

# New Nazareth Baptist Church

## PROFILE

[Rev. Mthembeni P. Mpanza](#) is born of the two parents, namely Velem Mpanza (father) and Landiwe Mpanza (mother).

His mother, Landiwe, was an adopted daughter of the Prophet Isaiah Shembe. The Prophet paid eighteen heads of cattle to Dube family (her maiden family) in order to avoid any likely future dispute about lobola (dowry) when she marries. His father was also an adopted son of the Prophet but was allowed to ngena (marry) Landiwe after her fiancé, who was the elder brother of the said Velem, had died just before marriage. This was allowed because of the absence of blood relationship between the two.

After the death of the Prophet in 1935 Landiwe grew up under the guardianship of the successor in leadership of the church, the Lord Johannes Galilee Shembe.

Mthembeni Mpanza was born on the 7th December 1952 in Macekane area in the district of Mthunzini. He passed his matric education at Dlangezwa High School and did his tertiary education at the University of Zululand majoring in Law.

After he had been a Prosecutor for five years he became a Magistrate from 1985 to 1998 and thereafter was a director under the Department of Local Government till 2008 after which he returned to court and worked as a Regional Court Magistrate to date.

Mthembeni Mpanza has always been involved in church matters ever since he left school. In early 1980's he first wrote an unpublished manuscript about the [Biography of Isaiah Shembe](#). After his first book, he wrote a range of manuscript such as; [Shembe\(with Vilakazi & Mthethwa\)-1986](#), [Izimfundiso zikaShembe ngobuNazaretha-1994](#), [uShembe noMoya oyiNgcwele-1997](#), [iZwi leZulu\(uShembe nobuNazaretha\)-2007](#), [uShembe neSabatha-2009](#) & [uShembe onguMoya oyiNgcwele-2009](#). Rev. M.P. Mpanza also Represented Ibandla lamaNazaretha at the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) at East London.