

Vuk'uzenzele



Produced by Government Communications (GCIS)

English/Sepedi

| June 2019 Edition 2

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.

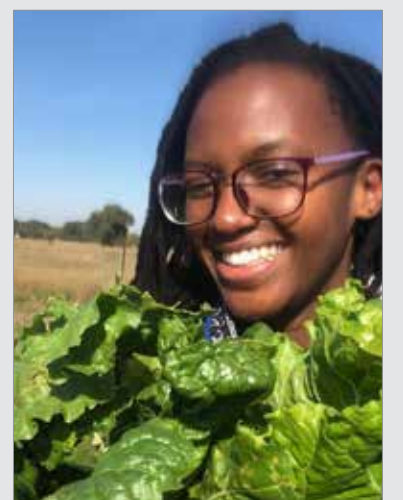
When she was 16, however, her life changed forever.

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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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Mofsa o tsenela ntwagaahlanong le bosenyi



■ Mokhomisenare wa Maphodisa wa Mofsa Felistas Hamba o nyaka go lwantšha bosenyi dikolong go ralala le naga.

Silusapho Nyanda

Tumelo ya mosetsana wa sekolo wa ka Pretoria ya gore go lwantšha bosenyi ke maikarabelo a bafsa le a batho ba bagolo e tla mo hlohleletša ge

a thuša go eta pele le lengwe la mananeo a bafsa a bohlokoa a thibelo ya bosenyi a Tirelo ya Maphodisa ya Afrika Borwa (SAPS).

Ka Dibokwane, Felistas Hamba (15) le Bakhomisenare ba bangwe ba Bafsa ba Dipro-

fense ba ka mo nageng ba kgathile tema ka phadišanong ya dingangišano le ya go bolela setšhabeng yeo e bego e lebeletše kudu mathata a setšhabeng ao dikolo di lebanego le ona.

Go šoma gabotse ga Hamba

ka mo phadišanong ye go mo dirile gore a kgethwe bjalo ka Mokhomisenare wa Maphodisa wa Mofsa wa Bosetšhaba wa Afrika Borwa.

Sehlopha sa Hamba se akaretša batlatšakhomisenare ba bafsa ba bosetšhaba ba bane, bao ba tšwago ka profenseng ya Leboa Bodikela, Kapa Bohlabela, Limpopo le KwaZulu-Natal.

E tla ba nepo ya bona go netefatša gore bafsa ba kgatha tema go dira bonnete bja gore dikolo le metse ya bona e bolokegile.

“Bosenyi bo re ama ka moka. Ge o bona bosenyi bo direga, o kgopelwa go bo bega,” o ile a ipiletša go dithaka tša gagwe.

“Go dira gore dikolo tša rena di bolokege go thoma ka wena.”

Ba tla lebelela kudu go tshwenya ka go betha, thibelo ya bosenyi, digongwana tša bosenyi le go romela batho melaetša inthaneteng ka nepo ya go ba tshwenya.

Hamba o tšere sephetho sa go kgatha tema ka mo lenaneong le ka morago ga go lemoga gore

bontši bja dithaka tša gagwe ba be ba sa kgone go šomana le bosenyi bjo bo bego bo ba ama.

“Bjalo ka mofsa, ke kgona go ba hlomela sefala gore ba kgone go tliša diphetogo tša ka moso,” a realo.

Moithuti yo wa kreiti ya 10 wa Sekolo seo se Phagamego sa DC Marivate ka Soshanguve o boletše gore go nagana ka boitlhamelo ka bafsa go a nyakega go fokotša bosenyi ka metseng le ka dikolong.

“Ka ntle le gore bafsa ba ete pele ka mo nageng ye, ga go fao e ka yago gona,” Hamba a eletša dithaka tša gagwe.

Tatago Hamba ke mohlankedi wa maphodisa gomme ke toro ya gagwe ya gore a latele fao a fetilego gona.

Hlogo ya sekolo, John Mangezi, o boletše gore seabe sa Hamba se huetša baithuti ba bangwe gakaone ka sekolong.

“Go bohlokwa ge sekolo se na le yena ka gobane baithuti ba bangwe ba nyaka go swana le yena,” Mangezi a realo. ■

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“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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Vukuzenzele
is published by Government
Communications (GCIS)

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Printed by: paarlco/dset

Distributed by: ON THE DOT



"BJALE KE NAKO YA GORE KA MOKA GA RENNA RE ŠOME MMOGO RE HLOMPHE NELSON MANDELA, RE AGE AFRIKA BORWA YE MPSHA YA BOHLE."

