



BIOGRAPHY: DR NOMALUNGELO GINA

Dr Nomalungelo Gina (née Khuluse) is an outstanding leader, a committed public servant, and a passionate champion of education and economic transformation. As a black woman with a partial disability, she has defied the odds to achieve remarkable success, serving as an inspiration to many.

She grew up in the rural village of Ndwedwe in KwaZulu-Natal and matriculated in 1988 from Inanda Seminary School, where she first became active in student politics. Driven by a passion for education, she completed a teaching degree in 1992 at the University of Zululand. In 2015, she completed a postgraduate diploma in management from the University of Witwatersrand. In 2023, she earned a Master's degree in Public Management from the University of Venda and is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Administration. In May 2025, the University of Zululand conferred an Honorary Doctorate in Public Administration upon her.

Dr Gina started her professional career as a teacher, serving diligently under the District of King Cetshwayo in KwaZulu-Natal. Before entering full-time politics, she dedicated 15 years to the education sector, where she was actively involved in the South African Democratic Teachers Union. She held several leadership roles, including site steward, KZN North Coast Regional Education Convener, Provincial Executive Committee member, and Deputy Provincial Chairperson.

Her leadership extended beyond the education sector, and in 2009, she was nominated for deployment to Parliament. Throughout her tenure, she has played a pivotal role in shaping national policies, serving on the Higher Education and Training Portfolio Committee, acting as Whip of the Basic Education Portfolio Committee, convening the Social Cluster Committee, and chairing the Basic Education Portfolio Committee.

Recognising her leadership and dedication, President Cyril Ramaphosa appointed Dr Gina as Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry, and Competition in 2019. Her contributions in this role strengthened economic policies, promoted industrial growth, and facilitated job creation.

In 2024, she was appointed Deputy Minister of Science, Technology, and Innovation, where she continues to champion scientific research, technological advancement, and innovation-driven development.

Beyond government, Dr Gina remains an influential figure in political structures. She currently serves as a member of the Provincial Executive Committee of the African National Congress (ANC) in KwaZulu-Natal. She is the Provincial Deputy Chairperson of the South African Communist Party. She was also a member of the Regional Executive Committee of the ANC and served on the Regional Executive Committee of its Women's League.

Dr Gina's unwavering commitment to education, public service, and societal progress continues to inspire and transform lives. Her remarkable leadership and dedication serve as a beacon of hope for young people, particularly women from disadvantaged backgrounds, as she works toward building a better and more inclusive South Africa.