

# 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**

**M**ajor 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.

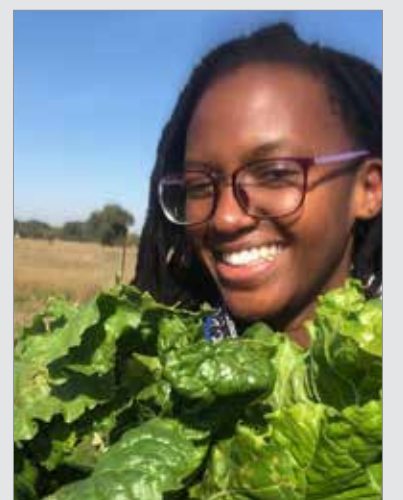
When she was 16, however, her life changed forever.

● **Cont. page 2**



**Teen joins the fight against crime**

**Page 2**



**Young farmer sows seed for the future**

**Page 7**



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# Musidzanyana u didzhenisa kha u lwa na vhugevhenga

Silusapho Nyanda

**Z**wine musidzanyana wa tshikolo wa Piṭori a tenda khazwo zwa uri u lwa na vhugevhenga ndi vhuḑifhinduleli ha vhaswa na vhaaluwa zwi ḑo mu ṭuṭuwedza musi a tshi thusa u rangaphanḑa be mbela ḑa Mapholisa a Afrika Tshipembe ḑa u thivhela vhugevhenga.

Nga Luhui, Felistas Hamba (15) na dziṅwe Khomishinari Ṭhukhu dza Mavundu u ya kha shango ḑoṭhe vho vha tshipiḑa tsha muṭaṭisano wa khandzano na u amba vhathuni une wo vha u khou sedza kha u amba nga ha zwiito zwivhi zwine zwikolo zwo livhana nazwo.

Vhukoni vhu mangadzaho ha Hamba ho ita uri a vheiwes sa Khomishinari Muṭuku wa Mapholisa a Lushaka a Afrika Tshipembe.



■ **Khomishinari Muṭuku wa Mapholisa Felistas Hamba u khou ṭoḑa u lwa na vhugevhenga u ya kha shango ḑoṭhe nga vhuṭhara.**

Tshigwada tsha Hamba tshi katela vhafarisa khomishinara vha lushaka vhaṅa, vhane vha bva Devhula Vhukovhela, Kapa

Vhubvaḑuvha, Limpopo na KwaZulu-Natal.

Tshi ḑo vha tshivhangalelwa tshavho u vhona uri vhaswa vha shela mule-

nzhe kha u vhona uri zwikolo zwavho na zwi-tshavha zwo tsireledzea. “Vhucevhenga vhu kwama roṭhe. Arali na vho na vhucevhenga vhu tshi khou itea, ni humbelwa uri ni vhu vhiḑe,” o ralo a tshi amba na thanga dzawe. “U ita uri zwikolo zwashu zwi vhe zwo tshiredzeaho zwi thoma na inwi.”

Vha ḑo vha vho sedzana na u vhasana mivhili, u thivhela vhucevhenga, zwa dzigenge na u tambudzana nga vhudavhidzani.

Hamba o dzhia ḑiga ḑa u vha tshipiḑa tsha mbekanyamushumo heyi nga murahu ha musi o vhona uri vhuṅzhi ha thanga dzawe a vha ḑivhi uri vha ite mini nga vhucevhenga vhune ha vha kwama.

“Sa muswa, ndi fhano u vula tshikhala tshavho uri vha kone u vha vhaḑisi vha tshanduko u itela matshe-

lo,” o ralo.

Mugudiswa wa giredi ya vhu10 Tshikoloni tsha Sekondari ya Nṅha ya DC Marivate ngei Soshanguve o ri mahumbulele maswanga vhaswa a a toḑea u itela u fhungudza vhucevhenga kha zwitshavha na zwikoloni.

“Musi vhaswa vha sa rangi shango phanḑa, a huna hune ḑa ḑo ya hone,” Hamba o ralo a tshi kaidza thanga dzawe.

Khotsi a Hamba ndi pholisa nahone miḑoro yawe ndi ya u kanda he vha kanda hone.

