

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.

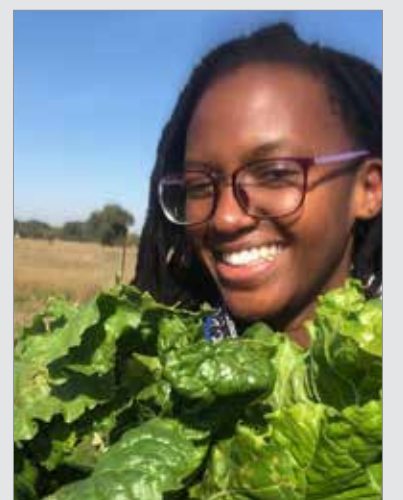
When she was 16, however, her life changed forever.

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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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Iqhajazana lentombazana lincedisisa kwidabi lokulwa ulwaphulo-mthetho



Silusapho Nyanda

Umbono wentombazana engumfundi ePitoli woku- ba ukulwa ulwaphulo-mthetho yingxaki yomdala nomncinci uza kuyikhuthaza njengoko iphambili kwezinye zee- nkqubo zolutsha ze-SAPS ezingundoqo ekuthinteleni ulwaphulo-mthetho.

Ngenyanga yoMdumba, uFelistas Hamba (oneminyaka eli-15 ubudala) kunye nomnye uMkhomishinara wePhondo oMtsha wesizwe bathatha inxaxheba kukhuphiswano lweengxoxo-mpikiswano nesakhono sokuthetha esidlangaleni obelugwadla imiba yokuhlala ekhokelela kwantshabalalo nengakhiyo izikolo ezizamelene nayo.

Indlela aqhuba ngayo kakuhle kolu khuphiswano uHa-

mba yabangela ukuba akhethe njengoMkomishanara weSizwe wamaPolisa oMncinci waseMzantsi Afrika.

Iqela likaHamba liquka abakhomishinara besizwe abangamasekela abane, abaphuma eMntla Ntshona, eMpuma Koloni, eLimpopo nakwiphondo laKwaZulu-Natal.

Umsebenzi wabo iza kuba kukuqinisekisa ukuba abantu abatsha bathatha inxaxheba ukuqinisekisa kuba izikolo

zabo kunye neendawo abahla- la kuzo zikhuselekile.

"Ulwaphulo-mthetho luyingxaki yethu sonke. Ukuba ubona isenzo solwaphulo-mthetho, sixele," utshilo ehlababakhe koogxa bakhe. "Ukwenza izikolo zibe zindawo ezikhuselekileyo kuqala ngathi."

Baza kugxininisa kumba wokuvuyelela, ukuthintela ulwaphulo-mthetho, ingxaki yamaqela emigulukudu kunye nokuvuyelwa kwi-intanethi.

UHamba wagqiba kweloku- ba athathe inxaxheba kulo nkqubo emva kokuba wabona ukuba uninzi loontanga bakhe alazi ukuba lujongane njani nolwaphulo-mthetho olubachaphazelayo.

"Njengomntu omtsha, mna umsebenzi wam kukuqinisekisa banalo iqonga abanokulisebenzisa njenge-

nkokeli zangomso eziza kulwela utshintsho," utshilo.

Lo mfundi ufunda ibanga le-10 e-DC Marivate Senior Secondary School eSoshanguve uthe iingqondo ezibalekayo zabantu abatsha ziyafuneka ukuze kuphungulwe ulwaphulo-mthetho kwezi ndawo sihlala kuzo nazesizikolweni.

"Ukuba abantu abatsha abalikhokeli eli lizwe, alisoze liye ndawo," uHamba ulumkise oontanga bakhe watsho.

Utata kaHamba ulipolisa kwaye naye iphupha lakhe kukuba lipolisa. Inqununu yesikolo sikaHamba, uJohn Mangenzi, uthi imisebenzi yakhe inefuthe elihle kwabanye abafundi esikolweni sakhe. Kubaluleke kakhulu ukuba isikolo sibe netshintliziyo elifana naye kuba abantu abafundi bafuna ukulandela ekhondweni lakhe," utshilo 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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Ukwakhela ulutsha ikamva eliqaqambileyo

INyanga yoLutsha ibhiyozelwa minyaka le ngenyanga yeSilimela ukukhumbula ubugorha babantu abatsha boMzantsi Afrika abathi ngomhla we-16 kweyeSilimela 1976 babamba imingcelele yokuqhankqalazela ukusetyenziswa kwesiBhulu njengolwimi lokuhlohla nokufundisa ezikolweni zeli.

Ndikholelwa ukuba laa moya mnye wobugorha usekhona nakwaba bantu batsha banamhlanje, kodwa bona balwa nengxaki enkulu yendlala, intswelo-ngqesho kunye nokungalingani.

Aba bantu batsha balangazelela ubomi obungcono, babonisa ubugorha nesibindi ngethuba bethatha izikrweqe besilelwa imfundo yamabanga aphezulu esimahla.

