

# **Agreeing on core values**

**By Marina Bang**

IN her welcome to delegates at the Multi-Event 99's gala evening at the Breakwater Lodge on Cape Town's waterfront, Mamphela Ramphele, vice-chancellor of the University of Cape Town said that issues of religion and culture are contentious, not least because the apartheid architects used religion to support their brainchild.

She said that as South Africa prepares to vote for the second time, the country must reflect on the achievements of the last five years, especially in the light of the devastation of apartheid, which criminalised normal behaviour and normalised criminal behaviour.

Ramphele said the challenge was to agree on a common value base of a nonnegotiable ethical code. "Without a shared set of core values the heart of our democracy is dead and the next phase of history depends on developing and inculcating this set of values."