

# 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**

**M**ajor 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.

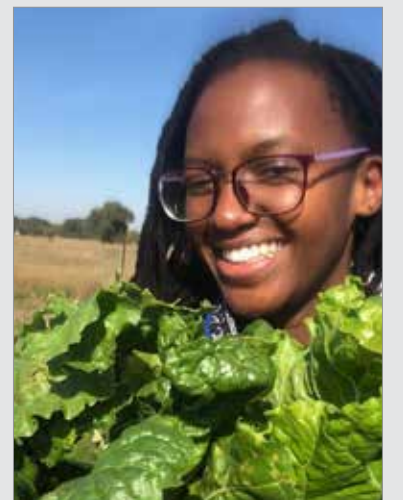
When she was 16, however, her life changed forever.

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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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# Intombazane encane ihlanganyela ekulweni nobugebengu

Silusapho Nyanda

**I**nkolelo yentombazane efunda esikoleni esisePitoli ikholwa wukuthi ukulwa nobugebengu kuwumsebenzi wabantu abasha nabadala futhi izomukhuthaza lapho isiza ezinhlelweni ezihamba phambili ze-SAPS eziqondene nabantu abasha zokuvikela ubugebengu.

KuNhlolanja, uFelistas Hamba (oneminyaka yobudala eli-15) nabanye oKhomishana Bezifundazwe Abancane bakuleli wabamba iqhaza kumncintiswano wenkulumpiki swano namakhono wokukhuluma phambi kwabantu owawugxile ezinkingeni zasemphakathini ezikhungethe izikole.

Umsebenzi kaHamba ophuma phambili wenze ukuthi aqanjwe igama lokuthi nguKhomishana Wamaphoyisa Kuzwelonke



Ukhomishana Wamaphoyisa Omncane uFelistas Hamba ufuna ukulwa nobugebengu ezikoleni ezweni lonke.

Omncane WaseNingizimu Afrika Ithimba likaHamba li-

bandakanya amaphini kakhomishana kuzwelonke amane, aphume eNyakatho

Ntshonalanga, eMpumalanga Kapa, eLimpopo naKwaZulu-Natali.

Kuzoba wumsebenzi wabo ukuqinisekisa ukuthi abantu abasha babamba iqhaza ekwenzeni izikole nemiphakathi kuphephe.

"Ubugebengu busithinta sonke. Uma ubona ubugebengu buqhubeka, sicela ububike," usho njalo kontanga bakhe. "Ukwenza izikole zethu ziphephe kuqala ngawe."

Bazogxila kububhoklolo, ukuvikela ubugebengu, amaqembu ezigelekeqe nobubhoklolo obuqhutshwange-inthanethi.

UHamba ukhethe ukubamba iqhaza kulolu hlelo emuva kokubona ukuthi iningi lontanga bakhe lingazi ukuthi libhekane kanjani nobugebengu obubathinta ngqo.

"Njengomuntu osemusha, ngikhona ukuzobethulela inkundla khona bezoba ngabaholi bangomuso aba-

zowlwela ushintsho," usho kanje.

Lo mfundi webanga le-10 wase-DC Marivate Senior Secondary School eSoshanguve uthe ukucabanga ngamasu amasha kwabantu abasha kuyadingeka ukuze kuncishiswe ubugebengu emiphakathini nasezikoleni.

UHamba uxwayise ontanga bakhe ngokuthi, "Ngaphandle kwabantu abasha abahola leli lizwe, alizukuya ndawo."

Uyise kaHamba uyiphoyisa futhi kuyiphupho lakhe ukulandela ezinyathelweni zakhe.

Uthishanhloko wasesikoleni sikaHamba, uJohn Mangezi, uthe igalelo lakhe linomthelela omuhle kwezinye izingane esikoleni.

"Kubaluleke kakhulu ukuthi abe kulesi sikole ngoba abanye abafundi bafuna ukuba njengaye," kusho 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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"MANJE SESIFIKILE ISIKHATHI SOKUTHI SONKE  
SISEBENZISANE, NGENHLOSO YOKUHLONIPHA  
U-NELSON MANDELA, SAKHE ININGIZIMU AFRIKA ENTSHA  
FUTHI ENGCONO KUMUNTU WONKE WAKULELI."

UMONGAMELI CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

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SIKWAKHELA INGOMUSO ELINGCONO  
SIHAMBAMBA EZINYATHELWENI ZIKAMADIBA



## Ukwakhela intsha yethu ikusasa elingcono

I nyanga yeNtsha ibungazwa minyaka yonke kuNhlanguvana ukuhlonipha umoya wobuqhawe wentsha yaseNingizimu Afrika eyalibangisa emigwaqweni zii-16 Nhlanguvana 1976 ukulwa nokusetsheziwa kolimi lweSibhunu njengolimi lokufunda nokufundiswa ezikoleni zethu.

