

Vuk'uzenzele



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From domestic worker to doctor

A YOUNG WOMAN who washed dishes throughout high school to supplement her family's income is now a professional who proves that hard work pays off.



■ Dr Pamela Sithole is an example of how resilience and perseverance can help in achieving your goals.

Nonkululeko Mathebula

Former domestic worker, Pamela Phumzile Sithole is proof that dreams do come true.

Born and raised in Phoe-

nix in KwaZulu-Natal, the 24-year-old was able to juggle her studies with part-time work over the years having the ability to rise above her circumstances.

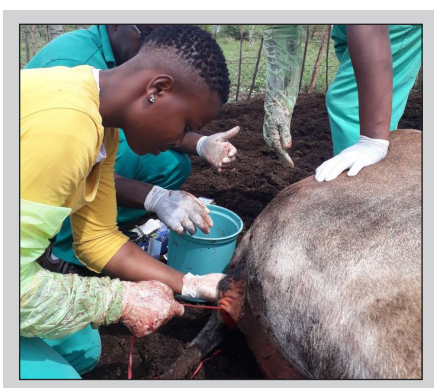
Despite working as a domestic helper from the age

of 14, Sithole's perseverance and determination helped turn her life around and she recently graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

She is currently doing her internship at the Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital in Johannesburg.

Sharing her story with *Vuk'uzenzele* the inspirational

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Young vets saving animals' lives

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Tugmaster is making waves

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"I pay tribute to the endless heroism of youth.."

Nelson Mandela



Ukuguqula Imfundo Ephakeme

UNGQONGQOSHE NALEDI PANDOR ubumba kabusha umkhakha wezemfundo ephakeme ukuze uhlangabezane nezidingo zomnotho.

Amukelani Chauke

Isimo semfundo ephakeme eNingizimu Afrika siyashintsha, njengoba imfundo ephakeme seyinge nje ifinyeleleka kodwa seyiqondene kangcono ukuze ihlangabezane nezidingo zomnotho. Izinguquko ziyadingeka njengoba izwe lisebenzela ukulungiselela abantu abasha balungele umsebenzi kanye nokuba negalelo kwezomnotho.

Njengoba izwe libungaza Inyanga Yentsha, i-Vuk'uzenzele ibukisisa ukuthi intsha yezwe ihlinzekwa kanjani ngamathuba nguMnyango

wezeMfundo ePhakeme Nezokuqeqesha ukuze iphumelele.

Njengoba aqokwa ngoNhlolanja njengoNgqongqoshe wezeMfundo ePhakeme Nokuqeqesha, uNaledi Pandor unikezwe umsebenzi wokuqalisa uhlelo lwemfundo yamahhala kwabampofu kanye nalabo abaziwa njengezitshudeni ezingondingasithebeni.

Kulandela izibhelu zikazwelonke ngaphansi kwe-siqubulo esithi: #FeesMustFall, kwamenezelwa ngoZibandlela ukuthi intsha evela emindenini lapho umholo wakhona ungaphansi kwezi-350 000 zamarandi ngonyaka izothola imfundo yamahhala ezikhungweni zemfundo ephakeme nokuqeqeshwa. Ukuqaliswa kokusebenza kwalolu hlelo kuyaqhubeka futhi kuzoqhutshwa esikhathini seminyaka emihlanu.

Isikimu Somfundaze

UNGqongqoshe Pandor ukuqinisekisa ukuthi ukuqaliswa kokusebenza kwesikimu somfundaze kuyaqhubeka ngaphandle kwezinkinga.

“Isikimu



esisha somfundaze siwuhlelo lukahulumeni waseNingizimu Afrika lokungenelela olubaluleke kakhulu futhi, empeleli, olwabantu baseNingizimu Afrika ngoba yintela yabo ekhokhela lokhu,” kusho yena.

Isikimu somfundaze sinikezwa izitshudeni eziqalayo enyuvesi kanye nasemakolishi oKufundela Umsebenzi Wezobuchwepheshe Bezandla Nokuqeqeshwa (ama-TVET), kuwona wonke amazanga eminyaka yemfundo.

Ukuze kuxhaswe isikimu somfundaze, imali kahulumeni eyengeziwe eyizigidigidi zamarandi eziyi-7.166 ibekelwa eceleni ngowezi-2018 –

kule mali, eyizigidigidi zamarandi eziyi-4.581 ibekelwe izitshudeni ezifanelekile ezifunda emanyuvesi, ize ezigidigidi zamarandi eziyi-2.585 yona ibe ngeyazitshudeni zamakolishi ama-TVET.

UNGqongqoshe Pandor uthe amakolishi agxile emikhakheni ethile yezemfundo angase abeyizikhungo ezivelele ezaziwa ngokukhiqiza amakhono aphambili emikhakheni yazo.

Isibonelo, ikolishi elilodwa lingagxila kwezobunjiniyela bokukhenikha bese elinye ligxila kwezokushayelwa kwezindiza, kuchaza yena. “Ngikholwa ukuthi ukugxila emkhakheni owodwa kukho-

na kulele ikusasa lamakolishi,” kwengeza yena.

