

Vuk'uzenzele



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Africa's queen of the skies



Major Mfeka has taken Africa by storm and is breaking the chains of gender stereotypes.

Dale Hes

Major Mandisa Nomcebo Mfeka has been reaching for the skies since the age of five, when she watched her first airshow. Today, she is Africa's first female fighter jet pilot, flying for the South African Air Force (SAAF) during the nation's most prestigious events, including the recent

inauguration of President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Born in Ntuzuma, Kwa-Zulu-Natal, Major Mfeka became fascinated with aviation when her mother first took her to an airshow at the Virginia Airport in Durban. At that stage, she had no idea that she would one day take to the skies herself.

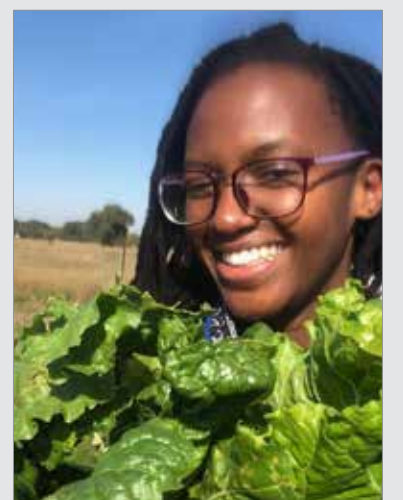
When she was 16, however, her life changed forever.

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Teen joins the fight against crime

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Young farmer sows seed for the future

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Intfombatane lencane iba yincenye yekulwa nebugebengu



Khomishana Wemaphoyisa Lomncane Felistas Hamba ufuna kulwa nebugebengu kuto tonkhe tikolo eveni letfu.

Silusapho Nyanda

Intfombatane lefundza sikolo yasePitoli ikhulwa kutsi kulwa nebugebengu kungumsebeni walabancane nalabadzala futsi kutayigcugcutela njengoba ilekelela kuhola lelinye laletinhlelo letimcoka tekulwa nebugebengu letisungulwe yi-SAPS.

NgeNdlovana, Felistas Hamba (loneminyaka yebudzala le-15) kanye nalabanye Bokhomishana Besifundza Labasesebancane baba yincenye yemncintiswano wenkhumomphikiswano kanye nemakhono wekukhuluma emangweni lebewugcile etintfweni letimbi letenteka etikolweni.

Kusebenta kahle nalokuncomekako kwaHamba kwenta kutsi abitwe ngekutsi nguKhomishana Lomncane Wavelonkhe waseNingizimu Afrika.

Licembu laHamba lifaka ekhatsi bosekela khomishana bavelonkhe labane, lababuya eNyakatfo Nshonalanga, eMpumalanga Kapa, eLimpopo naKwa-

Zulu-Natal.

Kutawuba ngumsebeni wabo kucinisekisa kutsi bantfu labasha baba yincenye yekwenta tikolo nemimango yabo kube yindzawo lephephile.

“Bugebengu busitsintsa sonkhe. Uma ubona bugebengu benteka, uyacelwa kutsi ububike.” Wenta lubito kubontsanga yakhe. “Kwenta tikolo tiphephe kucala kuwe.”

Batawugcila kakhulu eku-cashatweni ngekwemtimba, kuvikela bugebengu, kumacembu emangeni kanye nekucashatwa ngekusebentisa tekuchumana ngeinthanethi.

Hamba watsatsa sincumo sekubayincenye yaloluhlelo emva kwekubona kutsi bontsanga yakhe labaningi bebangati kutsi bente njani ngebugebengu labatsintzana nabo.

“Njengemuntfu lomusha, ngikhona lapho ngoba ngifuna kube nenkhundla yabo

kute babe bantfu labeta nengucuko yesikhatsi lesitako,” washo njalo.

Lomfundzi welibanga le-10 e-DC Marivate Senior Secondary School eSoshanguve watsi kudzingeka kutsi bantfu labasha bacabange tindlela letinsha tekunciphisa bugebengu emimangweni nasetikolweni.

“Ngaphandle kwekutsi bantfu labasha bahole lelive, kute lapho kuyiwa khona,” Hamba ucwayisa bontsanga yakhe.

Babe waHamba uliphoyisa futsi kuliphupho laHamba kutsi ahambe etinyatselweni takhe.