Umba wokufikelela kuMzantsi Afrika onozinzo noqhuba kakuhle futhi onooqoqosho oluxhanyulwa ngumntu wonke ubaluleke kakhulu kwiinkqubo zikarhulumente zokuqinisekisa ukuba abantu bonke bafumana ubomi obungcono. Senza konke okusemandleni ethu ukuphuhlisa nokuxhobisa abantu abatsha ngezakhono eziza kubanceda ukuba bakwazi ukuthatha inxaxheba kumaphulo okuphuhlisa eli lizwe.

Nangona abantu abatsha

ingabona baninzi eMzantsi Afrika, kodwa ngabo abathwaxwa kakhulu yintlungu yokungafumani misebenzi, indlala nokungalingani. Ngabona bathwaxa kakhulu zizifo, ulwaphulo-mthetho olunobundlobongela, ukusetyenziswa gwenxa kwezinyobisi nokungafumani mathuba ophuhliso.

Njengorhulumente onenkathalo, senza konke okusemandleni ethu ukuqinisekisa ukuba abantu abatsha bafumana izakhono namava, futhi bafumana inkxaso kangangoko ukuze bakwazi ukuziqalela awabo amashishini badale imisebenzi endaweni yokuba ibe ngabo abafuna imisebenzi.

Kulo nyaka uphelileyo, ndavula ngokusesikweni iNkqubo yeeNkonzo zokuQeshwa koLutsha (i-YES), eneenjongo zokuxhobisa abantu abatsha ukuze balungele ukungena emisebenzini nokubanika izakhono zobuchule ezifunekayo eziza kuba sisiseko samaphulo okwakha imizi-mveliso yale mihla nokuvuselelwa kokoqoqosho lweli lizwe.

I-YES yinkqubo karhulumente, abasebenzi kunye namashishini enika abantu abatsha boMzantsi Afrika abasisigidi izithuba zemisebenzi ehlawulayo kule minyaka mithathu izayo.

Ngokweengxelo zophando, kubantu abazizigidi ezili-15.5 abaneminyaka ephakathi kweli-18 nengama-34, abazizigidi ezi-5.8 abasebenzi.

Njengoko zininzi iinkampani esele zancedisa kweli phulo le-YES, ukuza kuthi ga ngoko sele lidalele abantu abatsha abangasebenziyo abangama-17 000 amathuba emisebenzi.

Kubantu abatsha abafuna ukuziqalela awabo amashishini, urhulumente useke i-Arhente yeSizwe yoPhuhliso loLutsha (i-NYDA), umsebenzi wayo ekukuqeqesha nokuphuhlisa izakhono, ukunceda ngemali yophuhliso, ukufundisa abantu ngomsebenzi, inkxaso nokubadibanisa neendawo abanokuthengisa kuzo iimveliso neenkono zabo.

Iinkampani ezisakhasayo ezingaphezulu kwama-2 500 sele zancedisiwe ngemali, ngolo hlobo kwatsho kwadaleka imisebenzi engama-10 000 kweli lizwe.

Ukuze siwasebenzise kangangoko amathuba eza nale ntsebenziswano iphakathi korhulumente namashishini abucala, kufuneka abantu abatsha baseMzantsi Afrika baxhotyiswe ngezakhono ezifanelekileyo ukuze bakwazi ukuthatha inxaxheba kuwo onke amacandelo oqoqosho lweli. Yiyo loo nto sigalela imali eninzi kumaphulo oku-

fundisa ulutsha lweli lizwe.

Asijiki kumbono wethu wokuqinisekisa ukuba bonke abantwana bayawafumana amathuba okufumana imfundo esemgangathweni, nokuba baphuma kumakhaya anjani na. Oku kuza kukhatshwa ngamalinge ethu esiwenzayo okuphucula umgangatho wokufundisa nokufunda ezikolweni nakumaziko emfundo ephakamileyo eli lizwe.

Ekuqaleni kulo nyaka, iSebe leMfundo ePhakamileyo noQeqesho labhengeza ukuba kuza kubekelwa bucala imali ezizigidi zeezandi ezingama-967 eza kubhatala imali elityala lokufunda lakudala labafundi.

Le mali iza kunceda abafundi abanetyala lemali yokufunda leminyaka yangaphambili ngeenjongo zokuqinisekisa ukuba la matyala awabathinteli ukuba baqhubeleke nemfundo yabo yamabanga aphezulu.

Kuyo yonke imali egalelwa ngurhulumente kumaphulo okubaphuhlisa, abantu abatsha nabo kufuneka badlale eyabo indima kumalinge okuphuhlisa uMzantsi Afrika. Kufuneka bathathe inxaxheba kumaphulo aza kuncedisa ekwenzeni eli libe lilizwe elikhuselekileyo kubo bonke abantu abahlala kulo. Abanye abantu abatsha beli lizwe bayinxalenye

yeprojekthi ezimangalisayo, amashishini asakhasayo kunye namaphulo ezolimo kwiindawo abahlala kuzo.

