

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.

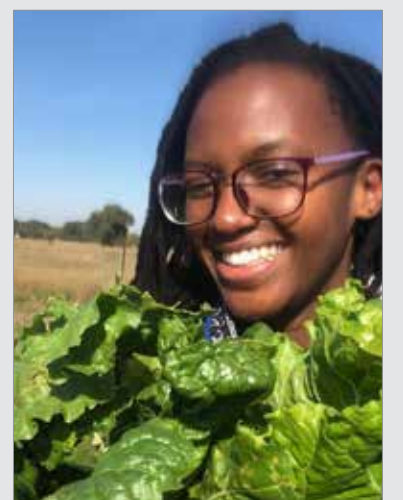
When she was 16, however, her life changed forever.

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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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Umntazana Osesemncani Uhlanganyela Nabanye Epini Yokulwa Nobulelesi



UKomitjhina wazamaPholisa osesemNcane u-Felistas Hamba unqophe ukulwa nobulelesi eenkolweni eziselizweni zombebele.

Silusapho Nyanda

Ikolelo yomntazana ofunda esikolweni sePitori yokuthi ukulwa ubulelesi msebenzi wabo boke abantu, abancani nabakhulu, izamkuthaza nakasiza ngokudosa phambili elinye lamajima aphambili emahlelweni welutjha wokukhanda ubulelesi ngaphasi kwemiSebenzi yamaPholisa weSewula Afrika (i-SAPS).

NgoMhlolanga, u-Felistas Hamba (oneminyaka eli-15) naboKomitjhina beLutjha bakezinye iimFunda bangenele iphaliswano lekulumopikiswano nelokukhuluma tihatjhalazi lapho bekuqaliswano khona umonakalo wobumbi bezinto ezenziwa bentwana eenkolweni.

Ukusebenza kwakaHamba ngendlela ekare umuntu woke kumenze bona

anikelwe isikhundla sokubanguKomitjhina wezamaPholisa osesemNcane weSewula Afrika.

Isiqhema sikaHamba sinamasekela waboKomitjhina abane belizwe loke, abavela eThagwini Tjingalanga, ePumalanga Kapa, eLimpopo kunye naKwaZulu-Natala.

Kuzakuba msebenzi wabo ukuqinisekisa ukuthi abantu abatjha baba nesandla

ekwenzeni ukuthi iinkolo zabo ziba ngeziphileleko, ngokunjalo neendawo zangemakhabo ziphephe.

“Ubulelesi busembethe soke. Nawubona ubulelesi busenzeka ndawana, sikhombela ukhulume, ububike,” utjho akhombela abalingani bakhe. “Ukuphisa iinkolo zethu kuthoma ngawe.”

Bazakubeka ilihlo ezenzweni zokuthelisa nokutlhorisana kwabentwana, ekukhandeleni ubulelesi, ubugenge kunye nokutheliswa ngethungelelwanohlanganiso.

UHamba uqunte ukufaka isandla ehlelweni ngemva kokulimuka ukuthi abalingani bakhe abanengi abazi ukuthi benzeni nabaqalene nokutlhoriswa.

“Njengomuntu omutjha, ngijamele ukuvulela abantu abatjha ikundla kobanyana bazokuba babantu abaletha itjhuguluko nomehluko ngomuso,” utjho ahlathulula uHamba.

Umfundi wegreyidi ye-10 lo esikolweni i-DC Marivate Senior Secondary eseSoshanguve uthi kufuneka umkhumbulo onamandla wokusungula hlangana nabantu abatjha nakuzakuphunguleka ubulelesi emphakathini kunye neenkolweni.

“Abantu abatjha nabangahlumbukulidosa phambili ilizwe lekhetweli, alizukuyandawo,” uHamba uyelelise abalingani bakhe.

Uyise ka-Felistas ulipholisa, njeke-ke kulibhudango lakhe ukulandela emthlalenakhe.

UPhrinsipali wesikolo lapha kufunda khona u-Felistas u-John Mangezi uthi amandla wommoya omuhle walomntwana abafaka ummoya omuhle nabanye abafundi esikolweni afunda kiso.

“Kuqatheke khulu ukuba nomfundi onjengo-Felistas kilesisikolo ngoba nabanye abafundi bakhanukela ukuba njengaye,” kutjho uMangezi. **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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Sakhela Ilutjha Lekhethu Ingomuso Elinepumelelo

INyanga YeLutjha igidingwa qobe mnyaka ngoMgwengweni njengesikhumbuzo sesi-bindi selutjha leSewula Afrika elatjhagala langena eentradeni mhlana ali-16 kuMgwengweni ngomnyaka we-1976 lilwisana nokufundiswa ngelimi lesiBhuru eenkolweni zekhethu.

Ngikholwa ukuthi loyo mmoya wokulwa usese khona nanamhlanje esizukulwaneni esitjha esililutjha lanamhlanje, lona esele lisilwa nomthlago osisisahleleko, ukutlhogeka komsebenzi kunye nokutjhiyana ngendima komphakathi.

