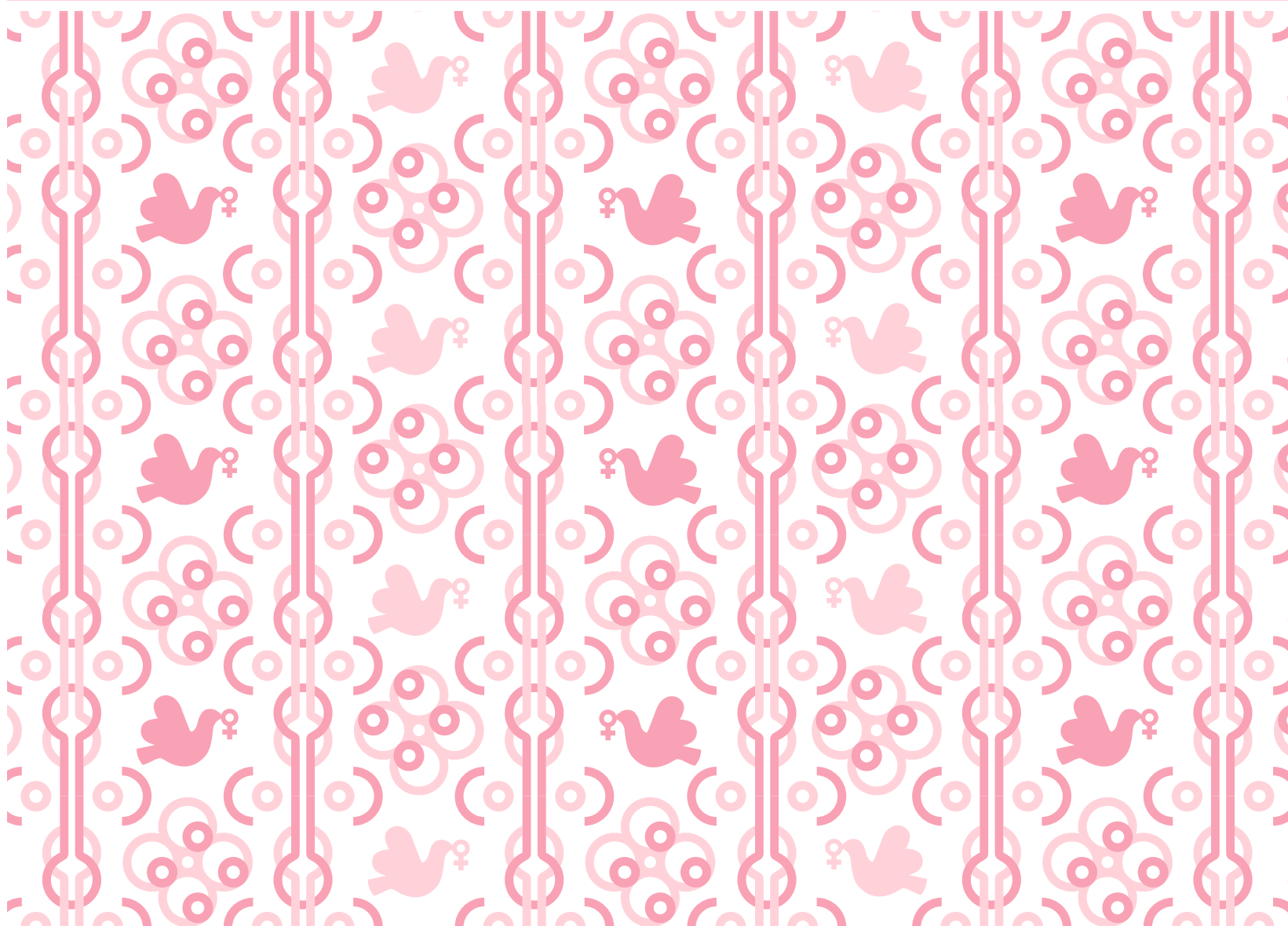


Inaugural Graduation

THE FORUM AT THE CAMPUS

28 JUNE 2019



ZANELE MBEKI FELLOWSHIP

Cultivating a New Generation of Feminist Leadership!



Zanele Mbeki
DEVELOPMENT TRUST



Cultivating a New Generation of Feminist Leadership!

