

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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vets saving
animals' lives**

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is making
waves**

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

Nelson Mandela



Go fetola lephata la thuto e kgolwane

TONA NALEDI PANDOR o bopa sešwa lephata la thuto e kgolwana go fithelela ditlhokego tsa ikonomi.

Amukelani Chauke

Seemo sa thuto e kgolwane ya Aforika Borwa mo nageng se a fetoga, mme thuto e kgolwane ga se fela gore e a fitheleleseg, mme gape le gore jaanong e lepalepane le ditlhokwa tsa intaseteri. Diphetogo tseno di botlhokwa ka gonne naga e ipaakanyetsa go baakanyetsa bašwa go ka simolola go tsena mo mafelong a bodirelo le go nna le seabe mo ikonoming.

Jaaka naga e keteka segopotso sa Kgweedi ya Bašwa, *Vuk'uzenzele* e lebelela ntlha ya ka fao bašwa ba

naga eno ba tlamelwang ke Lefapha la Thuto e Kgolwane le Katiso ka ditšhono ka teng gore ba atlege.

Faesaleathapilwemo kgwedding ya Tlhakole monongwaga jaaka Tona ya Thuto e Kgolwane le Katiso, Naledi Pandor o neilwe tiro ya go diragatsa thuto e e sa lefelelweng go thusa baithuti ba ba humanegileng le “bao letseno la kwa malapeng a bo bona le sa ba kgontsheng go ka tlamelwa ka matlole a NSFAS”.

Morago ga boipelaetso jwa naga ka bophara jo bo tsereng nako e telele, ka setlhogo se se reng *#FeesMustFall*, ka kgwedi ya Sedimonthole go ne ga tlhagisiwa fa bašwa ba ba tswang mo malapeng ao letseno la bo bona le leng ka fa tlase ga R350 000 ka ngwaga ba tla amogela thuto le katiso e kgolwane ntle le go ntsha le ka peni o montsho. Tsenyotirisong e tswelletse mme e tla diragadiwa mo pakeng ya dingwaga di le tlhano.

Sekema sa Dibasari

“Tona Pandor o dirile netefaletso



ya fa tiragatso ya sekema sa dibasari e tswelela sentle ntle le kgoreletso epe.

“Sekema se se ntšhwa seno sa dibasari ke kgatotsereganyo e e botlhokwa thata ya puso ya Aforika Borwa, mmogo le baagi ba Aforika Borwa ka gonne ke makgetho a bona a a duelelang seno” o rialo.

Sekema seno sa dibasari se neelwa baithuti ba ba tsenang yunibesithi la ntlha le baithuti ba ba kwa dikholetšheng tsa Thuto le Katiso ya Tiro ya Matso-go le ya Setegeniki (di-TVET), mo dingwageng tsotlhe tsa fa ba ntse ba le mo dithutong.

Go tlamela sekema seno sa dibasari ka matlole, puso e tlametse lefapha ka madi a mangwe gape a le kanaka R7.166 bilione ya yona mo ngwageng wa 2018 – mme

R4.581 bilione ya yona e beetswe thoko go thusa baithuti ba dipholo tsa bona di ba letlang go ithuta kwa diyunibesithing, mme R2.585 bilione ya yona e tla nna ya baithuti ba dipholo tsa bona di ba letlang go ithuta mo di-TVET.

Tona Pandor o rile dikholetšhe tse dirutwa tsa tsona di dirang ka lephata le le rileng fela la thuto, di ka nna mafelo a botswerere a a tsamaelanang le go tlhagisa bokgoni jo bo maemo a a kwa godimo mo lephateng le ba tla bong ba dira ka lona.

Sekai, kholetšhe e e rileng e ka ruta dithuto tsa *mechanical engineering* mme e nngwe e rute fela dithuto tsa ditiro tsa phofiso ya difofane, o tlhalositse jalo. “Ke dumela gore bokamoso jwa dikholetšhe bo mo diatleng tsa go dira ka serutwa

se le sengwe,” o ne a tlaleletsa ka go rialo.

“Re batla go bona pharologano. Ga re batle go bona dikholetšhe tsotlhe tsa rona di dira selo se se tshwanang.”

Mo lenaanethutong la Thuto e Kgolwane, go thankgolotswe Tsweletsopele ya Bogwebi mo ngwageng o o fetileng go ro-tloetsa bašwa go itshimololela dikgwebo tse e leng tsa bona.

