

**Menzi Melrose Mthwecu**  
(Oct 24, 1961 - May 2, 2005)

South African born Menzi Mthwecu died in May 2005, following a tragic automobile accident. Menzi joined the CIE in 1989 as a doctoral student and his dissertation was on “The Role of Trade Unions in Adult Basic Education and Training: A Case Study of the National Union of Mineworkers in South Africa”. After receiving his Ed.D. in 1996, he returned to South Africa where he provided invaluable assistance to the Trade Union Movement.



Menzi’s death was regarded as a significant loss to South Africa’s industry. Through his efforts to transform South Africa’s Mining Industry he was able to make important contributions in the areas of education and policy, and he served in decision-making roles. His work included crafting mining policies aimed at improving the lives of mine workers. Following his passing, and in recognition of his service, the Deputy Minister of Minerals and Energy, Ms Lulu Xingwana said, “We wish to pay the tribute to the late Dr Menzi Mthwecu, the former CEO of the Mining Qualifications Authority. He was a hard working, selfless cadre, leader, organiser, and educator and dedicated to bettering the lives of the poor.”

As a result of his work and leadership roles Menzi emerged as one of the few blacks to penetrate the predominantly white mining industry in his country. He played a major role in founding the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA) and served in the capacity of CEO. The MQA is a SETA (Sector Education & Training Authority) for the Mining and Minerals Industry in terms of the Skills Development Act of 1998. MQA's mission is to ensure that human resource development is a reality in the industry, by establishing, administering and promoting Learnerships and skills programme. As a member of the MQA, Menzi was involved in finding ways to address the needs of women in the mining industry.

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