ABOUT THE ZANELE MBEKI FELLOWSHIP



The Zanele Mbeki Fellowship is a developmental programme of the Zanele Mbeki Development Trust (ZMDT). It is an African fellowship programme that seeks to cultivate and support a new generation of feminist leaders on the continent. The mission is to facilitate the fostering of the requisite knowledge, skills, conviction and attitudes required to effect holistic positive change for women in all spheres of society; including the personal.

The vision of Zanele Mbeki is the underpinning impetus of the Fellowship, which is for the overall development of society, with women taking their rightful central space. This, coupled with the timely resurgence of the feminist movement across the globe, and the ever-growing voices that are challenging the patriarchal nature of modern-day democracies, including in Africa, makes the fellowship programme an idea whose time has come.

The Zanele Mbeki Fellowship is a part-time training programme in partnership with Duke Corporate Education (Duke CE) South Africa, an affiliation with Duke University in Durham, California. It brings together a cohort of 25 young African women leaders to, amongst other things, deliberate on the concept of feminism and its promise to deliver social change in the world. This will include:

- ✿ Interrogating the centrality of the role of the full emancipation of women, within the context of working for social and economic structural changes which will grant substantive equality and social safety for all marginalised people including the poor, disabled, LGBTQI+ and other disregarded groups
- ✿ Defining the concept of African feminism, as distinct yet complimentary to the traditional understanding of feminism, and the global women's movement
- ✿ Strengthening the activism of the fellows by invigorating them with the determination to challenge the status quo, and further instilling in them a sense of personal responsibility for the wellbeing of the continent.

GUIDING PILLARS

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER



Mrs Zanele Mbeki

When we conceived a Programme on Feminist Leadership, it was because we thought that it was necessary that we lend a hand to cultivate a new generation of thought leaders, to humanize our continent and our world. The current global ecosystem is not working for both men and women and all other excluded people, as well as the environment we live in. How can Feminism help in the search for solutions?

Feminism is not a destination. It is a journey. There are many raging scholarly debates as to whether feminism is African or not; whether it is a struggle between men and women; or an exclusively female enterprise to the exclusion of men. Is it inclusive of women and men for the development of all humanity?

Let all flowers bloom as we seek the path of humanizing our continent and our world.

I think that feminism is the closest ideology to 'ubuntu'. It is intersectional and embraces all humanity. What I am sure about today, is that feminism is not the opposite of patriarchy. The opposite of patriarchy is matriarchy, with both ideologies seeking dominance over society. Feminism does not seek dominance over anyone. Feminism seeks respect and equality for all. Feminism rejects the dominance of women over men as well as the dominance of men over women. It therefore rejects both patriarchy and matriarchy. Feminism promotes equality and respect of all creation.

It was inevitable that the intersectionality of an Apartheid oppression on black women on account of race, class and gender was predestined to embrace the plight of the entirety of all those suffering exclusions caused by societal prejudices; to wit: people with disabilities, refugees, migrants, faith derided and sexual orientation. As black women, we defined our situation as a 'triple oppression' based on our experiences, knowledge and perceptions at that time. Not too long thereafter, emerged other voices suffering oppression and exclusion because of their disabilities, faith, national origin, sexual orientation etc. Women embraced these sections of society because we have known the pain of oppressive exclusion. Freedom is not freedom when it oppresses the other.....

CORE TO EACH OF
THE 4 PILLARS IS



KNOWLEDGE

Core to each of the four pillars is the pillar of knowledge. The purpose of the Fellowship is to impart knowledge by exposing the fellows to rich content and activities that will enhance their activism.



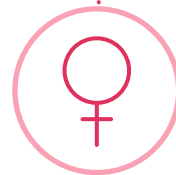
SELF

Activities under this pillar will focus on providing fellows the opportunity to better understand their strengths and weaknesses and their individual leadership styles, as well as a space for self-reflection with regards to their personal and professional lives.



COMMUNITY

Activities under this pillar will focus on providing fellows first-hand experience with interacting and dealing with social and economic challenges facing local communities. The aim will be to ensure that fellows obtain learnings for their individual spaces of leadership.



FEMINIST & DEVELOPMENT IDEOLOGY

Activities under this pillar will focus on providing fellows with a comprehensive grounding in both feminist and development ideology, as well as exposing them to local and global thinking on this subject. The focus will be on building and developing African solutions, within the broader context of the global world.



