

Rev. Nyameko Barney PITYANA - Honorary curate, 1988 to 1992

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barney_Pityana

Rev. Pityana was born in Uitenhage, South Africa, on 7 August 1945 and eventually attended the University of Fort Hare. He was one of the founding members of the South African Students' Organisation of the Black Consciousness Movement with Steve Biko and Harry Ranwedzi Nenwekhulu. He was also a member of the African National Congress Youth League and was suspended for challenging the authority of the Afrikaans teachers and the apartheid principles of "Bantu education".



Rev. Pityana received a Law degree from the University of South Africa in 1976 but was barred from practicing law in Port Elizabeth by the apartheid government. Eventually, being banned by the apartheid government from public activity Pityana went into exile in 1978, studying theology at King's College London and training for the ministry at Ripon College, Cuddesdon in Oxford. Thereafter he served as an Anglican curate in Milton Keynes and as a vicar in Birmingham.

From 1988 to 1992 he was Director of the Programme to Combat Racism at the World Council of Churches in Geneva. It was during this period that Rev. Pityana was appointed Honorary Curate, to the then Chaplain at Holy Trinity Geneva, Rev. Mervyn Puleston.

He returned to South Africa in 1993, following the end of apartheid and continued working in theology and human rights, completing a PhD in Religious Studies at the University of Cape Town in 1995. He was appointed a member of the South African Human Rights Commission in 1995, and served as chairman of the commission from 1995 to 2001. He also served on the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights at the Organisation of African Unity in 1997. Professor Pityana became Vice-Chancellor and Principal for the University of South Africa in 2001 and held the position for nine years.

In 2008 following the resignation of former President Thabo Mbeki as a President of South Africa, Prof Pityana and other former prominent ANC members formed a rival party to the ANC called Congress of the People. Those former ANC members and leaders included Allan Aubrey Boesak, Mosiuoa Gerard Patrick Lekota, Smuts Ngonyama, William Mothipa Madisha, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and many others.

He was the rector of the College of the Transfiguration (Anglican) in Grahamstown (from 2011 until 2014). He is the President of Convocation of the University of Cape Town.