Thishelanhloko wesikolo saHamba, John Mangezi, watsi umtselela waHamba ugcugcutela labanye bafundzi ngendlela lekahle kulesikolo.

“Kubaluleke kakhulu kutsi sikolo sibe naye ngoba labanye bafundzi babese bafisa kuba njengaye,” kwasho Mangezi. **V**



From page 1

“I was researching careers in maths and science and saw a SAAF advert, outlining the requirements to be a pilot or navigator. I realised that I could potentially have a career in aviation and was so excited that I couldn’t sleep,” said Major Mfeka, who is now 29 years old.

Straight after graduating from high school, she joined the air force in 2008 as an airman. She officially achieved her SAAF wings in 2011, and progressed quickly through the ranks to become a qualified pilot and then captain. Today, she holds the esteemed rank of major and flies the British-made Hawk Mk120 from the Airforce Base Makhado in Limpopo.

Flying above gender and race barriers

Major Mfeka is humble about the incredible achievement of being the first female black African fighter jet pilot.

“I know I am representing a lot of people, but I have achieved this because this is the direction I wanted to go. At the SAAF, I have been surrounded by people who are professionals, people who are ambitious and want to be the best, so I wanted to embody that and be an expert in my career,” she said.

Major Mfeka added that she hasn’t felt intimidated by the male-dominated nature of the field.

“I just had to be more assertive and grow a thicker skin

emotionally. But the SAAF strives for professionalism at all times, so they view men and women as equals,” she said, adding that she sometimes outperformed the men in training or on the academic front.

Career highlights and soaring higher

Major Mfeka has flown jets at some of South Africa’s most prestigious events. A few years after getting her wings, she was tasked with flying at the funeral of former President Nelson Mandela.

She also fondly remembers being part of a flying formation for Freedom Day in Port Elizabeth, which was led by one of her idols.

“The lead plane was flown

by Colonel Musa Mbhokota, who was the SAAF’s first black fighter jet pilot. He is somebody I look up to very much and I draw such inspiration from him, so it was an honour flying in formation with him.”

Mfeka’s biggest dream is to become the commander of a Gripen jet, the SAAF’s premier fighter jet.

“When I see myself flying that jet, I get extremely excited. I would be so honoured if I could reach that milestone – it would be a dream come true.”

Major Mfeka’s message for Youth Month

Major Mfeka said that the youth should never let their circumstances stand in the



way of becoming a success.

“Your dreams and passions are an indication of what you can achieve and what you can become. Your potential is not determined by your background. Some people from very impoverished areas have achieved really great things; they did not let their circumstances dictate to them what their life was going to be like.” **V**



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"Manje sesikhatsi sefu sonkhe sekutsi sisebentisane, sihloniphe Nelson Mandela, sakhe iNingizimu Afrika lensha, lencono yawonkhewonkhe."

MENGAMELI CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

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SIKWAKHELA LIKUSASA LELINCONO
KUFUNDZA KULOKO LOKWENTIWA NGUMADIBA



Kwakhela lusha lwetfu likusasa lelincono

INyanga Yelusha igujwa njalo ngemnyaka ngenyanga yeNhlaba kukhombisa kuhlonipha umoya wekungasabi kwelusha laseNingizimu Afrika lelagcwala imigwaco mhla ti-16 Inhlaba 1976 lalwela kucedza kufundziswa ngeSibhunu etikolweni tetfu.

Ngiyatsemba kutsi lowo moya wekulwa usaphila kusitukulwane lesisha seabantfu labasha, labo nyalo labalwela inkinga yebuphuya, kuswelakala kwe-msebenti kanye nekungalingani.

Labantfu labasha labanesifiso lesingeleke siphumelele kalula semphilo lencono, bakhombise kutibophelela nekubeketela uma bahlangana belwela imfundvo lephakeme yamahhala.

Kuphumelela kwakha iNingizimu Afrika lenemphumelelo lesimeme nalenemnotfo lofaka wonkhe umuntfu kuyintfo lecaliswa embili kuloluhlelo lwaluhlumende lekucinisekisa imphilo lencono kubo bonkhe bantfu. Siphumelele futsi sitawuchubeka kwengeta imitamoyetfu yekutfukisa nekunika lusha emandla kute lukhone kufaka sandla ekukhuliseni live letfu.

