**SHORT BIOGRAPHY**

**of**

**Dr Velaphi ‘VVO’ Mkhize**

**BA(UniZul), BA(Hons) (UniZul), MBA (UK),MA (UKZN),PhD (UKZN)**

Dr Velaphi Mkhize is a poet, an author and an African healer/spiritualist. He is the President and Founder of both Umsamo African Institute and South African Healers Association.

Dr Mkhize started schooling at Glebelands Primary School, in Durban and moved to St Gertrude’s Mission school in Pietermaritzburg. He then went to Ncwadi BC School where he passed his Standard 6. He did his Secondary education at KwaMpande Secondary School and passed his Junior Certificate and then went to Vukuzakhe High School where he completed his Matric in 1975.

In 1976 he went to the University of Zululand where he did his BA degree majoring in IsiZulu, Afrikaans-Nederland’s, Linguistics and Philosophy. In 1980 he studied his BA (Hons) in Afrikaans-Nederland’s and passed *cum laude*.

In 1981/2 Dr Mkhize registered for his Master’s degree in Orality-Literacy Studies through the University of KwaZulu-Natal and graduated in 1989. In 1990 he registered for a Doctoral degree and graduated in 1992. His thesis is titled: “The Spoken and the Written word Stylistic Creation in Black Broadcasting”. In 1999 he registered for an MBA degree with Hull University and graduated in 2000.

**Work Experience**

In 1981, he became a teacher for a short period at Vukuzakhe High School, and then moved to Radio Zulu and worked as a presenter. In 1992, he left Radio Zulu and joined Nissan SA Marketing in Johannesburg as a Manager in Media Relations. Between 1994 and 2000 he worked for the following companies:

• Human Sciences Research Council, as an Executive Director

• National Housing Finance Corporation, as a General Manager

• Aplitec, as a Director for Business Strategy, and

• Spoornet, as an Executive Manager: Communications

After leaving Spoornet, together with Allan Prentice, they founded a company called ‘Digicom’. He later left this company and joined Cida City Campus as an Associate Professor

**Published Works**

Dr Mkhize has published the following books:

• *Umsamo the new African Business Literacy,*

*• Umsamo: Iziko Lamathongo,*

*• Imfihlo yomsamo nezinkolo zomhlaba,*

*• Umsamo amathongo nemithetho elishumi kaNkulunkulu,* and

*• Umsamo: Nomhlahlo wezangoma*

• *Personal Growth African Style* ( Co-authored with Nussbaum and Palsule)

Dr Mkhize is now a consultant on Umsamo Philosophy and is highly regarded as an authority on African traditions, culture, values, ancestral wisdom and African healing.

He is a columnist for *Isolezwe* newspaper based in Durban and Ukhozi FM.

He owns three farms, two in Pietermaritzburg and one in Umlaas Road.

He is married to Nomzamo with two daughters and two sons.