Ṭhoṅo ya tshikolo tsha vho Hamba, Vho John Mangezi, vho ri mishumo yawe i khou ṭuṭuwedza vhaṅwe vhana tshikoloni.

“Ndi zwa ndeme u vha nae hafha tshikoloni ngauri vhaṅwe vhagudiswa vha khou tama u fana nae,” Vho Mangezi vho ralo. ■



## ● 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.” ■



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“ZWINO NDI TSHIFHINGA TSHA URI ROTHE RI SHUMISANE HU U HULISA VHO NELSON MANDELA NA U FHAṬA AFRIKA TSHIPEMBE LISWA LA KHWINE LA VHATHU VHOṬHE.”

Muphuresidennde Vho Cyril Ramaphosa

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KHA VHA ITE URI VHUMATSHELO HAVHO VHU SHUME KHWINE RI GUDA KHA VHO MADIBA



# U fhaṭa vhumatshelo ha khwine ha vhaswa vhashu

Nwedzi wa Vhaswa u pembelelwa ṅwaha muṅwe na muṅwe nga ṅwedzi wa Fulwi hu tshi ṭhompfiwa muya wa vuhali wa vhaswa vha Afrika Tshipembe vhane vho gwalaba nga 16 Fulwi 1976 u lwisana na u shumiswa ha Afrikaans sa luambo lune lwa tea u shumiswa zwickoloni zwashu. Ndi a tenda uri honouḷa muya muthihi wa u lwa u kha ḡi tshila kha murafho muswa wa vhaswa, vhane vha khou lwisana na vhusai, u shaea ha mishumo na u shaea ha ndinganyelo.

Havha vhaswa vha re na dzangalelo ḷihulu nahone ḷi sa takuwi ḷa vhutshilo ha khwine, vho sumbedza u sa tseka na vhuḡifari musi vha tshi ṭangana kha bembela ḷa pfunzo ya mahala ya zwimiswa zwa ṅṅha zwa pfunzo.

Tswikelelo ya Afrika Tshipembe ḷo dzuliseaho nahone ḷi khou bvelelaho kha ikonomi i katelaho vhoṭhe ndi tshivhangalelwa tshihulusa kha mbekanyamaitele ya muvhuso u khwaṭhisedza vhutshilo ha khwine kha vhoṭhe. Ro zwi ita nahone ri ḡo bvela phanḡa na u engedza maanḡa kavhili kha u bveledza na u maanḡafhadza vhaswa uri vha kone u shela mulenzhe kha nyaluwo ya shango ḷashu.

Nga nnḡa ha u vha tshipiḡa tshihulwane tsha vhadzulapo vha Afrika Tshipembe, vhaswa ndi vhane vha hwala vhuleme ha u shaea ha mishumo, vhusai na u



shaea ha ndinganelo. Ndi vhane vhane vha kwameesa kha malwadze, vhugevhenḡa, u shumiswa lwo kalulaho ha zwidzidzivhadzi na u shaya mveledziso.

Sa muvhuso u ṭhogomelaho, ri khou shuma nga maanḡa u khwaṭhisedza uri vhaswa vha wana zwickili na tshenzhemo, nahone vha wane thikedzo yo teaho uri vha kone u dzhena kha shango ḷa u ḡisikela mishumo u fhirisa uri vha vhe vhaṭoḡa mishumo.

ṅwaha wo fhelaho, ndo rwela ṭari mbekanyamushumo ya Tshumelo ya U Tholwa ha Vhaswa (YES), ine yo livhiswa kha u lugisela vhaswa kha u tholwa na u vha ṅekedza zwickili zwa tshithikiniki zwine zwa ṭodea u vha thikho ya mveledziso ya mamaga a ikonomi.

Mbekanyamushumo ya YES ndi ṭhanganelano ya muvhuso, muhasho wa vhashumi na mabindu u ṅekedza mishumo i badelaho ya tshenzhemo kha vhaswa vha Afrika Tshipembe vha miḷioni nthihi kha miṅwaha

miraru. U ya nga ṭhoḡisiso, kha vhatu vha miḷioni dza 15.5 vha miṅwaha ya vhuakati ha 18 na 34 Afrika Tshipembe, vha miḷioni dza 5.8 a vha shumi.