Abantu abatjhaba, abantjhisakalo engapheliko yokufikelela epilweni engcono, batjengise ukuncama kwabo nokubambelela kwabo lokhuya nababuthanako baba ndawonye bezwakalisa isililo sabo sefundo yasimahla yemazikweni aphakemeko.

Ukwakhiwa kweSewula Afrika enzinzileko nephumelelako ephila ngomnotho oqalelela umuntu woke wona msebenzi ophambili eendabeni urhulumente ekufuze azitjheje kobanyana azokuphumelela ukwakhela umuntu woke ipilo engcono. Eenkhathini ezidlulileko siyibuyelele ngokwelakanywe kabili imizamo yethu yokuthuthukisa besihlomise ilutjha kobanyana lizokwazi ukuhlumisa umnotho, nanamhlanje solo sisaragela

phambili ngokwenza njalo khona izakuphumelela imizamo yethu.

Nanyana ilutjha lilinengi ukudlula woke umuntu esitjhabeni seSewula Afrika nje, kodwana solo ngilo elingasebenziko ngobunengi, ngilo elichake khulu nelitjhiywa ngendima ukudlula boke abanye. Nanamhlanje solo ngilo ilutjha elibhokelwe zizifo khulu, ngilo elibongazimbi bobulelesi benturhu, ngilo elicaphazeka ngokungena ngehloko eendakamizweni, ngokunjalo godu ngilo elisalele emva khulu ngetuthuko.

Njengorhulumente otjhejako, sisiphalaza ngamandla sisebenzela ukuqinisekisa ukuthi abantu abatjha bathola amakhonofundwa nelemuko, bathole nesekele elifaneleko lokungena emabhizinisini kube ngibo abakhanda nabavula imisebenzi kunokobanyana babe babantu abafuna umsebenzi, abazakuqatjiswa ngabanye.

Nyakenye ngihlome iJima lezemiSebenzi yokuQatjiswa kweLutjha (i-YES), elinqophe ukulungiselela ilutjha ukusebenza libe libahlomise nangamakghonofundwa wechwephetjhe afuneka azakusekela ukwanda kwamabubulo emnothweni welizwe.

Ihlelo i-YES limuzamo ohlanganyelwe ngurhulumente, iinhlango zeensebenzi kunye namabhizinisi kobanyana lizo-

kunikela isigidi sabantu abatjha abamaSewula Afrika ilemuko lomsebenzi obhadelako, eminyakeni emithathu ezako. Irhubhululo litjengisa ukuthi ebantwini abaziingidi ezili-15.5 beminyaka yobudala ehlangana keli-18 nama-34 eSewula Afrika, abaziingidi ezii-5.8 babo abasebenzi.

Ngokungena kweenkampani ezikulu ngobunengi ehlelweneli, i-YES bekube nje seyivulele ilutjha elingasebenziko imisebenzi ezii-17 000.

Ebantwini abatjha abantjhisakalo yamabhizinisi, urhulumente uvule ihlelo lokuthuthukisa ilutjha, i-Ejensi yeliZwelo yokuThuthukiswa kweLutjha (i-NYDA), ehlovisa abantu abatjha ngamakghonofundwa, ngezeemali zetuthuko, zokuthuthukisa nokwakhela ilutjha emsebenzini walo, nesekele kunye nokusebenzisana eemakethe.

Zingaphezulu kwee-2 500 iinkhampani ezisasikimako esele zizizwe ngeemali, kwavuleka imisebenzi engaphezulu kwee-10 000 emnothweni.

Nasizakuphumelelisa ngokupheleleko ukusebenzisana hlangana kwakarhulumente nekoro yangeqadi, kufuze siqinisekise ukuthi ilutjha elimaSewula Afrika lilungiseleleke ngefanelo ukufaka isandla kiwo woke amakoro womnotho. Kungakho-ke sizibekela efundweni

yelutjha lekhetu.

Sijame sisimelele ngokuqinisekisa ukuthi boke abentwana, ngaphandle kokukhetha ubujamo babo, abadinywa ithuba lokuthola ifundo yezinga elihle. Lokhu-ke kungezelelwa nanga mzamo wethu wokwenza izinga lethu lokufunda nokufundisa libe ngcono eenkolweni zethu nemazikweni wefundo ephakemeko.

Phambilini kiwo umnyaka lo, umNyango wezeFundo ePhakemeko nokuBandula umemezele ukuthi ukhuphe imali eziingidi ezima-R967 ezakubhadela 'isikolodo sabafundi sakade'.

Imali le-ke izakusiza abafundi abakoloda imali yokufunda yeminyaka edlulileko kobanyana isikolodo sabeso singazobavimbela ukufunda emaziko wefundo ephakemeko.

Njengoba urhulumente asebenzisa imali nemithombo yamandla engaka nje ukuphumelelisa amandla wetuthuko welutjha, ilutjha nalo kufuze liveze lalo ihlangothi ekuthuthukiseni iSewula Afrika. Ilutjha kufuze lihlale licabanga ngemisebenzi ezakusiza ukwenza iSewula Afrika ibe yindawo engcono nephephileko yokuphila komuntu woke. Abanye babantu abatjha bekhethwapha basemahlelweni akarisa okurarako, basemabhizinisini amancani akhuthaza itjhisakalo yokuranga ibhizinisi, ngokunjalo

godu abanye basemahlelweni wokulima nokufuya alulukezako eendaweni zemakhabo.