Ngikholwa wukuthi lowo moya wokulwa usaphila esizukulwaneni esisha sabantu abasha, manje abalwisana nesihlaba sobubha, ukungabibikho kwemisebenzi nokungalingani.

Laba bantu abasha abanezintshisekelo ezingethiyeke zempilo engcono, baveze ukuzimisela kwabo nokubekezela ngenkathi belhlangana belwela imfundo yasemabangeni aphakeme yamahhala.

Ukuphumelela ukuba neNingizimu Afrika enozinzo nempumelelo enomnotho obandakanyayo yikho okuphambili ohlelweni lukahulumeni lokuqinisekisa impilo engcono kubantu bonke. Sikwazile futhi saqhubeka nokuphindaphinda izinhlelo zethu zokuthuthukisa nokufukula intsha ukuze ikwazi ukuba negalelo ekukhuleni kwaleli lizwe.

Nanoma abantu abasha ingabona baningi eNingizimu Afrika, kodwa bayaqhubeka nokuthwala ubunzima bokungabibikho kwemisebenzi, ububha nokungalingani. Bayaqhubeka nokuba ngabalinyazwe kakhulu yizifo, udlame olunamandla nokungabibikho kwe-



ntuthuthuko ngokwanele.

Njengohulumeni onakekelayo, sisebenza kanzima ukuqinisekisa ukuthi intsha ithola amakhono nesipiliyoni, futhi ithola ukweseka ekudingayo ukungena emhlabeni wamabhizinisi amasha njengabasunguli bemisebenzi kunokuba babe ngabafuna imisebenzi.

Ngonyaka odlule, ngethule uPhiko Lokuqashwa Kwentsha (i-YES), oluhlose ukulungiselela intsha umsebenzi nokuyihlinzeka ngamakhono ezobuchwepheshe adingekayo ayisisekelo sokwakhiwa kwezimbongi emnothweni wezwe.

Uhlelo lwe-YES luwumsebenzi ohlanganisile kahulumeni, ezemisebenzi kanye namabhizinisi, olunika abantu abasha abayisigidi baseNingizimu Afrika imisebenzi ekhokhelwayo iminyaka emithathu. Ngokocwaningo, kubantu abayizigidi eziyi-15.5 abaneminyaka yobudala ephakathi kweyi-18 nama-34 eNingizimu Afrika, abazizigidi

ezingu-5.8 abasebenzi.

Ngoba kunenqwaba yezin-kampani ezinkulu esezibambe iqhaza, uhlelo lwe-YES okwamanje selukwaze ukutholela abantu abasha abangasebenzi abayizi-17 000 amathuba omsebenzi.

Maqondana nentsha enentshisekelo yokusungula amabhizinisi amasha, uhulumeni usungule Uphiko Lokuthuthukisa Intsha Kuzwelonke (i-NYDA), oluhlinzeka ngokuqeqeshelwa amakhono okuthuthuka, uxhaso lwezentuthuko, ukucathuliswa, ukwesekwa nezindlela zokuxhumana nabantu abazothenga imikhiqizo yabo.

Zingaphezu kwezi-2 500 izinkampani ezintsha ezihlinzekwe ngoxhaso, okudale imisebenzi engaphezu kwezi-10 000 emnothweni.

Uma sizobubamba buqine lobu budlelwane obuphakathi kukahulumeni nomkhakha ozimele, sidinga ukuqinisekisa ukuthi izakhamizi zaseNingizimu Afrika ezintsha zihlomele ukubamba iqhaza kuyo yon-

ke imikhakha yomnotho. Yiningakho sitshala imali emfundweni yentsha yakithi.

Sizimisele ngokuqinisekisa ukuthi zonke izingane, noma ngabe ziphila phansi kwesiphi isimo, aziphucwa ithuba lokuthola imfundo eseqophelweni elifanele. Lokhu kwesekwa yimizamo yethu yokuthuthukisa iqophelo lokufundisa nokufunda ezikoleni zethu nasezikhungweni zemfundo ephakeme.

Ekuqaleni kwalo nyaka, uMnyango Wezemfundo Ephakeme Nokuqeqesha umemezele isabelo sezigidi ezingama-967 zamarandi sokukhokha izindleko zabafundi abakweleta 'isikweletu esidala'.

Le mali izosiza abafundi ababekweleta imali yokufunda yonyaka odlule ngokuqinisekisa ukuthi isikweletu asibavimbi ekutholeni imfundo ephakeme.

Ngayo yonke imali etshalwa nguhulumeni yokufukula abantu abasha nabo kumele badlale eya-

bo indima ekukhuliseni iNingizimu Afrika. Kumele bahlale bematasa ngemisebenzi enegalelo ekwenzeni izwe libe ngcono futhi libe yindawo ephiphile okungahlalwa kuyo. Abanye abantu abasha baleli lizwe benza imisebenzi emangalisayo, amabhizinisi amanecane namabhizinisi ezolimo emiphakathini yabo.