LEADERSHIP

Activities under this pillar will focus on providing fellows with practical tools and knowledge on how to enhance their individual leadership skills to better understand and execute the responsibilities of leadership. This will be complimented by practically supporting the extension of their activism and initiatives as change agents.

MESSAGE FROM OUR FOUNDER (CONTINUED)

Feminism must seek to dethrone patriarchy, not for the purpose of male oppression, but towards new humane messages towards complete respect for men, women and children. Feminism must empower women to rise from the bottom of the pyramid, so that women and men meet in the middle of the pyramid, as equals. Equality can never mean sameness. It must represent respect for our diversity of roles and responsibilities as we choose.

Feminism is 'Democracy freed' not only from patriarchy but from racism, class exploitation and bigotry, in any form. It is the highest form of revolution for transformation towards a new and fair ecosystem.

Recently, it was announced that the 'Ministry in the Presidency for Women' would now include, 'Youth and Persons with Disabilities'. A sister was reported to have been riled, because this made it the 'Department of Women and all 'other things that irritate' society'. I personally was very pleased with this new combination within the Department of Women, because feminism is intersectional and inclusive of other oppressions. Being lumped together with all 'other things that irritate society' is logical because Women's emancipation must bring with it the emancipation of all other excluded people; the youth, the people with disabilities, refugees, the LGBTQI+ community, those who have been religiously excluded, and those in extreme poverty. This new homogenised position is supported by the Equality Clause of our Constitution. In this way the combined focus, efforts and budgets will be able to create a stronger force to combat exclusion. The youth is agile and innovative, this together with the passions and experiences that mothers bring with them, will create the necessary cohesion to enhance support systems for those with disabilities. Let us do it together.

In September 2017 I attended an insightful dinner hosted by Hilde and Klaus Schwab of the World Economic Forum on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of their Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship. Guests included Jim Yong Kim Head of The World Bank, Al Gore current chair of the Alliance for Climate Protection and former USA Vice President. Together they debated the future of our world and concluded that the current ecosystem has failed all of us and cannot renew itself. They predicted that a conducive ecosystem will emerge from the youth who are impatient with what is going on and have options provided by the Fourth Industrial Revolution to enable them to act with speed. I said to myself 'you are forgetting women' in that configuration as women have been waiting for centuries for this to change. They are natural collaborative partners with the youth to bring about such change.

This Fellowship did not prescribe to a particular form of feminism. My hope is that our graduating cohort will pursue the search for solutions and rewire the ecosystem for the results of a better world that we want. The existing systems are wired for the results that we do not want and do not serve our needs. The graduating Sisters need to outline laws, rules and regulations as well as practices and attitudes that need to be in place in order for us to achieve the outcomes we want. This process should echo through to all institutions, both state and non-state.

Patriarchy has reigned for over a millennium. It may take that long to change the world. Today's graduating class must take the first step.

All must know, that things are changing!

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAMME MANAGER



Naledi Kekana

"...dreams become part of a shared heritage, and therefore a material force in galvanising and uniting the community to act together to realise what was promised by the dream, which then becomes both a prediction and a call to action - in other words, a self-fulfilling prophecy."- Thabo Mbeki, at the 14th Kgosi Lebone Molotlegi I memorial lecture, 16 October 2010"

In the words quoted above, President Mbeki was expounding on a belief by the Khoi people that the dream of an individual is not truly a dream until or unless it is dreamt by the whole community.

There is no better sentiment, in my view, which better describes the journey and the birthing of the Zanele Mbeki Fellowship. What started as a casual conversation in Mrs Mbeki's kitchen on a random day in 2016, became a dream which grew in courage as it gradually found resonance with our broad network of fellow dreamers.

The dream is to cultivate feminist leadership on the continent, by nurturing grounded, ethical and accountable leaders from diverse sectors, who will be staunch advocates of an equal and fair society – a feminist society.

Since that exciting conversation in the kitchen, a great deal of dedication and work has happened in order to reach this important moment. This graduation celebration does not mark the end of a journey, but a mere first step in a long journey of transforming our society. First steps are not simply a start, but significant milestones often characterised by a contradicting state of being. Like a baby taking its first steps, we have travelled this journey with fear and courage, lack of know-how yet a strong internal knowing as well as with doubt and determination.

