

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.

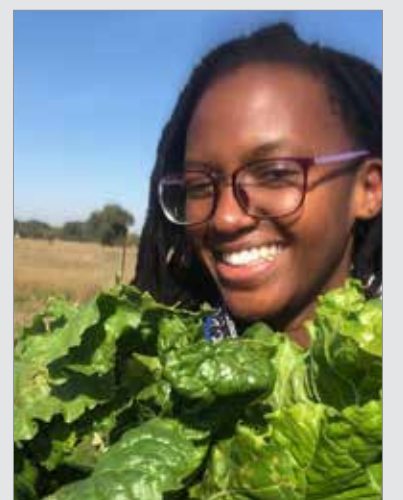
When she was 16, however, her life changed forever.

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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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Muntshwa a ngehenela nyimpi yo lwa na vugevenga



■ Khomixinatra wa Maphorisa Lontsongo Felistas Hamba u lava ku lwa na vugevenga eswikolweni hinkwaswo swa tiko.

Silusapho Nyanda

Ku kholwa ka nhwana wa xikolo xa le Pitori leswaku ku lwa na vugevenga i vutihlamuleri bya vantshwa na lavakulu swi ta n'wi nyika matimba tanihiloko a karhi a rhangela yin'wana ya tiphurogireme ta vantshwa ta

xiyimo xa le henhla ta SAPS to lwa na vugevenga.

Hi Nyenyanyana, Felistas Hamba (15) na Vakho-mixinara va Xifundzaku-lu Lavantsongo van'wana va ngehenerile njhekanjhekisano na mphikizano wo vulavula wa mani na mani lowu a wu vulavula hi swilo swo biha leswi swikolo swi

hlanganaka na swona.

Matirhelo ya Hamba lama yo koka mahlo ya endlile leswaku a thyiwa Mukho-mixinari wa Maphorisa wa Rixaka Lontsongo wa Afrika-Dzonga.

Xipano xa Hamba xi katsa swandla swa vakhomixinaro va rixaka va mune, lava humaka eN'walungu

Vupeladyambu, Kapa Vuhumadyambu, Limpopo na le KwaZulu-Natal.

Ku ta va ntirho wa vakho-mixinara lava ku tiyisisa leswaku vantshwa va tinghenisa eku endleni leswaku swikolo na miganga ya vona swi hlayisekile. "Vugevenga byi khumba hinkwerhu ka hina. Loko u vona vugevenga byi humelela, u komberriwa ku byi vika," u komberile tintangha ta yena. "Ku endlile leswaku swikolo swa hina swihlayiseka swi sungula hi wena."

Va ta langutisana na nxaniso wa le mirini, ku sivela vugevenga na mixaniso eka swiyenge swa mabulu.

Hamba u tekile goza ro tinghenisa eka phurogireme endzhaku ka ku lemuka leswaku tintangha ta yena leti to tala a ti tivi ku lwa na vugevenga lebyi byi ti khumbaka. "Tanihi muntshwa, ndzi kona tanihi mabulandlela wa vona leswaku va ta

kota ku va vamabulandlela va mundzuku," u vurile.

Mudyondzi wa ka geridi 10 eXikolweni xa le Henhla xa DC Marivate eSoshanguve u vule leswaku ku laveka miehleketo ya vutumbuluxi hi vantshwa leswaku va ta hunguta vugevenga emiganjeni na le swikolweni swa vona.

"Handle ka vantshwa lava rhangelaka tiko leri, a ri nge yi helo," Hamba u tsundzuxile tintangha ta yena.

Tata wa Hamba i phorisa naswona i norho wa yena ku landzelela mikondzo ya tata wakwe.

Nhloko ya xikolo xa Hamba, John Mangezi, u vule leswaku khumbo wakwe wu le ku endleni ka nkucetelo lowunene eka van'wana e-xikolweni.