Musi hu na khamphani dza tshivhalo dzine dzo dzhenelela, tshimiswa tsha YES tsho no kona u swikelela zwickhala zwa mishumo ya 17 000 kha vhaswa vha sa shumi.

Kha vhatu vhaṭuku vhane vha vha na dzangalelo ḷa u sika mishumo, muvhuso wo thoma Zhendedzi ḷa Mveledziso ya Vhaswa ḷa Lushaka, ḷine ḷa ṅetshedza u pfumbudza kha mveledziso ya zwickili, masheleni a mveledziso, vhudabe, thikedzo na u ṭumanywa na mimaraga.

Khamphani dzine dza khou tou thoma dzine dza fhira 2 500 dzo ṅekedzwa ndambedzo, zwine zwo sika mishumo ine ya fhira 10 000 kha ikonomi.

Arali ri tshi khou ṭoḡa u vhona vhuferisani vhuakati ha muvhuso na zwiimiswa zwo ḡiimisaho nga zwoṭhe vhu tshi khou vhuedza, ri tea

u khwaṭhisedza uri vhaswa vha Afrika Tshipembe vho ṭamiwa lwo teaho u shela mulenzhe kha zwipiḡa zwoṭhe zwa ikonomi. Ndi ngazwo ri tshi khou bindudza kha pfunzo ya vhaswa.

Ro ḡiimisela u khwaṭhisedza uri vhana vhoṭhe, hu si na ndavha uri nyimele i hani, a vha khou hanelwa u swikelela pfunzo ya maimo a ṅṅha. Hezwi zwi khou khwaṭhisedzwa nga ndingedzo dzashu dza u khwiṅifhadza ndeme ya u funza na u guda kha zwickolo zwashu na kha zwiimiswa zwa pfunzo dza ṅṅha.

Mathomoni a uno ṅwaha, Muhasho wa Pfundo dza ṅṅha na Vhupfumbudzi wo ḡivhadza u avhelwa ha R967 miḷioni ya u badelela vhagudiswa vhane vha khou koloda 'zwickolodo zwa kale'.

Hei tshelede i ḡo thusa vhagudiswa vhane vha khou koloda u bva kha minwaha yo fhiraho nga u vhona uri tshikolodo a tshi vha thivheli u swikela pfunzo dza ṅṅha.

Nga u bindudza hoṭhe hune ha khou itwa nga muvhuso

u itela u vha maanḡafhadza, vhaswa vha tea u bveledza tshipiḡa tshavho kha u alusa Afrika Tshipembe. Vha tea u vha vho dzhena kha mishumo ine ya thusedza kha u ita uri shango ḷi vhe fhethu ha khwine nahone ho tsireledzeaho kha vhothe vhane vha dzula khaḷo. Vhaṅwe vha vhaswa vhashu vho ḡidzhenisa kha thandela dzi takadzaho, mabindu maṭuku, vhuḡuwi na vhuḷimi zwitshavhani. Vho dzhia ḷiga ḷa u shela mulenzhe zwihulu kha u bveledza shango na u alusa ikonomi. Ri tea u ṭuṭuwedza vhaswa vhanzhi uri vha sedze ṅḡila dza u shumisa vhuḡoni havho na zwickili kha u ḡisikela mabindu na u sika mishumo.

Vhuḡifhinduleli vhungafho vhu katela u sa ḡidzhenisa kha u shumisesa zwickambi na zwidzidzivhadzi, u sa ḡidzhenisa kha vhuḡevhenḡa na tshandanguvhoni.

Zwa ndeme zwihulusa, vhaswa vha tea u tsireledzea kha HIV na maṅwe malwadze a zwa vhudzekani nga u shumisa khondomo, u sa ḡidzhenisa kha zwa vhudzekani na u ṭolwa misi yoṭhe.