“Sifuna izinto ezahlukile. Asifuni wonke amakolishi enze into eyodwa.”

Kusenjalo Uhlelo loku-Thuthukiswa koSomabhizinisi kwezeMfundo ePhakeme lwethulwa ngonyaka odlule ukuze kugququzele abantu abasha ukuba baqale amabhizinisi abo.

Kuhloswe ngalo ukudidiyela intuthuko yamakhono wezomabhizinisi emkhakheni wemfundo yasenyuvesi eNingizimu Afrika. Lokhu kubandakanya ukuba ngosomabhizinisi kwezemfundo, ukuthuthukiswa kosomabhizinisi abayazitshudeni kanjalo nokuba ngosomabhizinisi emanyuvesi.

UNGqongqoshe Pandor uthe kusekuningi okudingeka kwenziwe ukuze kungagcinwa nje ngokusiza abantu abasha balungele ukusebenza, kodwa nokuba babe ngabasunguli bemisebenzi eseqophelweni.

Uthi angathanda ukubona izikhungo zemfundo ephakeme zifundisa amakhono ezebhizinisi kuzo zonke izifundo, lokhu kuyicebo elingasiza abantu abasebasha asebefundile bazisungulele amabhizinisi abo amancane angase athuthukise ikusasa lezwe. **U**



UNGqongqoshe wezeMfundo ePhakeme Nokuqeqesha, uNaledi Pandor.

● Cont. from page 1

young woman said her journey was not easy.

“Growing up there were a lot of challenges, including our financial circumstances and my parents’ divorce.

“My mother was left to provide for us and she was unemployed for the longest time. As a result we had no choice but to rely on my siblings to put me through school from an

early age up until high school which put a lot of financial strain on them.”

Despite these challenges, Sithole was determined to live up to her potential and applied herself diligently to her studies.

“For me giving up wasn’t an option.”

When she was a young teenager she got the opportunity to help do chores at a home nearby. This led to regular

domestic work during her December holidays and Sithole was able to add to the family’s finances and help fund her high school studies.

Despite doing well in matric there was always the chance that she would not be able to study further because of a lack of funding. “I almost didn’t go to a medical school,” she adds.

Her hard work and commitment to her studies paid off

when she received funding from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme. This helping hand was to prove life changing.

“Even though I was a domestic worker, I didn’t shelve my dreams and think that it’s over for me. I continued to work hard and I’m glad that I did.

“For me it really was just a lesson in humility and it has enabled me to better under-

stand people from different walks of life and be able to relate to each person.

“I always knew that good things lay ahead for me and it was truly just a matter of time.”

Her parting words are wise: “Never despise humble beginnings but equally, don’t let them define where you will be in five or 10 years’ time. With God, everything is possible.” **U**



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Umshayeli wezikebhe ushisa izikhotha



■ Umshayeli wezikebhe uLindile Mdletshe ungumpetha emsebenzini wakhe.

Allison Cooper

Njengomshayeli wezikebhe wakwa-Transnet uLindile Mdletshe (oneminyaka yobudala engama-30) uye-na oshayela izikebhe ezinama-ndla ezisetshenziselwa ukulekelela ukuhamba kwemikhumbi eChwebeni lase-Durban. Yize noma zizincanyana, izikebhe ezidonsa ezinye kodwa zinama-ndla kakhulu futhi ukuzishayela kudinga ikhono kakhulu.

UMdletshe ongowokudabuka eSayidi wase efunda e-St Faiths.

“Kwakumnandi kakhulu lapho ngakhulela khona. Kwakungekho kwesaba, kungafani nezinsuku zanamhlanje, futhi wonke umuntu wayekhuliswa umphakathi.”

UMdletshe waphothula umatikuletsheni wakhe ngowezi-2006, ngaphambi kokulibangisa e-Durban University of Technology wayofundela i-National Diploma ku-Maritime Studies ngowezi-2007.

Emva kokuphuthula izingalake le-S1 ngowezi-2007 kanye nele-S2 ngowezi-2008 waqhubeka nokuqeqeshwa kwakhe olwandle iminyaka emithathu, kanye ne-Safmarine Shipping Company. Lapha wafunda khona ukuthi ushayelwa kanjani umkhumbi wempahla, maphakathi nolwandle fu-

thi bema nasemachwebeni ahlukahlukene e-Europe, e-Afrika nase-Asia ngemisebenzi ehlobene nemithwalo kanye nezinhlobo zezokuphepha.

Wathola iziqu zakhe zokuqala eneminyaka engama-25, ngenkathi ephothula iziqu zakhe ze-Master's ku-Port Operations ngesikhathi esifanayo. Iziqu zakhe ze-Master's zimenze wafaneleka ukuba umshayeli wezikebhe oqeqeshiwe. “Lokhu kwakuyinselele enkulu kakhulu kimina ngoba ukuba umshayeli wezikebhe akudingi ukuba umuntu abe neziqumfundo, kudinga i-S1, S2 nokuqeqeshwa olwandle. Kuba ngemva kwalokhu kuphela lapho abantu beye babhalisele ukuba umshayeli wezikebhe. Ngenza kokubili ngesikhathi esisodwa. Emva komsebenzi, ngangiyengihambe ngiyesikoleni, ngifunde konke okwakwenziwe ngalelo langa,” kusho yena.