"I swa nkoka swinene ku va xikolo xi ri na yena hikuva vadyondzi van'wana va lava ku fana na yena," ku vule Mangezi. ■



● 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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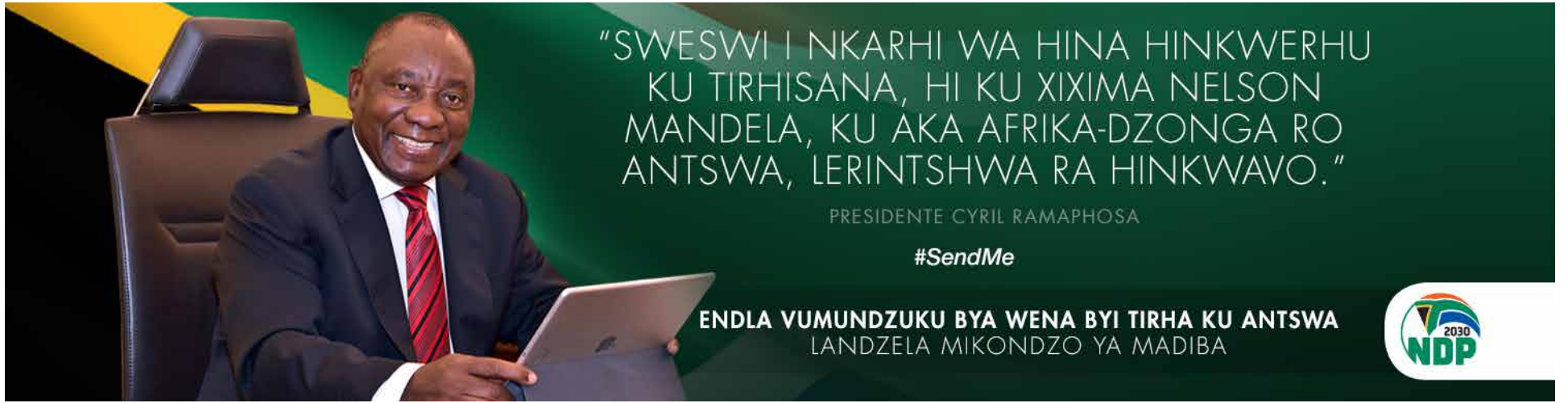
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Ku aka vumundzuku byo antswa eka vantshwa va hina

N'hweti ya Vantshwa yi tlangeriwa le-mbe rin'wana na rin'wana hi Khotavuxika ku xixima moya wa vurhena lowu kombiweke hi vantshwa va Afrika-Dzonga lava terekeke eswitaratani hi ti 16 Khotavuxika 1976 ku lwa na ku tirhisiwa ka Xibunu tanihi ririmi ro letela eswikolweni swa hina. Ndzi kholwa leswaku moya wo lwa wa ha ri kona eka rixaka rintshwa ra vantshwa, lava sweswi va lwaka na ntungu wa vusweti, vupfumalantirho na nkandzingano.

Vantshwa lava nga na torha ro navela vutomi byo antswa, va kobile ku tinyiketa na ku tiyisela ka vona loko va hlanganile ku lwela dyondzo ya le henhla ya mahala.

Ku fikeleriwa ka Afrika-Dzonga leri tshamisekeke ni ku humelela ri ri na ikhonomi leyi katsaka mani na mani i mhaka ya nkoka eka nongonoko wa mfumo wo tiyisela vutomi byo antswa bya hinkwavo. Hi ta tshama hi ri karhi hi endla matshatshala hakambirhi yo hlukisa na ku nyika matimba eka vantshwa leswaku va kota ku teka xiave eka ndlandlamuxo wa tiko ra hina.

Handle ko va va endla nhlayo ya le henhla ya rixaka ra Afrika-Dzonga, vantshwa va ya emahlweni va rhwala joko ra vupfumalantirho, vusweti na nkandzingano. Hi vona lava hlaseriweke swinene hi mavabyi, vuge-



venga bya madzolonga, ku tirhisa swidzidziharisi hi ndlela yo biha na nkanhluvukiso.

Tanihi mfumo lowu hlayisaka, hi le ku tirheni hi matimba ku tiyisela leswaku vantshwa va kuma vuswikoti na ntokoto, na ku kuma nseketelo lowu faneleke ku nghena eka mabindzu tanihi vatumbuluxi va mitirho ku nga ri valivi va mitirho.