MOPRESIDENTE CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

#SendMe

RE GO AGELA BOKAMOSO BJO BOKAONE
RE ITHUTA GO MADIBA



Go agela bafsa bokamoso bjo bokaone

Kgwedi ya Bafsa e ketekwa ngwaga o mongwe le o mongwe ka Phupu go gopola moya wa bagale ba bafsa ba Afrika Borwa bao ba ilego ba gwanta mebileng ka la 16 Phupu 1976 go lwa kgahlanong le tšhomišo ya Seafrikantshe bjalo ka polelo ya go ruta ka dikolong tša rena.

Ke dumela gore moya wa go lwa wa go swana le wo o sa le gona ka molokong o moswa wa bafsa, bao mo lebakeng le ba lwago kgahlanong le leuba la bohloki, go hloka mešomo le tlhokego ya tekatekano.

Bafsa ba bao ba nago le ditlhologelo tšeo go sa kgonegego go di kgotsofatša tša go ba le bophelo bjo bokaone, ba laeditše go se tekateke le kgotlelelo ya bona ge ba kopana ba ipiletša gore go be le thuto ya godingwana ya go se lefelwe.

Diphihlelelo tša Afrika Borwa ye e nago le khutšo le yeo e atlegilego yeo ekonomi ya yona e akaretšago mang le mang di godimo kudu lenaneong la mmušo la go netefatša gore bohle ba ba le bophelo bjo bokaone. Re tšwetše pele go oketša maitapišo a rena gabedi a go hlabolla le go maatlafatša bafsa gore ba kgone go tsenya letsogo go godiša naga ya rena.

Ka ntle le gore ba bopa palo ya godimo ya setšhaba sa Afrika Borwa, bafsa ba tšwela pele go lebana le bothata bja tlhokego ya mešomo, ya bohloki le ya tlhokego ya tekatekano

Ba tšwela pele go hlaselwa kudu ke malwetši, bosenyi bja



dikgaruru, tšhomišobošaeidi ya diokobatši le tlhokego ya tlhabologo.

Bjalo ka mmušo wo o kga-thalago, re šoma kudu go netefatša gore bafsa ba hwetša bokgoni le maitemogelo, le gore ba hwetša thekgo ye e hlo-kagalago go tsena lefaseng la bohloki bja dikgwebo bjalo ka bahloki ba mešomo sebakeng sa banyaki ba mešomo.

Ngwageng wo o fetilego, ke tsebagaditše semmušo lenaneo la Tirelo ya go Thwala Bafsa Mešomong (YES), leo le ikemišeditšego go lokišetša bafsa go hwetša mešomo le go ba fa bokgoni bja tša sethekniki bjo bo nyakegago go thekga gore ekonomi e be ya tlhomo ya diintasteri.

Lenaneo la YES ke lesolo la mohlakanelwa ka mmušo,

lamešomo, thekgo le dikamano tša mebaraka.

Dikhamphani tše di sa thoma-go tša go feta tše 2 500 di ile tša fiwa thušo ya ditšhelete, gomme se sa hloma mešomo ya go feta ye 10 000 ka ekonoming.

Ge e le gore re tlo dira selekane se segolo gareng ga mmušo le lefapha la phraebete, re swanetše go netefatša gore bafsa ba Afrika Borwa ba tloga ba na le tsebo ya maleba ya gore ba kgone go kgatha tema ka mafapheng ka moka a ekonomi. Ke ka lebaka leo re beeletšago ka thutong ya bafsa.

Re na le maikemišetšo a go se tekateke go netefatša gore bana ka moka, go sa lebelelwe maemo a bona, ga ba ganetšwe go fihlelela thuto ya boleng. Se se tlaletša ke maikemišetšo a rena a go kaonafatša boleng bja go ruta le go ithuta ka dikolong tša rena le ka dihlolongweng tša thuto ya godingwana.

Pejana mo ngwegeng wo, Kgoro ya Thuto le Tlhahlo tša Godingwana e tsebagaditše ka kabo ya R967 milione ye e lego ya go lefa ditšhelete tša dithuto go baithuti bao ba kolotago 'sekoloto sa kgale'.

Tšhelete ye e tla thuša baithuti bao ba bego ba kolota ditšhelete tša mengwaga ye e fetilego ka go netefatša gore sekoloto se ga se ba thibe go fihlelela thuto ya godingwana.

Ka dipeeletšong ka moka tše di dirilwego ke mmušo go ba maatlafatša, bafsa le bona ba swanetše go raloka tema

ya bona ya go godiša Afrika Borwa. Ba swanetše go dula ba le gare ka mešomo yeo e tsenyago letsogo go dira gore naga ye e be lefelo le lekaone leo le bolokegilego gore bohle ba dule ka go lona. Ba bangwe ba bafsa ba rena ba kga-tha tema ka diprotšekeng tša go hlohleletša go makala, ka go dikgwebopotlana le ka boleming ka ditšhabeng tša bona.