Bathathe isinqumo sokuhamba phambili ekubambeni iqhaza elibalulekile ekuyiseni izwe phambili nokukhulisa umnotho. Kumele sikhuthaze abanye abantu abasha ukuthi babheke izindlela zokusebenzisa amathalente namakhono abo ukuziqalela awabo amabhizinisi nokudala amathuba emisebenzi.

Lo msebenzi omuhle kangaka ubandakanya ukuziqhelanisa notshwala nokudla izidakamizwa, kanye nokungazibandakanyi ebugebengwini nakwinkohlakalo.

Futhi okubaluleke kakhulu, abantu abasha kumele bazigcine bevikelekile kwi-Gciwane Lesandulelangcuzi (i-HIV) nezinye izifo ezithelana ngokocansi ngoku-sebenzisa ikhondomu, ukuziqhelanisa nocansi besebancane kanye nokuvama ukuhlalela i-HIV.

Ikusasa laseNingizimu Afrika lisezandleni zentsha ezinikele ekwakheni umphakathi ohlukile kunalowo intsha yangowe-1976 ebuyakuwo. Masisebenzisane ukwakhela intsha yethu ikusasa elingcono. **U**



UKWAKHA UMZANSI ENGIWUFISAYO

Sisonke siqhubekisela iNingizimu Afrika phambili

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# I-NSFAS ne-UIF zidala amathuba omsebenzi abafundi asebethweswe iziqu

**UHLELO OLUSHA LOXHASO** luzovulelela abathweswe iziqu isango ezindaweni zokusebenza ukuze kube ngcono amathuba okuthola imsebenzi abaqashwe kuyo ngokugcwele.

## More Matshedisiso

**N**jengoba ukungabibikho kwamathuba omsebenzi entsha kusaqhubeka nokuba yinkinga eNingizimu Afrika, Isikhwama Sikwazwelonke Sokuxhasa Abafundi Ngemali Yokufunda (i-NSFAS) ibambisane neSikhwama Somshwalense Wabantu Abaphelele Ngumsebenzi (i-UIF) ukubhekana nale nselele.

Lezi zikhungo ezimbili zisanda kwethula uhlelo lwabathweswe iziqu ukunika abathweswe iziqu abangama-50 abangasebenzi isipiliyoni sasemsebenzini emikhakheni enhlobonhlobo izinyanga eziyi-12.

Abafakizicelo abaphumelele bafakwe emahhovi e-NSFAS eNtshonalanga Kapa.

Umpathi we-NSFAS, uDkt. Randall Carolissen, uthe inhloso yalolu hlelo ukubhekana neziselele zokungabibikho kwamathuba omsebenzi intsha ebhekene nazo ezweni, ikakhulukazi labo abahlomule kuxhaso lwezimali lwe-NSFAS.

"Njenge-NSFAS, sihamba phambili ekubhekani nezinkinga [zabafundi] futhi yithi abokuqala ukubona umthelela ukungaqashwa okunakho kwiningi elithweswe iziqu," usho kanje.

Omunye wabangama-50 abahlomulile uLuchulumanco Nanto

(oneminyaka yobudala engama-24), oqede i-National Diploma in Accounting e-Cape Peninsula University of Technology (e-CPUT) ngowezi-2018.

Uthe wezwa ngohlelo eqenjini lenkundla yezokuxhumana ayilungu lalo enyuvesi, lapho yena nabanye abathweswe iziqu babelana ngemisebenzi khona.

"Ngizothola ulwazi ngqo ngalokho engikufundile futhi lokhu kuzongilungiselela isimo sangempela sasemsebenzini," kusho uNanto, manje osefundela i-BTech in Taxation e-CPUT.

UNanto nezingane zakubo ezine bakhuliswa wumama obakhulise eyedwa owayengenayo ima-

li yokukhokhela izindleko zaseNyuvesi.

"Ubaba wami washona ngineminyaka eyi-10," kusho uNanto, odabuka e-King William's Town eMpumalanga Kapa.

Ngenhlanhla, wathola umfundaze ophuma kuPhiko Lwezobuchwepheshe Bolwazi Lukahlumeni (i-SITA.)

UNanto ukhuthaza intsha ukuthi icabange ngokungena ohlelweni lwabathweswe iziqu ngaphambi kokufaka izicelo zemisebenzi yokuqashwa ngokugcwele ngoba kuzothuthukisa amakhono ayo nendlela yokuziphatha emsebenzini ngesivini esifanele

ibe ithokozela ukuhlanga bezana nomhlaba wezomsebenzi. **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

**P**upils 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.**