

# SOUTH AFRICA TODAY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES



WEDNESDAY, 4 MARCH  
NOON  
HBL AUDITORIUM



His Excellency

## Welile Nhlapo

SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

Welile Nhlapo was appointed ambassador to the U.S. in 2007, having served previously as ambassador to Ethiopia and permanent representative to the Organization of African Unity and the UN Economic Commission for Africa since 1995. During his term in Addis Ababa, Nhlapo also served as South Africa's nonresident ambassador to Djibouti, Eritrea, and Sudan. In 1997, he was appointed South Africa's special envoy on Burundi. Born in Johannesburg, Nhlapo was active in the South African Students Organization, co-authoring the publication *Black Review* on the activities of black organizations at the time. After being served a banning order in 1973, he went into exile to Botswana, where he joined the African National Congress (ANC) and served as deputy editor of *Sechaba*, the official

mouthpiece of the ANC (1978–81), head of the Youth Section (1982–87), and as a member of the Regional Political Committee until 1990. He also served as the ANC chief representative in Botswana from 1991 to 1993 before being appointed head of the Political Section in the ANC Secretary-General's Office in Shell House. In addition, Nhlapo was a part of the South African delegation to the UN General Assembly in New York when South Africa was readmitted to the world body in 1994, after which he became director of the Africa Division in the Department of Political Affairs at the UN. Nhlapo and his wife, Sissy, are the parents of two daughters, Manini and Edna, and one son, Makhosini.