Ba tšere sephetho sa go itirela go raloka tema ye bohlokwa ya go iša naga ya rena pele le ya go godiša ekonomi. Re swanetše go hlohleletša bafsa ba bantši go nyaka mekgwa ya go šomiša ditlente tša bona le bokgoni go ithomela dikgwebo tša bona le go hloma mešomo.

Maikarabelo ao a bohlokwa a akaretša go tlogela bjalo le go šomiša diokobatši bošae-di, le gape go se kgathe tema ka bosenyeng le ka bome-netšeng.

Gomme se bohlokwa kudu ke gore, bafsa ba swanetše go dira gore ba bolokege go HIV le go malwetši a mangwe a thobalano ka go šomiša khontomo, go tlogela go tsenela thobalano e sa le ba bannyane le go dirwa diteko kgafetšak-gafetša.

Bokamoso bja Afrika Borwa bo matsogong a bafsa bao ba ikgafilego go aga setšhaba seo se fapanego le seo bafsa ba 1976 ba tšwago go sona. A re šomeng mmogo go direla bafsa ba rena bokamoso bjo bokaone. **U**



NSFAS le UIF di hloma dibaka tša mešomo go baithuti bao ba phethilego dithuto

SETLAMO SE SESWA sa go thwala batho mešomong se tla tsenya baithuti bao ba phethilego dithuto tša bona mešomong go dira gore dibaka tša bona tša go hwetša mešomo ya sa ruri di be kaone.

More Matshediso

Le ge tlhokego ya mešomo go bafsa e tšwela pele go ba tlhobaboroko ye e ganelelago ka Afrika Borwa, Setlamo sa Bosetšhaba sa Thušo ya Ditšhelete tša Baithuti (NSFAS) se dirišana le Sekhwama sa Inšorentshe ya bao ba Feletšwego ke Mešomo (UIF) go rarolla bothata bjo.

Dihlongwa tše tše pedi di sa tšwa go tsebagatša semmušo lenaneo la baithuti bao ba phethilego dithuto tša bona go fa baithuti ba 50 bao ba phethilego dithuto maitemogelo a mošomo ka makaleng a mehutahuta mo dikgweding tše 12.

Bakgopedi ba mešomo bao ba atlegilego ba tsentšwe ka dikantorong tša NSFAS ka Kapa Bodikela.

Molaodi wa NSFAS, Ngaka Randall Carolissen, o boletše gore maikemišetšo a lesolo le ke go rarolla mathata a tlhokego ya mešomo ao bafsa ba naga ye ba lebanego le ona, kudukudu baholegi ba setlamo se sa thušo ya ditšhelete.

“Bjalo ka NSFAS, re ketapele go rarolleng ga dikgakanego tša baithuti ebile re ba mathomo ba go bona seabe seo tlhokego ya mešomo e nago le sona go baithuti ba bantši bao ba phethilego dithuto,” a realo.

Yo mongwe wa baholegi ba 50 ke Luchulumanco Nanto (24), yo a phethilego National Diploma ya Accounting ka Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) ka 2018.

O bolela gore o tsebile ka ga lenaneo le ka sehlopha sa kgašo ya setšhaba seo a welago go sona ka

khamphaseng, moo yena le baithuti ka yena bao ba phethilego dithuto ba abelanago dibaka tša mešomo.

“Ke tlo hwetša tsebo ya go dira mošomo ka ga seo ke ithutetšego sona gomme se gape se tla ntokišetša dinnete tša seemo sa mošomong,” gwa bolela Nanto, yo mo lebakeng le a ithutelago B-Tech ya Taxation ka CPUT.

Nanto le bana ba gabo ba bane ba godišitšwe ke mma o tee yo a bego a palelwa ke go lefa ditšhelete tša yunibesithi.

“Tate o hlokofetše ge ke be ke sa na le mengwaga ye 10 fela,” gwa bolela Nanto, yo a tšwago King William’s Town ka Kapa Bohlabela.

Ka mahlatse, o hweditše pasari go tšwa go Setheo sa Theknolotši ya Tshedimošo ya Mmušo (SITA).

Nanto o hlohleletša bafsa go nagana go tsenela lenaneo le la baithuti bao ba phethilego dithuto pele ga ge ba dira dikgopelo tša mešomo ya sa ruri ka ge le tla ba maatlafatša go bokgoni bja bona le go maitshwara a mošomong ka lebelo la maleba mola ka go le lengwe ba ipshina ka go ba ka lefaseng la mošomo. **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.