UMdletshe uyakuthanda ukuba semanzini. “Amanzi akutshela okuningi ngokuthi usuku oluzayo luzolethani. Ngezinye izinsuku kuzolile, kwezinye kuba kubi kanti kwezinye kuqubuka amagagasi amakhulu, ngakho-ke kuni- ngi nje okwenzekayo olwandle! Imikhumbi iphinde ibe nemimo eyahlukene futhi ithwala imithwalo eyahlukene, okuchaza ukuthi kufanele iphathwe nge-

ndlela ehlukile,” kusho u-Mdletshe, okuthokozelayo ukusebenza namathimba anabantu abahlukahlukene, nabavela emazweni ahlu- kene.

Umsebenzi onezinsalele

Ukuba umuntu wesifazane emkhakheni wezokuthutha ngemikhumbi akulula neze kusho uMdletshe, obeka izinkinga ezixile kwezobulili njengezinsalele eziphambili njengoba kusewumkhakha obukwa njengowamadoda kakhulu.

“Imfundo yisikhali esinamandla kakhulu okungekho muntu ongakwephuca sona. Ingcebo nezinto zalo mhlaba kungenzeke kuphele kodwa imfundo iyohlala nawe naphakade.”

“Yize noma abesifazane bezama ukuzishuthela nokusebenza kanzima ukuze babonise ukuthi lokhu okushiwoyo akulona iqiniso, kungumsebenzi onzima. Ngakunqoba lokhu ngokuba ngingaphakamisi umoya, ngihlale ngicabanga ngokunethe- mba futhi ngisebenze naban- tu ukuze bangihloniphe. Ngokubelesela nokuzimise- la, ungazinqoba lezi zithiyo,”

kusho yena.

Impumelelo kaMdletshe yokunqoba lezi zithiyo iyabonakala ngendondo ayihlomulile njengemenenja eyibamba kwezobuchwepheshe bemikhumbi nolwandle. “Ngahlomula ngendondo ngokuba ngovelele esikhathini esifushane ngenxa yokuthi umsebenzi wami wathola umphumela wocwaningo-mabhuku ongenagcobho evikini lokuqala ngibambe kulesi sikhundla.” Waphinde wahlomula ngendondo ‘yokuba yiqhawwe’ ngoMfumfu wezi-2017, ngokusiza imikhumbi esichothweni esasisibi kakhulu esake sabonakala e-Durban.

“Ukuba umshayeli wezike- bhe kuchaza ukuthi kwesinye isikhathi kufanele uqunge ube nesibindi,” kusho yena.

Ukuphuthula iziqu zakhe ze-Master's kwaletsa umehluko omkhulu. “Ukuthola iziqu zami kwaqinisekisa ukuthi ngithola ukuhlonishwa okukhulu ngabalingani bami besilisa. Bangibuza zonke izinsuku ukuthi ngimatasa ngani ngoba sibabili kuphela esesihambe leli banga futhi ngaba owokuqala ukuthola i-Maritime Diploma eChwebeni lase-Durban. Lokhu kuphela kungenza ngibe ngovelele,” kusho yena, echa- za ukuthi izifundo zokusebenza emikhunjini nasolwandle akulula ukungena khona.

Umsebenzi Womshayeli Wezikebhe

UMdletshe uyachaza ukuthi umshayeli wezikebhe cishe u-

lawula isikebhe sonkana kanye nabantu abagibele kuso.

Kufanele aqikelele ukuthi izimpahla zokuphepha nezokucisha umlilo zisesimweni esifanele futhi ziqinisekisiwe ukuba ziyasebenza, aqhube inhlobo yezokuphepha yaminyaka yonke esikebheni, aqikelele ukuthi ithimba lithola ukuqeqeshwa futhi asayine izincwadi zabo zokuqeqeshwa, aqhube izibukezo zokunganyelwa kokwenziwa komsebenzi, nokusiza abasebenzi bakhe bahlanganise uhlelo oluthuthukisiwe ngokuhambisana nomkhakha wabo womsebenzi, ukuqinisekisa ukuthi izinqubomgomo zenkampani ziyathotshelwa kanye nokubhekelela izitolo nokufaka ama-oda amathuluzi okusebenza.

Usuku nje olujwayelekile lukaMdletshe luqala ngohla lwemikhumbi efikayo nehambayo, konke okufanele kuqedwe ekupheleni kwelanga. “Siqala ukusebenza umsebenzi ophathelene nemikhumbi ekuseni ngehora lesi-06:00 siqede ngehora lesi-17:50 ntambama. Ngokuvamile, izikebhe ezimbili ezidonsa ezinye zisebenza ndawonye, futhi ngasinye siphothula cishe imisebenzi eyisishiyagalombili. Bese emva kwalokho, kufanele siqedele wonke umsebenzi obhaliwe. Ezimweni eziphuthumayo, kwesinye isikhathi siqeda ukusebenza emva kwehora lesi-21:00 ebusuku,” kusho yena. ■