Tonight, is indeed a significant milestone for ZMDT as we reflect on a journey that has been littered with its own fair share of challenges and successes, but a first step which we are nevertheless proud to have embarked on.

MESSAGE FROM THE
PROGRAMME MANAGER (CONTINUED)

We would not have reached this important milestone without the vision of our Founder, Mrs Mbeki, whose courage and relentless pursuit for justice inspires the fearlessness of our respective activists within the organisation. Mrs Mbeki's passion, her unrivalled energy and her strong work ethic make her the top performing team member at all times. But it is her audacity to dream boldly which endears her as a beloved leader.

In March 2018, we invited 80 young women from around the SADC Region, who had been nominated by our networks, to apply for the Fellowship. From the overwhelming responses received, we then had the difficult task of selecting only 25 of these exceptional women to begin this journey with us. In July 2018, our first cohort of women leaders breathed life into the programme.

It has been an absolute privilege to get to know as well as grow with each of these young leaders, who are beams of light in their respective communities and the continent at large. The intensity at which this cohort interacted with the content filled us with so much awe and pride, sometimes with fear of the power within them! They brought with them their expertise, experience, knowledge and curiosity which made for a robust, provocative and vibrant learning environment. They were indeed the magic ingredient in the whole equation. We are truly grateful to them for responding to our call and for their commitment and dedication to not only the programme but to their respective countries and our continent.

This Fellowship was a joint effort built on the generosity, knowledge and expertise of so many people, who in different capacities and unwavering commitment, worked with us to ensure that this dream was realised.

In this regard, particular recognition is given to Ms Sharmila Chetty, the President of Duke CE in Africa and Managing Director for Europe and Africa, who believed in our dream and gave all her support in its development. This included initial curriculum development supported by Ms Belinda Knight and Ms Pamela Naidoo at Duke CE as well as excellent infrastructure and training support.

Special recognition and our immense gratitude to Nozala Trust, who believed in The Fellowship wholeheartedly and enabled the programme to happen through their generous financial support for the programme in its entirety.

Our appreciation and thanks to our other engine forces are Professor Cheryl Hendricks who led our initial consultations and provided her expertise in a feminist focused curriculum development, Ms Bunie M Matlanyane Sexwale for so gracefully and fiercely nurturing and protecting our safe space, as well as to our advisors, educators and contributors for contributing to the quality, depth and richness of the programme.

Professor Patricia McFadden stated that, "Feminism is a legacy and where one positions themselves is a choice". This Fellowship programme is both an appreciation and a dedication of love, to all feminists before us and their resistance and struggle against patriarchy, inequality and injustice. It is a mere contribution to this legacy, which we will continue to implement with integrity, courage and love.

This dream has indeed become a self-fulfilling prophesy. On behalf of our Founder, board of Trustees and the team of ZMDT we thank you for being part of our journey.



GRADUATION PROGRAMME

17h30:	Cocktail Networking Session (Please meet & interact with the Fellows)	
MC:	MS NATALIA MOLEBATSÍ	
19h00:	Opening & Welcome	
19h20:	Remarks from ZMDT	Ms Naledi Kekana, Programme Manager: ZM Fellowship
19h30:	Guest Speaker	Ms Lebogang Ramafoko, CEO of Soul City Institute
19h50:	Awarding of Certificates	Mrs Z Mbeki & Ms Sharmila Chetty, the President of Duke CE in Africa and Managing Director for Europe and Africa
20h15:	Remarks from the Fellows	Ms Edwina Makgamatha & Ms Nizenande Machi
20h25:	Closing	
20h30:	Dessert & Networking	

PROFILE
GUEST SPEAKER



Lebogang Ramafoko

Lebo is the CEO of Soul City and a fierce fighter for women's and children's rights. She defines herself as a feminist and believes it is important to do so in order to be clear about what informs her politics and activism. For her, feminism is the wild idea that women are human.

Her inimical style, compassion and forthrightness has established her as a highly respected thought leader and woman of action. With a penchant for clear language and uncluttered ideas, Lebo is a sought after public speaker across the world, including a high-level panel at the UN recently. Lebo is passionate about young women having the opportunity to tell their own story in their own words.

