

Mavuso Msimang

Mavuso Msimang is the chairman of Corruption Watch, a non-profit organisation launched in January 2012 that uses public reports to fight corruption and hold leaders accountable for their actions.

In the early days of his career, Msimang served on the High Command of Umkhonto we Sizwe, the military wing of the African National Congress, from 1966 to 1969, and was later appointed personal assistant to the ANC President Oliver Tambo, a position that he held from 1969 to 1971. He left South Africa in 1963 to train as a freedom fighter, and during his 30 years in exile, worked for various international development agencies. These included the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) where he was the country representative in Kenya and CARE-CANADA where he was the country representative in Ethiopia. He also worked for the UN World Food Programme and UNICEF.

On returning to South Africa in 1993, Msimang held several senior positions in public sector organisations. He was CEO of South African Tourism, Tourism KZN, South African National Parks and the State Information Technology Agency and was involved in their transformation and restructuring. In 1994, as head of the country's unpopular tourism marketing organisation [then called Satour], he and his board laid the foundation for the establishment of the new-look SA Tourism. As CEO of South African National Parks, Msimang oversaw the implementation of the organisation's financial, environmental and social responsibility programmes, involving communities around the parks by offering them employment and business opportunities. He also played a crucial role in restoring the integrity of operations at the State Information Technology Agency.

Following three-years as Director-General at the Department of Home Affairs, Msimang retired from the civil service. He spent time serving on various civic society, environmental management and private sector boards. He served as Chairman of the Tourism Business Council of South Africa for two terms. His non-executive board directorships have included the African Parks Network, the Peace Parks Foundation, and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, a UNESCO world heritage site, which he chaired.

He holds a BSc degree from the University of Zambia and an MBA from the US International University in San Diego, California.