Nanoma ngabe luyince nye lenkhulu yebantfu baseNingizimu Afrika, lusha luyachubeka kuhlangebentana nenkinga yekungasebenti, yebuphuya kanye neyekungalingani. Kuhlala kungilo lelihlangebentana kakhulu netifo, bugebengu lebunobudlova, kusebentisa tidzakwamiva kanye nekungatfutuki ngalokufanele.

Njengahulumende lonakekelako, sisebenta ngekutikhandla kucinisekisa kutsi bantfu labasha batfola emakhono nesipiliyoni, futsi batfola kwesekelwa lokudzingekako kute bangene kumkhakha wemabhizinisi babe bacashi kunekutsi babe tisebenti.

Lomnyaka lophelile, ngisungule Lumphiko Lwekucashwa Kwelusha (i-YES), lelihlose kulungiselela bantfu labasha kutsi batfole umsebenti nekubanika emakhono ebungcweti ladzingekako kute babe yincenye yekutfukisa umnotfo.

Loluhlelo lwe-YES lungumtamo lohlanganisa hulumele, mkhakha wetemisebenti nemabhizinisi lonika bantfu labasha labasigidzi baseNingizimu Afrika misebenti lekhokhelako kuleminyaka lemitsatfu letako. Ngekuya

kwelucwaningo, ebantfweni baseNingizimu Afrika labatigidzi le-15.5 labaneminyaka yebudzala lesemkhatsini yale-18 nalenge-34, labatigidzi leti-5.8 abasebenti.

Njengoba kunetinkhapani letinkhulu letingenile, lemtamo we-YES kute kube kunyalo uvulele bantfu labasha labangasebenti ematfuba emsebenti la-17 000.

Bantfu labasha labanesifiso sekuba bosomabhizinisi, hulumelele wasungula i-Ejensi Yavelonkhe Yekutfukisa Lusha (i-NYDA), lesebenta kuceceshela emakhono, kusita ngemali yekutfukisa, lekuniketa umuntfu lotakufundzisa msebenti, kusekela futsi nekuchumanisa nebantfu labatawutsenga imikhicito yabo.

Kunetinkhapani letingetulu kwe-2 500 letinsha letiniketwe imali yekucala ibhizinisi, letivule imisebenti lengetulu kwe-10 000 kumnotfo.

Uma sifuna kubusebentisa kahle lobudlelwana bahulumende nemkhakha wetemabhizinisi angasese, kufuneka sicinisekise kutsi lusha lwaseNingizimu Afrika linikwa emakhono lafanele ekungena kuyo yonkhe imikhakha yemnotfo. Kungako sisisa kumfu-

ndvo yelusha lalive.

Sitimisele kucinisekisa kutsi bonkhe bantfwana, nanoma ngabe simo sinjani, abancishwa litfuba lekutfola imfundvo lesezingeni lelisetulu. Loku kungetwa ngumtamo wetfu wekutfukisa lizinga lekufundza nekufundzisa etikolweni tetfu nakutikhungo temfundvo lephakeme.

Ekucaleni kwalomnyaka, Litiko Letemfundo Lephakeme Nekucecesha lamemetela kunikwa kwetigidzi leti-R967 kute kubhadalwe tindleko tekufundza kubafundzi 'labanetikweti teminyaka leyengcile.' Lemali itawusita bafundzi labebakweleta tindleko tekufundza kusuka kumnyaka lowengcane ngekucinisekisa kutsi sikweleti asibavimbeli kutsi batfole imfundvo lephakeme.

Kuko konkhe lokusisa lokwentiwe nguhulumende kute kutfutukiswe lusha, lusha nalo kufanele ludlale indzima yalo ekutfukiseni iNingizimu Afrika. Kufuneka lube netintfo lelutentako letengeta kwenta lelive libe ngulelincono naleliphephile kute wonkhe umuntfu apha kulo. Labanye bantfu betfu labasha bamatasatasa nge-miklamo lemangalisako,

ngemabhizinisi lamancane kanye nangekulima emimangweni yangakubo.

Batsatse sincumo lesisebentako lesidlala indzima lemcola kuchubekisela live phambili kanye nekukhulisa umnotfo. Kufuneka sigcugcutele bantfu labasha labaningi kutsi babuke tindlela tekusebentisa lithalenta nemakhono abo kute basungule emabhizinisi abo lamancane bakhe nemisebenti.