Bathethe isiqunto sokukhambela phambili sokwenza umsebenzi obonakalako ekuthuthukiseni ilizwe nomnotho wekhethu. Kufuze sikhuthaze nabanye abantu abatjha ukuthi bafune iindlela zokusebenzisa amathalenta wabo namakghonofundwa wabo ukuzivulela amabhizinisi babe bavule nemisebenzi.

Ukwenza nokuthwala umsebenzi omuhle nohlonipheke kangaka kukhambisana nokubalekela ukungena ngehloko etjwaleni neendakamizweni kunye nokukhambela kude nobulelesi nobukhohlakali.

Ngaphezu kwakho koke, abantu abatjha kufuze bazibabalele bangangenwayiNgogwana yeNtumbantonga (i-HIV) nezinye izifo zomseme; lokho-ke kufuze bakwenze ngokusebenzisa amakhonodomu, nangokuzila ukuya emsemeni ngaphambi kwesikhathi basese bancani, kunye nangokunande bazihlolisa ipilwabo yomzimba.

Ingomuso leSewula Afrika lisezandleni zelutjha elizibophelele ngokwakhela umphakathi ohlukileko nongcono kunaloyo ilutjha langomnyaka we-1976 elivele kiwo. Asisebenzisani ukwakhela nokuphumelelisa ingomuso elingcono lelutjha lekhetu. ■



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UKWAKHA UMZANSI ENGIWUFISAKO

SISOKE SITHUTHUSELA ISEWULA AFRIKA PHAMBILI

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I-NSFAS Ne-UIF Zivulela Iimfundiswa Ezineziq Amathuba Womsebenzi

IHLELO ELITJHA LOKUHLOMISA ngamandla lizakuvulela iimfundiswa ezineziq amathuba weendawo zomsebenzi kobanyana zizokuba namathuba angcono wokuqatjhelwa safuthi emsebenzini.

More Matshedis

Njengoba ukutlhogeka komsebenzi elutjheni kusesemraro ophikeleleko nje eSewula Afrika, isiKhwama seliZweloke seSizo leeMali zokuFunda (i-NSFAS) sihlangele nesiKhwama seTjhorensi yabangasaSebenziko (i-UIF) ukurarulula umraro lo.

Leziinhlango ezimbili mhlapha zisandukuvula ihlelo leemfundiswa ezineziq kobanyana ama-50 weemfundiswa ezineziq kodwana ezingasebenziko zizokuthola ilemuko lomsebenzi emihlobeni yemisebenzi ehlukeneko, isikhathi esiinyanga ezili-12.

Iimbawo zeemfundiswa eziphumeleleko zithunyelwe ema-ofisini we-NSFAS aseTjingalanga Kapa. UmPhathi we-NSFAS uDorh. Randall Carolissen uthi umnqopho waleligadango kurarulula imiraro yokutlhogeka komsebenzi eqalene nelutjha elizweni lekhetweli, khulu khulu abafundi abafundiswe sikhwama se-NSFAS.

“Thina njenge-NSFAS siphambili ekurarululeni imithlago [yabafundi] begodu singebokuthoma ukubona umphumela wokutlhoga umsebenzi phezu kwezinye iimfundiswa ezineziq,” kutjho u-Carolissen.

Omunye wabama-50 abazuzileko kilelihlelo ngu-Luchulumanco Nanto (oneminyaka ema-24) oqede iimfundo ze-National Diploma in Accounting e-Cape Peninsula University of Technology (i-CPUT) ngomnyaka wee-2018.

Uthi wezwa ngehlelweli esiqhemeni sakhe seenkundla zokuthintana khona e-CPUT, la yena nezinye iimfundiswa ezineziq babelana khona ngamathuba wemisebenzi.

“Ngizokuthola ilwazi lokwenza lokho engikufunde eencwadini; lokhu-ke kuzakubuye kungilungiselele ubujamo bamambala bendawo

yomsebenzi,” kutjho u-Nanto, njenganje ofundela iziqu ze-BTech in Taxation e-CPUT.

U-Nanto nabantwana bakwabo abane bakhuliswe ngunina ayedwa, owayengamali yokubafundisa eyunivesithi.

“Ubaba wabhubha nginetjhumu leminyaka nje kwaphela,” kutjho u-Nanto, odabuka eQonce, ePumalanga Kapa.

Ngetjhudu, wathola umfundalizi wakwa-State Information Technology Agency.

U-Nanto ukhuthaza abantu abatjha ukuthi badlule kilelihlelo leemfundiswa ezineziq ngaphambi kobana benze iimbawo zomsebenzi wasa-

futhi, ngoba lokhu kuzakuphakamisa amagkhonofundwa wabo kunye nesiko lemsebenzini ngezinga lesilinganiso sebela elifaneleko, ukube ngahlanye bathola ilemuko lobujamo bezinto emsebenzini. **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.