N'waxemu, ndzi simekile phurogireme ya Vukorhokeri bya Mitirho ya Vantshwa (YES), leyi kongomaka ku lulamisa vantshwa ku tirha na ku va nyika vuswikoti bya xithekiniki lebyi lavekaka ku seketela ndlandlamuko wa ikhonomi.

Phurogireme ya YES i nhlengelo wa matshatshala ya mfumo, vatirhi na mabindzu ku nyika ntokoto wa ntirho wo hakeriwa eka miliyoni yin'we ya MaAfri-

ka-Dzonga wa vantshwa eka malembe yanharhu lama ya taka. Hi ku ya hi ndzavisiso, eka 15.5 wa timiliyoni ta vantu va malembe ya le xikarhi ka 18 na 34 eAfrika-Dzonga, 5.8 wa timiliyoni ta vona a va tirhi.

Ku ri na nhlayo yikulu ya tikhamphani leti se ti tingheniseke, pfhumba ra YES sweswi ri swi kotile ku fikelela 17 000 wa mitirho eka vantshwa lava va nga tirheku.

Eka vantshwa lava va nga na ku navela ku tinghenisa eka vutumbuluxamabindzu, mfumo wu tumbuluxile Ajesi ya Nhluvukiso wa Vantshwa wa Rixaka, leyi nyikaka vuleteri bya nhluvukiso wa vuswikoti, timali ta nhluvukiso, vudzaberi, nseketelo na vutihlanganisi bya timakete.

Ku tlula 2 500 wa tikhamphani leti ta ha kasaka sweswi se ti nyikiwile tima-

li leti, ku tumbuluxiwa ku tlula 10 000 wa mitirho eka ikhonomi.

Loko hi lava ku kuma swo tala eka xinakulorhi exikarhi ka mfumo na xiyenge xa xihundla, hi fanele ku tiyisela leswaku vantshwa va MaAfrika-Dzonga va nyikiwa vuswikoti lebyi faneleke ku hoxa xandla eka swiyenge hinkwaswo swa ikhonomi. Hikokwalaho hi le ku vekiseni eka dyondzo ya vantshwa va hina.

Hi tiyimiserile ku tiyisela leswaku vana hinkwavo, handle ka ku languta swiyimo swa vona, a va tsandzisiwi mfikelelo wa dyondzo ya xiyimo xa le henhla. Leswi swi le ku seketeriweni hi matshatshala ya hina yo antswisa xiyimo xa madyondziselolo na madyondzelo eswikolweni swa hina na le ka mavandla ya tidyondzo ta le henhla.

Eku sunguleni ka lembe leri, Ndzawulo ya Dyondzo ya le Henhla na Vuleteri yi tivisile avelo wa R967 wa timiliyoni wo hakela timali ta swichudeni leswi kolotaka 'swikweleti swa khale'.

Mali leyi yi ta pfuna swichudeni leswi swi kolotaka ku suka lembe leri hundzeke ku tiyisela leswaku swikweleti a swi nga va siveli ku fikelela dyondzo ya le henhla.


Ku ri na vuvekisi hinkwabyo lebyi mfumo wu byi endleke byo va nyika matimba, vantshwa na vona va fanele ku hoxa xandla eku ndlandla-

muxeni Afrika-Dzonga. Va fanele ku ti nghenelerisa eka migingiriko leyi endlaka tiko ri va ro antswa na ku hlayiseka eka hinkwavo lava hanyaka eka rona. Van'wana va vantshwa va tinghenelerisile eka tiphurojeke ta xiyimo xa le henhla na ku hlamarisa, mabindzu lamatsongo na vurimi emiganjeni ya vona. Va tekile xiboho xo cinca ku yisa tiko ra vona emahlweni ni ku ndlandlamuxa ikhonomi. Hi fanele ku khutaza vantshwa vo tala ku languta tindlela to tirhisa tinyiko na vuswikoti bya vona ku sungula mabindzu ya vona na ku tumbuluxa mitirho.

Vutihlamuleri byo xonga songhasi byi vulavula hi ku papalata xihoko na ku tirhisa swidzidziharisi hi ndlela yo biha na ku tlhela va hambana na ku tinghenisa eka vugevenga na manyala.