Umsebenti lohloniphekile njengalona ufuna ungantsi tjwala futsi ungasebentisi tidzakwamiva, futsi unga-bi yincenye yebugebengu nenkhohlakalo.

Lokunye lokubaluleke kakhulu, bantfu labasha kufuneka batigcine baphephile kuSandvulelangculazi (i-HIV) naletinye tifo temacansi letitsatselanako ngekutsi basebentise lijazi lemkhwenyana (ikhondu), bagweme licansi basesebancane nangekutsi bahlale baya kuyohlala njalo.

Likusasa leNingizimu Afrika lisetandleni telusha lolutibophelele ekwakheni sive lesihlukile kuleso lusha lwemnyaka we-1976 libuya kuso. Asisebentisaneni kute lusha lwetfu lube nelikusasa lelincono. **V**



THUMA MINE

KWAKHA MZANSI LENGIWUFISAKO

SISONKHE SICHUBEKISELA ININGIZIMU AFRIKA EMBILI

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I-NSFAS ne-UIF takha ematfuba emisebenti kulabo labaneticu

SIKIMU LESISHA SEKUTFUTFUKISA sitawuvulela labo labaneticu misebenti yesikhashana kute kwentive ncono ematfuba abo ekutfola imisebenti yesikhatsi lesidze.

More Matshediso

Njengoba inkinga yelusha lolungatfoli misebenti kuseseyintfo lephikelele njalo eNingizimu Afrika, Sikimu Savelonkhe Sekusita Bafundzi Ngetimali (i-NSFAS) sibambisene neSikhwama Semshwalensi Wekungasebenti (i-UIF) kute kubukwane nalenseyeye.

Letikhungo totimbili madvute nje tisungule luhlelo lwekusita labo labaneticu kute labo bangasebenti labaneticu laba-50 banikwe sipiliyoni sekusebenta emikhakheni lehlukene sikhatsi lesitinyanga leti-12.

Labo labaphumelele banikwe umsebenti emahovis-

ini e-NSFAS eNshonalanga Kapa.

Umlawuli we-NSFAS, Dr Randal Carolissen, watsi inhloso yalomtamo kubukana netinseyeye tekuswelakala kwemisebenti letibukene nelusha kukelive, kakhulu lelolusha loluzuze kulesikimu selusito lwetimali.

“Njenge-NSFAS, sihamba embili ekucatululeni tinkinga [tebafundzi] futsi sebekucala kubona kutsi umtselela wekungasebenti unjani ebantfwini labaningi labaneticu.

Munye kulabo laba-50 labazuzile nguLuchulumanco Nanto (lone-minyaka yebudzala le-24), lophotfule tifundvot-Diploma in Accounting e-Cape Peninsula University of Technology (e-CPUT)

ngemnyaka we-2018.

Watsi weva ngaloluhlelo ngelicumbu lenkhundla yetekuchumana lehlala lapha enyuvesi, lapho khona yena nalabanye labaneticu babelana khona ngematfuba emisebenti.

“Ngita wutfola lwati lolubambekako laloko lengikufundzele futsi loku kutawuphindzekungilungiselele kumelana netintfo tangemphele letenteka emsebentini,” kwasho Nanto, lofundzela i-BTech in Taxation e-CPUT.

Nanto netelamani takubo letine bakhuliswa ngumake wabo lobekangakhoni kumbhadalela tindleko tasenyunivesi.

“Babe wami washona ngeninyaka le-10,” kwasho Nanto lobuya

e-King Williams Town eNshonalanga Kapa.

Ngenhlanhla, watfola umfundzate ku-Ejensi Yahlumende Yelwatiso Lwethekhnoloji (i-SITA).

Nanto ugcugcutela bantfu labasha ku-

tshi bacabange kutsatsa luhlelo lwekusita labo labaneticu ngembi kwekufaka tice- lo temsebenti wesikhatsi lesidze

ngoba loko kutawungeta emakhono abo kanye nendlela lekahle yekusebenta ngesivinini lesifanele babe batfola tinzuzo tekuvulekelwa live lemisebenti. **V**



Luchulumanco Nanto.

ooo

Eastern Cape school better equipped to teach

THE STATE-OF-THE-ART COMPUTERS donated to a small school in Mama Albertina Sisulu's home village will open up a world of opportunity for the learners.

