



# rev. dr. makhenkesi stofile

**MINISTER : SPORT AND RECREATION**

**SOUTH AFRICA (SRSA)**

Past rugby player, coach and sports administrator, former cleric, activist and politician, Rev. Dr. Makhenkesi Arnold Stofile is currently South Africa's Minister of Sport and Recreation.

Makhenkesi Stofile was born in Adelaide, Eastern Cape in 1944. He matriculated from Newell High School, Port Elizabeth and studied at Fort Hare University where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1971, Bachelor of Theology degree in 1974, Bachelor of Theology Honours degree in 1975 and Masters of Theology degree in 1979.

His desire for further education saw him study overseas where he received a Post Graduate Diploma in Theology from Tubingen, Germany in 1981 and a Masters of Arts degree from Princeton University, USA in 1983. In 2000, he was awarded D. Phil (hc) by University of Port Elizabeth.

For many years, Makhenkesi has juggled his life by playing an active role in politics, academia, religion and sport. He started his working life as a Machine Operator at Textile Factory, Port Elizabeth from 1965 to 1968. He changed course forever when he became a part time tutor at the AICM Seminary in 1972.

Makhenkesi later became a Senior Lecturer in Theology and Philosophy of Religion at Fort Hare (1973 - 1986), and has been a Minister of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa since 1975. He was Senior Lecturer of Theology at University of Transkei, where he became Acting Head of Department in 1991. He has been a Member of the Governing Council of the University of Fort Hare since 1991, and was Director of Public Relations and Development at Fort Hare between 1992 and 1994.

Throughout much of his life, he has been active in politics and fighting for a just society. From 1983 to 1986, he was Regional Secretary and National Executive Committee member of the United Democratic Front. Makhenkesi led successful protests and prevented a planned tour by New Zealand's All Blacks in 1984. In May 1987, he was convicted under the then Ciskeian Internal Security Act and subsequently sentenced to 11 years imprisonment.

He was a Regional Chairperson and Member of the Internal Leadership Core of the African National Congress (1990 - 1991), and has been a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC from 1990 to date. Previously, Makhenkesi was a Member of Parliament and Chief Whip of the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa (1994 - 1996), and was ANC Treasurer General (1995 - 1997). He was Premier of the Eastern Cape (1997 - 2004), and has been Minister of Sport & Recreation South Africa from 2004 to date.

Makhenkesi played, and still enjoys rugby, lawn tennis and table tennis, athletics, boxing & cricket. He has been a Sports Administrator from local to national levels between 1965 and 1994, specialising in rugby, cricket and netball administration. He has coached rugby, specialising in junior and club rugby (1974 - 1994). He also enjoys ballroom dancing.

Rev. Stofile served on Boards and Councils of a number of NGO's, Technikons and Universities.