Naswona swa nkoka swinene, vantshwa va tihlayisa eka HIV na mavabyi yan'wana ya timhaka ta masangu hi ku tirhisa khondomu, ku hambana na timhaka ta masangu va ha ri vatsongo na ku kamberiswa nkarhi na nkarhi.



Vumundzuku bya Afrika-Dzonga byi le mavokweni ya vantshwa lava va tinyiketeteke ku aka rixaka leri hambaneke na leri vantshwa va 1976 va humaka eka rona. A hi tirheni kun'we ku hlayisa vumundzuku byo antswa bya vantshwa va hina. **U**



RHUMA MINA KU AKA MZANSI LEYI NDZI YI LAVAKA

#SendMe #ThumaMina

Swin'we hi yisa Afrika-Dzonga emahlweni

NSFAS, UIF swi tumbuluxa mitirho eka mathwasani

XIKIMI XINTSHWA XO NYIKA MATIMBA xi ta humesela mathwasani eka tindhawu ta mitirho leswaku ma antswisa swiyimo swa wona swo kuma mitirho ya nkarhi hinkwawo.

More Matshediso

Hambiloko vupfumantirho byi tshama byi ri mhaka leyi yaka emahlweni eAfrika-Dzonga, Xikimi xa Mpfuno wa Timali ta Swichudeni xa Rixaka (NSFAS) xi endlile xinakulobye na Nkwama wa Ndzindzakhombo wa Vupfumalantirho (UIF) ku lulamisa ntlhontlho.

Sweswinyana mavandla la mambirhi ya simekile phurogireme ya mathwasani yo nyika mathwasani ya 50 lama pfumalaka ntokoto wa ntirho eka swiyenge swo hambanahambana ku fika tin'hweti ta 12.

Vaendlaswikombelo lava humeleleke va vekiwile etihofisini ta NSFAS ta le Kapa Vupeladyambu.

Mufambisi wa NSFAS Dok. Randall Carolissen, u vule leswaku xikongomelo xa pfhumba i ku lulamisa mitlhontlho leyi vantshwa va langutaneke na yona etikweni, ngopfungopfu vavuyeriwa va xikimi xa mpfuno wa timali. "Tanihi NSFAS, hi le makungwini yo lulamisa swiphiso swa [swichudeni] naswona hi vanhu vo sungula ku vona nkhumbo lowu vupfumalantirho wu nga na wona eka mathwasani yo tala," u vurile.

Un'wana wa vavuyeri-

wa va 50 i Luchulumanco Nanto (24), loyi a heteke Diploma ya yena ya

Rixaka ya Akhawutini eYunivhesithi ya Thekinojoloji ya Cape Peninsula (CPUT) hi 2018.

U vule leswaku u twile hi ta phurogireme hi ntlawa wa swiyenge swa mabulu lowu a nga xiphemu xa wona ekhemphasini, laha yena na mathwasani kuloni va avelanaka mitirho. "Ndzi ta ya kuma ntokoto wa vutivi bya matirhelo wa leswi ndzi nga dyondzela swona naswona leswi swi ta tlhela swi ndzi lulamisela xiviri xa ndhawu ya ntirho," ku vule Nanto, loyi sweswi a endlaka tidyondzo ta

BTech ya Xibalo eCPUT.

Nanto na vamakwavo wa yena va mune va kurisiwile hi mana wa vona a ri swakwe loyi a nga swi koti ku va hakelela mali ya tidyondzo ta yena eyunivhesithi.

"Tata wa mina u hundzile emisaveni loko ndzi ri na malembe ya 10," ku vule Nanto, loyi a humaka eXidorobanini xa King William eKapa Vuhumadyambu.

Nkateko wa kona, u kumile basari kusuka eka Ajesi ya Thekinojoloji ya Mahungu ya Mfumo.

Nanto u khutaza vantshwa ku nghenela phurogireme ya mathwasani loko va nga si endla swikombelo swa mitirho ya nkarhi hinkwawo hikuva swi ta tlakusa vuswikoti bya

vona na matikhomelo etirhweni lawa ya faneleke loko hala tlhelo va ri karhi va tiphina hi mivuyelo yo nyikiwa ntokoto wa ntirho. **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.