Lebo's meriotic rise to the top position at Soul City came after she graduated with a Master in Public Administration at the prestigious Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government (HKS) in 2010. She was concurrently enrolled in the Edward S. Mason programme which is drawn from top tier candidate students from development states. While at Harvard, Lebo enrolled in and then served as the Teaching Assistant (TA) for one of the Kennedy School's most famous classes, Leadership on the Line led by Professor Dean Williams.

This life-changing experience in adaptive leadership and change was brought to bear when, under Lebo's leadership, the Soul City Institute was relaunched as a Feminist Social Justice organisation in 2016 focusing on young women and girls and the communities they live in. She has used her policy skills to contextualise this within South Africa's fluid socio-economic and political environment and since its launch, the organisation has amplified the voices of young women and has been one of the leading voices in challenging patriarchy and fighting gender based violence.

Lebo has been in a management position for over 20 years and has led diverse teams. She has a passion for developing others and is renowned for her training skill which she learnt in her undergraduate when she read for a Bachelor in Education. She motivates teams, challenges them and equips them with skills to make them impactful and efficient. She often uses her own experience as a manager to draw on lessons that her audience can relate to.

MEET OUR
FELLOWS



Aimée Gratia Ilibagiza Mutabazi (25)

COUNTRY: RWANDA | SECTOR: ACADEMIA

Imana yirirwa ahandi igataha iRwanda (God roams elsewhere in the world and returns to rest in Rwanda). This Rwanda mentioned is the birthplace of Aimée Gratia Ilibagiza Mutabazi who, due to the war in 1994, had to flee it and seek refuge elsewhere in the world.

The saying both hints at the importance of Rwanda as the resting place of God and at God's timeless wondering away from it in the world. This paradoxical contemplation characterizes much of the personal and professional aspirations that Aimée Gratia is drawn to. Currently as a Masters of Arts candidate in Anthropology, her academic interests include identity reconstruction amongst Rwandan refugees who live and have grown up in exile. She draws largely from her experience as both Rwandan refugee and South African permanent resident to reflect on the ambivalent feelings of growing up away from home and having to live in different cultural contexts to make sense of life.

Aimée Gratia is a traditional Rwandan dancer in a Johannesburg based refugee cultural group. It is from here that she has drawn much of her creative and intellectual inspiration for her academic and community service work. She is a Mellon Mays fellow and has presented her research at Bowdoin College and Columbia University at summer institutes in the United States.

Passionately curious about humanity, Aimée Gratia describes herself as a creatively intuitive person who strives to find collaborations between her African-orientated academic work and broader social, political and artistic spaces. She is also interested in the role of African women in knowledge production as well as their financial emancipation as community builders.

If this feminism is to do what it is supposed to do, we owe it to ourselves to commit fully and honestly to becoming people of integrity, who will lead from a place of radical love for who we are – for the sake of the womxn we are becoming and will be! The world we need will require womxn to occupy places we've never been before for serious transformation. In my professional capacity it is within the academy, and through my aspirations into public life service – and why not be the next president of Rwanda. Rwanda and Afrika need feminist womxn leaders urgently.



Divya Vasant (33)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

I am the Founder and CEO of The AMAZI Group, a beauty brand crafted on the principles of inclusivity cultivated through two distinct arms: The AMAZI Academy (a non-profit training school) and AMAZI Beauty (a chain of Nail and Beauty Salons) with operations in Cape Town and Johannesburg.

These two entities collaborate to journey marginalized women from unemployment to equity ownership within the Group. The Cape Town Academy was first established in 2014, with the first AMAZI store following in 2015.

My purpose is rooted in combating the ingrained sense of inferiority among marginalized women. The first time I felt a deep sense of anger about the inequality that oppresses women was in high school when I helped my karate instructor teach self-defense to victims of abuse. From then I knew that I wanted to find a way re-build women that have lost belief in their potential. It took me the next 12 years to configure the “how”.

I studied development economics at the University of Cape Town and began my career at Absa Capital where I was the Lead Credit Research Analyst. In this role, I was the first- and second-rated analyst in the country in 2010 and 2011, in the Spire Awards and Financial Mail rankings respectively. I left finance after just over 5 years and found myself on a path toward founding the AMAZI Group that was largely possible through incredible synchronicity.

I'm a big fan of coffee, the Harvard Business Review and Star Wars. I'm lucky to be married to a man that gives me the freedom to be me.

