



**YVONNE CHAKA CHAKA**

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# Book looks at working in partnership to reimagine South Africa

## DAILY NEWS REPORTER

A NUMBER of leading international business people have joined prominent South Africans in saying the best is still to come for South Africa, despite its numerous challenges.

Their views are captured in a book published by multinational management consulting firm McKinsey & Company. They agree that while there is much to celebrate in the country, its best years lie ahead if all its resources are properly harnessed.

“The first 21 years of democracy have been an exciting time of growth, transformation, experimentation and nation-building. While all of us involved in this journey have made our fair share of mistakes, we have also built a strong foundation for the future.

“As this book emphasises, South Africans across society must now work in partnership to roll back poverty and inequality, unlock this country’s talent, and heal the wounds of its bitter past,” McKinsey says in the book’s introduction.

*Reimagining South Africa*, which contains essays from 22 contributors, was published to mark the 20th anniversary of the opening of McKinsey’s South African office. Its launch in Cape Town on Wednesday, coincided with the World Economic Forum on Africa.

The authors look at practical solutions on how South Africa can move forward in areas, such as the economy, education, mining, developing jobs for the youth, and forming better partnerships between the government, labour, business and civil society.

The message in the book from Yvonne Chaka Chaka, hailed by many as one of Africa’s greatest musicians, is that freedom brings great responsibility, and South Africans have to be wary of becoming complacent.

## Freedom

“For me, any reflection on South Africa’s freedom must begin with one amazing man: president Nelson Mandela. As I say in the song I wrote and performed for him in 2013, he was not only a leader but a teacher – he taught us how to be free,

how to forgive, and how to live and work together.

“As Madiba’s example showed us so vividly, freedom and responsibility should go hand-in-hand. The more freedom we have, the more responsibility we have to care for each other and our communities, to educate and improve ourselves, to create and produce, and to fulfil our destinies as individuals and as a nation.”

Gloria Serobe, executive director of Wiphold, an investment and operating company owned and managed by black women, slams big business for

not acknowledging its role in apartheid and not stepping up to help deal with current challenges.

“In all the discussions about who’s responsible for the woes of this country and who will lead us forward, there’s one player that seems to get a free pass. I speak of big business. I believe that companies have a duty to help fix our nation but they’ve been shirking that duty for 20 years,” she says in the book.

Sizwe Nxasana, First Rand Limited chief executive officer and chairman of the board of

trustees of the National Education Collaboration Trust, agrees that education is the key and says for South Africa to prosper, the education system needs to be addressed.

“Of course, there isn’t a magic wand that can be waved to produce graduates who can effortlessly take their place in the global age. But there is an urgent need to examine the integration of technology in our schools, and how it can be leveraged and used for the purposes of learning and teaching throughout the entire education ecosystem.”