we have that very complex curriculum being taught by a large teacher core, many of whom are not adequately qualified. Add to that the problems of schools that don't have the equipment, even the very basic equipment such as properly working blackboards and basic toilets and sanitation and the ability of kids to learn in environments that are safe. And we then add another layer of complexity onto that by having the most highly unionised teacher core in the world, and that is not by itself a problem, but what is a problem is that the union SADTU in particular, has acted as a break to the process of performance management. Now, performance based management is an important element to enable people to see what is working and what is not, which teachers are performing adequately and which are not and what are the problems with those who are not performing. Do they need more support? Do they need something else? And so we have in addition to that, parents who are not actively involved in the education of their children for a variety of reasons. So we have ended up with an education system that has failed the majority of our children. Only 29% of those who are meant to be passing through matric end up with certificates that mean something. And that is a problem.

**Vuyo Mbuli:** Its been a comprehensive and detailed analysis of the issue around education. Just before we go to our break, can we talk about the three scenarios? What are the three scenarios that you then came out with and put on the table.

**Dr Mamphela Ramphele:** The three scenarios are Walk Apart which is what we are doing right now where each one of us is looking after themselves including civil servants who are

not there to serve the public. And we believe that on that pathway we are likely to end up with chaos and anarchy and that will in the end, force the government to become authoritarian. The second scenario is what we call Walk Behind and we as South Africans have a tendency to follow leaders very religiously until we get really angry if things don't happen the way we're expecting them to happen. And that is really the situation where the State takes on the responsibility of not only regulating and enabling the development of society but actually running the economy and trying to do things that are beyond what governments normally do. We believe that given the global economic meltdown the temptation for the government to intervene in the economy beyond the role of being a catalyst and enabler is very strong. And that on top of a weak state that has not been able over the last fifteen years to deliver on the core business of governments which is safety and security, providing decent education and health for the majority of people, it will be very risky and again we'll end up with chaos and a debt trap. The third scenario is where we believe we Walk Together and that's where citizens understand what's together.

**Vuyo Mbuli:** Hold that thought there Dr Ramphela. We'll come back and continue our discussion in a moment.

**Vuyo Mbuli:** Still with us is Dr Mamphela Ramphela. She is the Chair of the Dinokeng Scenarios. She joins us from our studios in Cape Town. Dr Ramphela, I'm just looking at the five priorities identified by incoming President Jacob Zuma and trying to link them to the Dinokeng Scenarios. He highlighted yesterday, education, health, land reform and rural development, the fight against crime and creating decent work. Would you say that deals very clearly with the issues identified in your workshops and that you've put on the table?

**Dr Mamphela Ramphela:** Absolutely. We were very encouraged actually as we watched the election campaigns unfolding. Almost all political parties identified those issues as key issues and they reflect our analysis over the last, almost two-thirds of the year, where we came to the conclusion on the basis of looking at research analysis. But when you go down to rural communities you see just how we have missed the opportunity of using the policy of land reform that we agreed to, to enable livelihoods and sustained development in rural areas. And I hope that the government, having accepted that as a problem area will be able to implement. And what also encouraged us is when we did the quiet briefings before the formal launch a few days ago, we were encouraged to find that within the ANC, within all the political parties as well as in government because we also briefed the presidency, there was

resonance with what we were saying are the key challenges facing our society. The question is going to be, how are we going to address them? President Zuma is sounding like he is really determined to give the kind of bold leadership that is needed but it will have to be accompanied by a commitment to make sure that we've got a professionalised, independent, respectful public service that understands that they are there to serve the public and not to advance their own careers only.

**Vuyo Mbuli:** Just one last question because we're virtually out of time. The issue that you've also highlighted quite prominently is this of a citizenry that is not active, that is not holding political leaders accountable. You say that the tendency is for people to follow leaders religiously. In terms of the Dinokeng Scenarios, what are you proposing? What should South Africans do?

**Dr Mamphela Ramphele.** We propose that South Africans must go back to their heritage of activism which is what delivered our freedom and we can see that there are already pockets of activism everywhere in South Africa. Lets bring that together, lets meet around our concerns as communities, as professionals, as business people and also meet across those sectors to sit together and say, how can we respond to these commonly agreed challenges? And we believe that South Africa has demonstrated over and over again that when we come together and we address our problems collectively we do manage to succeed, as we succeeded to make the transition work for us in the early nineties.

**Vuyo Mbuli:** Thank you very much Dr Mamphela Ramphele, Chair of the Dinokeng Scenarios joining us from our studios in Cape Town. Thank you for your time.