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*What I want my work to be about is installing the human back into economics.
What this Fellowship has done is install the human back into me.*



Edwina Makgamatha (35)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Edwina is an entrepreneur, a motivational speaker, a disability activist, and most importantly a mother to two adorable boys. Miss Edwina is the founder and Managing Director of Thusanang Enabling Support Services (Pty) She is also the CEO of a non-profit organization Thuso Ke Botho.

Edwina sit on the board of SpesNet Global Group as Non-Executive Director, the company provides leading-edge healthcare solutions for healthcare providers, medical insurers, administrators and managed care organisations using a combination of technology solutions, healthcare intelligence and artificial intelligence. Being the Wings for life world run ambassador Edwina dedicates time for the international not-for-profit foundation which has one mission only – to help scientists find a cure for spinal cord injury.

100% of the entry fee and donations go directly to cutting-edge research projects worldwide. The founder and managing director of Thusanang Enabling Support Services has been Nominated the best Social entrepreneur with a disability by the Gauteng government Disability Excellence Awards 2019 in the Premier's office. Edwina Makgamatha has in addition been awarded a 100 bed acute hospital license, to build a hospital that will fully accommodate persons with disabilities across the board. The motivation is to adopt the universal design standards which will accommodate all with or without disabilities.

Furthermore, Miss Makgamatha's work has been celebrated in most social media platforms (TV, Radio, magazines and newspapers). Edwina's life journey has been one with challenges that are now motivating the nation, because giving-up is not an option. My company Thusanang Enabling Support Services(Pty)Ltd has empowered fifteen employees and we have our second branch in Mokopane Limpopo bringing our services closer to the people. Miss Makgamatha is not only a business women, amongst other things she is a student at the University of South Africa (UNISA) studying Industrial Organizational Psychology so as to advocate for disabled individuals rights in the workplace.

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Women with disabilities need to step up into leadership, they must have the ambition, and be prepared to work exceptionally hard, and demonstrate to others that they are entrepreneurs first and foremost and successful at what they do, and NOT use the disability as a barrier to success. It's important to remember that, no-one owes you anything, so don't expect anyone to do favours for you – take ownership of your life!" if I can do it-you can too.



Fortunate Jwara (26)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** ART/POLITICS

Fortunate Jwara was born in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal and grew up in Pretoria, Gauteng, South Africa. She completed her Bachelor of Music at the University of Pretoria in 2015.

Fortunate Jwara was born in Durban and grew up in Pretoria. She completed her Bachelor of Music at the University of Pretoria in 2015. Her passion for social justice inspired her to enrol for a Master's degree in Multidisciplinary Human Rights with the same university in 2016. She is an author of the novel *The Music Thing* – which speaks passionately about the arts crisis in our country, interpretation of art, patriarchy and psychopathy.

She works for a Labour Rights NGO, gaining experience on working with communities on issues such as gender-based violence, racism, health issues and underpay in the workplace. She blogs and writes for online magazines.

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It is very important for a woman, no matter who you are and what you have, to create your own identity and to be remembered for who you are and for the things that you did for yourself.



Iris Nxumalo (26)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** PHILANTHROPY AND DEVELOPMENT

Iris Nxumalo is an Innovation Manager at The DG Murray Trust, and an outgoing Peace Security and Development Women Fellow at the African Leadership Centre (ALC), dually based in London and Nairobi.

She has dedicated her life's work to transforming systems of power and leadership processes that shape and govern experiences of peace, justice, development and security on the African continent.

Iris is committed to utilising transformative forms of knowledge to advance research, activism, policy analysis and development programming in the areas of governance, gender peace and security, education, youth advocacy, leadership development and movement building. In her present role as an Innovation Manager at The DG Murray Trust, Iris seeks to use intersectional strategic investments through grant-making as a tool to drive organisational and public innovation for inclusion, justice and development in South Africa.

Iris has five years of professional and volunteering experience, advancing gender equality and women's rights through development programming in peace, security and development; governance innovation, Pan-African youth advocacy and movement building and conducting political and media analysis. Her professional experiences span a variety of contexts and sectors, including working with inter-governmental organisations, research and policy centres and teaching in the academy in South Africa.

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The fellowship has placed meat on my feminist bones. It has enabled me to locate myself within the rich tapestry of Afrikan feminisms and revel in the pure delight of identifying as a feminist scholar and activist.