Maitlhommo a seno ke go rulaganya tsweletsopele ya serala sa kgwebo se se ka fa lephateng la thuto e e bonwang kwa yunibesithing mo Aforika Borwa. Seno se akaretsa bogwebi mo dirutweng tsa maemo a yunibesithi, tsweletsopele ya bogwebi jwa baithuti le diyunibesithi tse di rutang ka ga bogwebi.

Tona Pandor o rile go gontsi go go tlhokagalang go diragadiwa, go thusa bašwa e seng fela mo go ipaakanyetseng ditiro, mme le mo goreng e nne bona bathapi ba ba tlhamang ditiro tse di nang le serite.

O rata go bona ditheo tsa thuto e kgolwane di tlamela ka dithuto tsa bogwebi mo dirutweng tsotlhe, kgato e e tla kgontshang bašwa go nna le fa ba simololang teng go ala dithata tsa go fetola bokamoso jwa naga eno. **U**



■ Tona ya Thuto e Kgolwane le Katiso, Naledi Pandor.

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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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Mogapadikepe tse di maatla o itirela leina



■ Mogapadikepe tse di maatla Lindile Mdletshe o itse go gapa dikepe.

Allison Cooper

Jaaka mogapadikepe tse di maatla tsa Transnet, Lindile Mdletshe (30) o gapa dikepe tse di maatla tse di thusang go laola motsamano wa dikepe mo Boemakepeng jwa Durban. Le fa bogolo jwa tsona bo sa re sepe, dikepe tseno di na le maatla a mantsi mo go maswe mme go dira ka tsona go tlhoka kitso e e tseneletseng.

Mdletshe o belegwe le go golela kwa Port Shepstone mme a tsena sekolo kwa St Faiths.

“Kwa motho a goletseng teng go rutila motho sengwe. Go ne go se sepe se se boifiwang, go ne go sa tshwane le matsatsi a gompino, e bile bana ba ne ba golela mo diatleng tsa baagi ba motse.”

Mdletshe o weditse dithuto tsa gagwe tsa marematlou ka 2006, pele a ka ya kwa *Durban University of Technology* go ithutela serutwa sa *National Diploma in Maritime Studies* ka 2007.

Morago ga go wetsa S1 ka 2007 le S2 ka 2008 o ne a simolola ka katiso ya gagwe ya dingwaga di le tharo kwa lewatleng, a direla *Safmarine Shipping Company*.

Ke moo a ithutileng go laola dikepe tse di rwalang merwalo, mo lewatleng le le bulegileng le go di supetsa fao di ka emang gone mo mafelong a a farologaneng a boemelakepe kwa Yuropa, Aforika le Asia gore ba

kgone go diragatsa tiro ya bone ya go rwala le go fologa merwalo e e tsamayang ka sekepe le go pholophotsa fa dikepe di santse di balebalesegile e bile di siametse le go ka tsaya maeto.

O ne a bona dikerii ya gagwe ya ntlha a le dingwaga di le 25, mme ka yona nako eo o ne a wetsa dithuto tsa *Masters Degree in Port Operations*. Dithuto tseno tsa bofelo ke tsone di mo kgontshitseng gore a dire jaaka mogapadikepe tse di maatla o o nang le dinonofo.

“E nnile kgwetlho e kgolo gonne go nna mogapadikepe tse di maatla ga go tlhoke dithutego tsa dialogane, go tlhokega fela S1, S2 le go bona katiso mo lewatleng.

Ke fela morago ga seno moo batho gantsi ba ikwadisetang go dira jaaka bagapadikepe tse di maatla. Ke di dirile ka nako e le nngwe ka bobedi. Ke ne ke ya sekolong fa ke tswa kwa tirong go ithuta seo se neng se rutiwa mo letsatsing leo,” o ne a rialo.

Mdletshe o rata go nna mo metsing. “Metsi a kgona go go tlhalosetsa go le gontsi ka seo maemo a letsatsi a se go tsholetseng. Matsatsi mangwe go didimetse, a mangwe go dife a mangwe go makhubo, ka jalo ke diphetogo tsa lefatshe!

Dikepe le tsona di na le dibopego tse di farologaneng e bile dirwala merwalo e e farologaneng, seo se kaya fa go tlhokagala gore motho a dire ka tso-

na ka ditsela tse di farologaneng,” o ne a rialo Mdletshe, yo a itumelelang go dira le badirimmogo ba ditso tse di farologaneng, go tswa kwa dinageng tse di farologaneng.

