



NBA Hall of Famer **DIKEMBE MUTOMBO** was born in the capital city of Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Mutombo is the seventh of ten children born to the late Samuel and Biamba Marie Mutombo. He arrived in the United States in 1987 on an academic scholarship to attend Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. In his second year, legendary basketball coach John Thompson invited the 7'2" Mutombo to try out for the university's renowned basketball team. After joining the team, Mutombo re-directed his pre-med ambitions and graduated from Georgetown with dual degrees in Linguistics and Diplomacy. Mutombo is fluent in nine languages, including five African languages. He played professional basketball in the NBA for 18 years before retiring from the Houston Rockets in 2009.

Giving back has always been a trademark of Mutombo ever since he entered the NBA in 1991. As a former spokesman for CARE, the international relief agency, Mutombo visited the Somali refugee camps in Northern Kenya in 1993 and traveled with NBA Commissioner David Stern and Georgetown colleagues Patrick Ewing and Alonzo Mourning to Cape Town and Johannesburg.

In 1996, Mutombo paid for the Congo's women's basketball team's trip to Atlanta for the Summer Olympics games and also picked up the tab for the track team's uniforms and expenses. He is the first Youth Emissary for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and he also served on the Advisory Board for the Fogarty International Center at the National Institutes of Health.

Mutombo presently serves on the boards of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Constitution Center, Special Olympics International and on the National Board for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. He is also a member of the Concordia Leadership Council.

Mutombo has been named ABC's Person of the Week, *Essence Magazine's* 2001 Achiever, and *Sporting News'* No. 1 Good Guy. He has been featured in Europe's *TIME* magazine, *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, the *New York Times*, the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, the *Houston Chronicle* and *Forbes* magazine.

In 2009, then NBA Commissioner David Stern appointed Mutombo to the newly created position of NBA Global Ambassador where he continues to work to grow and celebrate the

game of basketball through international sporting events while working with NBA Cares to bring attention to important social issues.

#### **Honors and awards:**

- 2019 Yolanda H. King *Higher Ground* Award – The King Center
- 2018 Sager Strong Award
- 2017 Trumpet Humanitarian Award – Trumpet Foundation
- 2016 NCAA Silver Anniversary Award
- 2016 Professional Honoree Boys Scouts of America/Atlanta Chapter
- 2015 Naismith Memorial Basketball – Hall of Fame
- 2015 Caring Award The Caring Institute
- 2014 Global Leadership Award – Upwardly Global
- 2014 Global Leadership Award – FrenchAmerican Chamber of Commerce
- 2014 Chairman’s Award – 100 Black Men of America
- 2014 Trailblazer Award – 100 Black Men of America
- 2014 Humanitarian of the Year - FOCOS
- 2013 Congressional Humanitarian Award
- 2013 Legacy Award – Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta
- 2013 Gateway Award for Excellence in Humanitarian Service – Washington Adventist University
- 2011 Goodermote Humanitarian Award – Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health
- 2011 Public Service Award – Big Brothers/Big Sisters of New York City
- 2010 Laureus World Sports Award
- 2010 B.C. Forbes Peopling of America Award for Sports – Ellis Island Foundation
- 2010 Miracle Corners of the World Award
- January 2010, President Barack Obama served as a surprise guest at the eighth annual "Let Freedom Ring!" event celebrating of the life and legacy of the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and honoring NBA great and philanthropist Dikembe Mutombo who received the John Thompson, Jr. *Legacy of a Dream* award.
- 2010 Humanitarian in Sport Award during the Beyond Sport Summit, which was attended by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair
- 2010 Steve Patterson Award for Excellence in Sports Philanthropy awarded to the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- 2007 President George W. Bush recognized Mutombo during the State of the Union address for his humanitarian work in Africa.
- 2003 Helen Hayes MacArthur Award
- 2000 The President's Service Award awarded by President Bill Clinton
- World Economic Forum - Young Global Leader
- Wilt Chamberlain Award - Operation Smile
- Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters – SUNY/Cortland
- Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters – Georgetown University

- Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters – Haverford College
- NAACP Phoenix Award
- The Henry Iba Citizen Athlete Award
- J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award - NBA
- Ernie Davis Humanitarian Award
- The Samuel J. Halsey Award - Georgetown University
- Constituency for Africa's Trailblazer Award

Dikembe Mutombo is the Chairman and President of the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation which he created in 1997. Headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia the Foundation's mission is to improve the health, education and quality of life for the people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. One major project of his foundation was the construction of a new general hospital in the capital city of Kinshasa. In December 2007 and at a cost of \$29 million, the Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital opened in the DR Congo. Named in memory of Mutombo's beloved mother, the hospital has treated over 500,000 patients.

The Foundation's next project is the construction of the Samuel Mutombo Institute of Science & Entrepreneurship in the city of Mbuji-Mayi (the ancestral village of Dikembe's late parents). The new school is scheduled to open in September 2021.

Dikembe Mutombo and his wife Rose live in Atlanta, Georgia with their 3 children.