Lebohang Masango (28)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** ACADEMIA

Lebohang Masango has a Master's degree in Social Anthropology from the University of Witwatersrand, South Africa. She is the author of children's book, Mpumi's Magic Beads (David Philip Publishers, 2018), which is available in 9 of South Africa's official languages, and The Great Cake Contest (Book Dash, 2018).

She is also a UNICEF South Africa advocate for volunteerism. She has also been identified by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation as a #Goalkeeper, one of the young people working to realise the United nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). She is a poet and a writer working in service of her feminist politics. As an Anthropologist, she has lectured first years at North West University and she recently co-managed the Well Sexuality pilot study; a group of scholars and artists investigating notions of sexuality among the youth of Johannesburg. She regularly hosts storytelling sessions for children in schools, bookshops and community libraries. She currently hosts the Word N Sound Poetry League, a monthly open mic challenge aimed at developing young poets in Johannesburg. Lebohang has been published in Mike Alfred's Twelve + One (Botsotso, 2014) a poetry anthology of Johannesburg poets and To Breathe Into Another Voice (Real African Publishers, 2017), a Jazz poetry anthology edited by Myesha Jenkins. She has read her poetry in South Africa, Zimbabwe and the UK. Lebohang used to write regularly for Rookie, the discontinued American website for teen girls, and has been commissioned by various publications to write about issues regarding literacy and feminism. A range of media platforms including news publications, magazines, television shows and radio programmes have covered her literary and academic work.

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Feminism is about love and justice. Our struggle for freedom is intricately bound up with the freedom of all the marginalised, oppressed and even most deviant women and femmes in society and we leave no one behind.



Lehlogonolo Michell Ratlabyana (27)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** NGO

Lehlogonolo Michell Ratlabyana is a Community Shaper, Entrepreneur, Professional and a Lover of Life. She holds a Bachelor's degree and an Honours degree in the field of Public Management from University of the Western Cape and University of Johannesburg. She has over 4 years' experience in Research, Training and Project Management.

She is one of the authors for a National Study titled "Enhancing Active Citizenry Engagement in South Africa" published by National Development Agency and Human Sciences Research Council. She has also co-authored a desktop research titled "Government Funding to NPOs: What is the Investment Value?" published by National Development Agency.

Her experience in the public sector has inspired her passion for community and youth development. She has trained and mentored Youth Organisations and Representative Council for Learners in Secondary Schools and has also facilitated Radio Shows aimed at giving youth a voice to be change agents across the Limpopo Province. She was a panellist for the 1st Annual Limpopo Youth Leadership Talk hosted by Agape Youth Movement. She has recently founded an Events Management Company "Amore Berries & Brew" which was birthed by her love for creating environments for people to celebrate themselves and life.

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I am a Feminist, Afrikan, Black and Beautiful. Feminism allows me to be me in my entirety, to love myself and to be conscious of my capabilities. The Zanele Mbeki Fellowship Programme has been a beautiful gift, it has given me the boldness to show up as I am and to be fearless in the pursuit of what sets my soul on fire.



Mandisa Gaba (28)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This South African entrepreneur, youth leader and speaker has been involved in business for almost 10 years. She is currently the Managing Director of Ntsika Uhuru; a business to business distribution services firm focusing on the selling, repairs and maintenance of specialised pumps, valves, motors, actuators and instrumentation equipment. Ntsika Uhuru services the mining and power generation industry.

Mandisa is a serial entrepreneur, having started her first business - an Internet café – at age 19, all the while studying towards a Bachelor of Laws with the University of the Witwatersrand. She dropped out of law school after her second year; and enrolled with the Raymond Ackerman Academy for Entrepreneurial Development. She graduated from the Academy at the top on her class and with seed capital for her next business venture, Vanity Space – an online store of second hand branded apparel. This would be her second and most significant business failure. Not being one to give up she went into uncharted territory as a Safety, Health, Environmental and Quality consultant and would obtain her SHEQ qualification with distinction. She stepped down from the helm of Maanda Africa Group in 2017 - and had been one of its founding members.

She was inducted as a World Economic Forum Global Shaper in the Soweto Hub in 2017; and was elected as its Curator for the 2018/2019 term. She also hosted a discussion at the Pan-African Parliament on Accelerated Solutions to Youth And Gender Empowerment at the African Youth Development Summit, alongside the Global Citizen Festival in 2018.