Silusapho Nyanda

Pupils of a rural school in the Eastern Cape rejoiced when their school was given a facelift and received computers.

The 213 pupils of Albertina Sisulu Senior Primary School in Xolobe village in Tsomo, will benefit from the donation of 30 computers, refurbishments and safer classes, thanks to the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) and the Eastern Cape Department of Education.

“The pupils had to share the old computers we had but now they will be able to work on their own and easily become computer literate,” said the school's principal, Nomfuneko Somlotha.

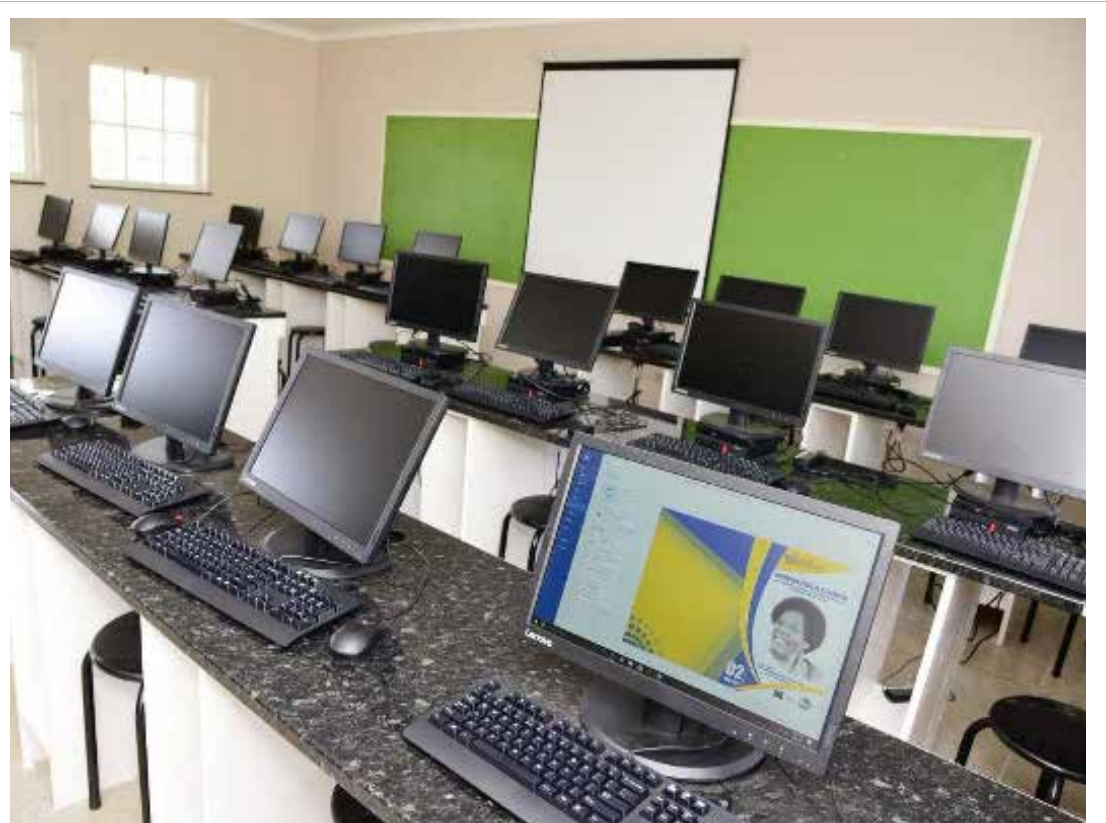
She said the pupils will be better able to access information for their school work and for research, whereas before they relied only on textbooks.

“Visual learning is important because it is easier to remember something that you have seen,” Somlotha told *Vuk'uzenzele*.

She said the equipment would also help speed up teaching because pupils could be referred to websites as another mode of learning.

The school was also given added security and furniture upgrades.

Somlotha said the school will use the donated equipment to develop pupils' knowledge beyond the classroom and to open their eyes to the many career paths available to them. **V**



Computers donated by the Eastern Cape Department of Education and the Industrial Development Corporation to the Albertina Sisulu Primary School in Tsomo in the Eastern Cape.