

Kgalema Motlanthe

Kgalema Motlanthe was President of South Africa from September 2008 to May 2009. After the end of his presidency, he was appointed Deputy President by his successor, Jacob Zuma, and held this position until May 2014.

He resigned from government and from Parliament in May 2014 but has remained actively involved with the country's political and public affairs. The Kgalema Motlanthe Foundation was established in 2018, whose mission is "to contribute to socio-economic development in South Africa and the continent by facilitating sustainable access to knowledge, education & the economy via philanthropic efforts focused on building a knowledge-based economy." He is also a trustee of the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

He served two five-year terms as Secretary General of the African National Congress (ANC) between 1997 and 2007. He was elected Deputy President of the ANC in 2007 and held the position until 2012. Prior to this he was the General Secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).

In 2016 and 2017, Motlanthe chaired Parliament's High Level Panel on the Assessment of Key Legislation and the Acceleration of Fundamental Change, which recommended many reforms and made especially significant findings on land reform.

In March 2018, he chaired the African Union's election observation mission to the 2018 elections in Sierra Leone and later that year, he was appointed chairperson of a commission of inquiry into post-election unrest in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Motlanthe was born on 19 July 1949 in Alexandra, Johannesburg. He was raised in Soweto after his family was forcibly removed from Alex. After he finished school, Motlanthe was recruited into Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC). Between 1977 and 1987, he was imprisoned on Robben Island under the Terrorism Act.