Baye bazithathela izigqibo zokudlala indima ebonakalayo kumaphulo okuqhubela eli lizwe phambili nokukhulisa uqoqosho lwalo. Kufuneka sikhuthaze abantu abaninzi abatsha ukuba bajonge iindlela abanokusebenzisa ngayo iziphiwo kunye nezakhono zabo baziqalele awabo amashishini badale nemisebenzi.

Uxanduva olufana nolu lufuna ukuba umntu ayeke ukusela ubutywala nokusebenzisa iziyobisi gwenxa, futhi angathathi nxaxheba kwiwenzozo zolwaphulo-mthetho norhwaphilizo.

Okunye okubaluleke kakhulu kukuba abantu abatsha bazigade bangosulelwa yiNtsholongwana kaGawulayo (i-HIV) kunye nezinye izifo ezosulela ngesondo ngokuthi basebenzise iikhondom, bazikhwebule ekwabelaneni ngesondo baze abazihlole rhoqo.

Ikamva loMzantsi Afrika lisezandleni zabantu abatsha abazimiseleyo ekwakheni isizwe esahlukileyo kweso abantu abatsha bowama-1976 babephila kuso. Masisebenzisane sakhe ikamva eliqaqambileyo lolutsha lweli lizwe.



THUMA MNA

UKWAKHA UMZANSI ENDIWUNQWENELAYO

SISONKE SIQHUBELA UMZANTSI AFRIKA PHAMBILI

#SendMe #Thuma Mna




I-NSFAS ne-UIF zidalela abantu abanezidanga imisebenzi

ISIKIMU SOPHUHLISO ESITSHA siza kuzamela abantu abatsha abanemfundo yomsila izingxungxo ukuze babe namathuba amahle okufumana imisebenzi esisigxina.

More Matshedisio

Nangona umba wabantu abatsha abangasebenziyo uyingxaki engasilalisiyo apha eMzantsi Afrika, isiKimu seSizwe sokuNcedisa ngeMali yokuFunda (i-NSFAS) sibambisene neNgxowa-mali ye-Inshorensi yabangaSebenziyo (i-UIF) ukulwa le ngxaki.

La maziko mabini asanda kumisela inkqubo yokunceda abo banemfundo enomsila ukuze inike abantu abangasebenziyo abanezidanga abangama-50 izingxungxo kumacandelo ahlukeneyo isithuba esizinyanga ezili-12.

Abo izicelo zabo zaphumeleleyo ngoku basebenza kwii-ofisi ze-NSFAS eNtshona Koloni.

Umlawuli we-NSFAS, uGq Randall Carolissen, uthi injo-

ngo yeli phulo kukulwa ingxaki yabantu abatsha abangasebenziyo kweli lize, ingakumbi abo babefundiswa ngeMali ye-NSFAS.

"Njenge-NSFAS, siphambili kumaphulo okulwa iingxaki abafundi abajongene nazo kwaye singabokuqala ukubona intlungu eyenziwa kukungasebenzi kubantu abaninzi abanemfundo enomsila," utshilo.

Omnye wabantu abaxhamle kweli phulo nguLuchulumanco Nanto (oneminyaka engama-24), ophumelele i-National Diploma in Accounting eCape Peninsula University of Technology (i-CPUT) ngowe-2018.

Uthi weva ngale nkqubo kwiqela lasesikolweni sakhe ayi-

nxalenye yalo elinxelanelana



■ Luchulumanco Nanto.

ngamakhasi onxibelelwano. Eli qela, yena noogxa bakhe abanemfundo enomsila, balisebenzisela ukuxelelana ngamathuba emisebenzi.

"Ndiza kufumana ulwazi endinokulisebenzisa ngale nto

ndiyifundeleyo

kwaye oku

kuza kundi-

xhobisa

nditsho

ndizazi

kakuhle

ezona

zinto zenziwayo

emsebenzini,"

utshilo

uNanto,

ekungoku

nje

owenza

i-BTech in

Taxation e-CPUT.

UNanto nabantwana bakowabo abane bakhuliswa ngunina eyedwa owayengenayo imali yokubafundisa.

"Utata wam wasweleka ndiseneminyaka eli-10," utshilo uNanto, ophuma eQonce eMpuma Koloni.

Ngethamsanqa, waye wafumana ibhasari kwi-Arhente yobuChwepheshe boLwazi lweSizwe (i-SITA).

UNanto ukhuthaza abantu abatsha ukuba baqale ngokuthatha inxaxheba kule nkqubo yokunceda abantu abanezidanga

phambi kokuba bafake izicelo zemisebenzi esisigxina kuba oku kuza kulola izakhono zabo futhi kubafundise nangeendlela zokukhuthala emsebenzini

bengaxheshwa ngeli thuba bexhamla ithuba lokuva ukubamba umsebenzi. ■

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. ■



■ 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.