Vhumatshelo ha Afrika Tshipembe vhu zwanḡani zwa vhaswa vhane vho ḡinekedzela kha u fhaṭa lushaka lune lwo fhambana na lwa hune vhaswa vha 1976 vha bva hone. Kha ri shume roṭhe uri ri kone u fhaṭa vhumatshelo havhuḡi ha vhaswa. **U**



U FHAṬA MZANSI ḷONE ḷINE NDA ḷI ṬOḡA

Roṭhe ri isa Afrika Tshipembe phanḡa

#SendMe #ThumaMina






# NSFAS, UIF dzo sika zwickhala zwa mishumo u itela vhaambaramagaweni

**TSHIKIMU TSHISWA TSHA U MAANDAFHADZA** tshi do netshedza tshikhala tsha mishumo vho ambaraho magaweni u itela u alusa zwickhala zwavho zwa u wana mishumo ya tshothe.

## More Matshediso

**M**usi u shaea ha mishumo kha vhaswa zwi tshi dzula i mbilaelo khu-lu Afrika Tshipembe, Tshikimu tsha Lushaka tsha Thusedzo ya Masheleni a Matshudeni (NSFAS) tsho vhumba vhushaka na Tshikwama tsha Ndindakhombo ya u Fhelelwa nga Mushumo (UIF) u itela u lavhelesana na khaedu hei.

Zwiimiswa izwi zwi vhi zwi kha di tou bva u rwe-la fari mbekanyamushumo ya vhaambaramagaweni u itela u nea vhaambaramagaweni vha sa shumi vha 50 tshenzhemo ya mishumo fhethu ho fhambanaho lwa miwedzi ya 12.

Vhahumbeli vho tlanganedziwaho vho iswa ofisini dza NSFAS dza ngei Kapa Vhukovhela.

Mufaraofisi wa NSFAS, Vho Dr Randall Carolissen, vho ri tshipikwa tsha izwi zwo thomiwaho ndi u tandulula khaedu ya u shaea ha mishumo yo livhanaho na vhaswa vha lino shango, zwi huluhulu vhane vha vhu elwa nga itshi tshikimu.

“Sa NSFAS, ri khou bva phanda kha u sedzana na nda do ya [matshudeni] nahone ndi vhone vhane vha thoma u vhona zwine masiandaitwa a u shaea ha mishumo a ita kha vhunzhi ha vhaambaramagaweni,” vho ralo.

Muñwe wa vho vhu-elwahokha vha 50 ndi Luchul-

lumanco Nanto (24) ane o fhedza dipuloma yawe ya Akhaunthini Yunivesithi ya Thek-



■ Luchulumanco Nanto.

ino lodzhi ya Cape Peninsula (CPUT) nga 2018.

U ri o divha nga ha mbekanyamushumo iyi nga kha vhudavhidzani ha nnyi na nnyi vhune a vha khaho ha khamphasi-ni, vhune ene na vhañwe vhaambaramagaweni nga e vha kovhekana zwickhala zwa mishumo.

“Ndi khou ya u wana tshenzhemo ya mushumo wa zwe nda gudela zwone nahone he-zwi zwi do ndugisela kha vhungoho ha mushumoni wa vhumama,” o ralo Nanto, ane zwazwino u khou gudela BTech ya zwa Muthelo ngei CPUT.

Nanto na vha-na vha mme awe

vho aluswa nga mme awe vhe vhothe vhe vha vha vha sa koni u swikelela u badela mbadelo dza Yuni-vesthi. “Khotsi anga vho lovha ndi tshi tou vha na miñwaha ya 10,” o ralo Nanto, ane a bva doroboni ya King William ngei Kapa Vhubvaquvha.

Mashudu mavhuya, o wana bazari u bva kha Zhendedzi la Mafhungo a Thekino lodzhi la Lushaka.

Nanto o tshu wedza vhaswa uri vha humbule nga ha u thoma kha mbekanyamushumo ya vhaambaramagaweni phanda ha musu vha tshi ita khumbelo dza mishumo ya tshothe ngauri zwi do khwinisa zwickili zwavho na mi-layo ya kushumele fhethu ho teaho ngeno vha tshi khou diphina nga mbuelo dza u dzheniswa hune vha yo divha zwa shango la vhashumi. ■

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

**P**upils 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. ■



■ 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.