Dikgwetlho tsa bodirelo

Go nna motho wa mosadi mo bodirelowatlhe ke “dikgwetlho mo bodirelong jono,” o ne a rialo Mdletshe, yo a buileng ka ga dintlha tse di amang bong jaaka dingwe tsa dikgwetlho tse dikgolo ka ntlha ya fa bodirelo jono bo santse bo tletse ka badiri ba e leng batho ba banna.

“Thuto ke sebetse se se botlhokwa thata se go seng ope yo a ka se go amogang. Dilo tsa namana di ka nyelela, mme thuto e tla nna le wena go ya bosakhutlheng.”

“Le fa batho ba basadi ba leka go nna karolo le go dira ka natla go bontsha gore le bona ba na le bokgoni fela jaaka banna, go le gantsi ga go bonolo.

Ke weditse matshwafo ka ga seno ka go nna ke akanya tse di ntle fela le go dira le batho

gore ba nne le tlotlo mo go nna ka go bona tiro e ke a e dirang. Ka go nna le kgotlelelo le go dira ka bojotlhe, o ka kgona go fedisa maparego ano, o ne a rialo.

Go atlega ga Mdletshe go fedisitse maparego ano, go bonagetse fa a ne a amogela kabo fa a ne a dira jaaka motsamaisi wa mawatlhe wa setegeniki wa namaotshwere. “Ke amogetse kabo mo nakong e khutshwane ya go nna modiri yo o gaisang ka gonne ke bone thuno e e senang bosodi ke na fela le beke ya ntlha ke dira mo maamong ao.”

O amogetse gape le kabo ya go nna mogaka ka Diphlane 2017, ka ntlha ya go sireletsa dikepe mo setsuatsung se se kgologadi seo Durban e neng e simolola go se bona.

“Go nna mogapadikepe tse di maatla go kaya fa ka nako nngwe o tshwanetse le go rwala ditlhako tse di go fetang le go nna segatlamelamasi,” o ne a rialo.

Go bona dithuto tsa *Masters* go nnile le seabe se segolo.

Go iponela tekerii eno go dirile gore ke tlotliwe ke banna ba ke dirang le bona. Ba nna ba ntse ba mpotsa letsatsi le lengwe le le lengwe gore ke samagane le eng ka gonne re babedi fela mo tirong bao ba fitlheletseng dithuto tsa maemo ao mme ke nnile wa ntlha go wetsa dithuto tsa *Maritime Diploma* kwa Boemelakepeng jwa Durban. Seno se le esi fela se dirile gore ke tlotlomale gareng ga ba bangwe,” o ne a rialo, a tlhalosa fa dithutowatlhe e se serutwa se se bonolo.

Tiro ya mogapadikepe tse di maatla

Mdletshe o tlhalosa fa go nna mogapadikepe tse di maatla go kaya gore o jere maikarabelo otlhe a go gapa sekepe le gore matshelo a batho botlhe ba ba mo sekepeng a mo diatleng tsa gagwe.

O tshwanetse go netefatsa fa polokese go le didirisiwa tsa pabalesego le tsa melelo di le mo maamong a a siameng le go atlenegisiwa, go diragatsa patlisiso e e dirwang gangwe mo ngwageng ya polokese go sekepe, go netefatsa fa badiri mo sekepeng ba bona katiso ya mmatota le go saena dibukana tsa katiso, go diragatsa tekolo ya tiro e e dirwang le go thusa badirimmogo go nna le lenaneo la tlhabololo le le tsamaelanang le tiro ya bona, go diragatsa dipholisi tsa khampani, go laola mafelo a go boloka dilwana tse ba di dirisang le go reka di dirisiwa tse di tlhokagalang.

Tiro ya letsatsi ya ga Mdletshe e simolola ka go kwala lenaneo la dikepe tse di tla bong di dirisa lewatlhe leo, tsotlhe tse di tshwanetse go wediwa fa tiro ya letsatsi e wela. “Re simolola ka tiro ya dikepe ka ura ya bo 06:00 re e wetse ka ura ya bo 17:50. Ka gale go dira bagapadikepe tse di maatla ba le babedi, mme mongwe le mongwe o wetsa ditiro di le robedi.

Morago ga foo, re tshwanetse ke go tlatse dipampiri tsotlhe tse di tlhokang go tladiwa. Fa go ka nna le tshoganyetso, ka gale go na le kgonagalo ya go ka wetsa tiro morago ga ura ya bo 21:00,” o ne a rialo. ■