Her passion and enthusiasm for entrepreneurship has seen her being invited to speak about her business journey, the lessons along the way and the failures that have laid the foundation for a strong future in business. She is also a seasoned event programme director, facilitator and discussion moderator; and has hosted the likes of Dr Judy Dlamini, Ipeleng Mkhari, Farah Fortune and Basetsana Kumalo' alongside She Boss Conversations.

Mandisa is committed to work that harnesses and leverages the continents' youth to unlock wealth, further entrepreneurship and create social value.

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The Fellowship has been such a gift. A gift of sisterhood, healing and a reclaiming of my voice and choices. I am eternally grateful.



Matjie Pride Maunatlala (36)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** RETAIL

I see the world through people and brands and at any given time, the most important conversations for driving positive change engulf my energy and passion. Right now, I am most inspired by the voice of women and the tone of business.

I have the privilege of leading the Marketing strategy at TFG for the Foschini Division; a team that houses female brands championing female confidence and inspiring women to find their position in the economy. This journey has also been about the strong need to include men in the conversation about the empowerment of women. Education for both men is as important as empowerment for women.

Having nurtured my career over 17-years, the brands and people I have worked with have been in multiple geographies and industries including FMCG, Financial Services, Public Sector, as well as Advertising. My work is wholeheartedly anchored on 3 key pillars: that better people (personal branding) lead to better brands (brand strategy) and ultimately better organizations (corporate strategy). Through my MBA from Gordon Institute of Business, I am a published research author in the Journal of Brand Management. My study focused on how organisational competitiveness through employee endorsement aims to change organisations from within.

To refresh, I enjoy traveling. I follow food, music and film. An avid Photographer. Active boxer and yogi.

In 2015, I was listed as one of Finweek's top women to watch; an honour I see as a call to action for myself, to keep exploring, innovating and contributing to building a female economy.

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I am now inspired to not only talk about what I believe in but to put clear action behind it. I'm realizing that I have influence. I can now finally put the word activist next to my name knowing that it's important for me to ACT. – Pride Maunatlala, ACTivist



Musa Gwebani (27)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** NGO – LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Musa Gwebani has been a social activist. She cut her activism teeth while she was a student and has continued her activism well into her professional life. She is committed to the realisation of a non-racial, non-sexist society that works for all people.

Her academic background is in journalism, business and law. She has worked extensively as a writer in corporate communications and in film where she specialised in strategic communications. She now works for the Social Justice Coalition as the Co-Head of Programmes. She oversees the local government and safety programmes which are aimed at improved services and effective policing in informal settlements in Khayelitsha, Cape Town. Her work involves assessing the needs of communities as they relate to water, sanitation, land and safety in their communities. This includes working with communities for ways in which they can advocate for their rights to these services to be protected and promoted. This advocacy can take the form of research, protest and litigation.

She is passionate about the advancement of people's power and seeing communities begin to hold their government accountable in the platforms provided as well as making those platforms more accessible. Musa is also passionate about the education of girl children in Africa and bringing awareness to and assisting the victims of gender-based violence. She also is very interested in women and their rights to land and ways in which these rights can be strengthened.

She hopes to stop procrastinating on Twitter and write a book soon, maybe soonish.

”

I am not alone in my feminism. I am a part of millions of women who have struggled against patriarchy and have insisted that they are people too.



Nizenande Machi (29)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Nizenande is a Learning and Development Specialist. She has a particular interest in creating epistemologies for African people development, with a focus on equipping African professionals with the tools to perform and thrive.

Corporate Education programs. Nizenande's people development work has included working with teams at various stages of the team development life-cycle: team formation, conflict and diversity management, stretch and high-stakes, change management and high performance. It is this enduring passion for the development of African people that led her to birth Karani Leadership.

Nizenande has been published as a featured author alongside former South African Minister of Finance, Trevor Manuel, and former Public Protector, Thuli Madonsela in a book titled: 'Inspired: Remarkable South Africans share their stories'. In 2015, she spoke at the online Global Women's Annual Leadership Summit on 'Developing Your Leadership Mandate'. In 2017 Nizenande was named as one of the 100 Most Influential Young South Africans as part of her active citizenry, she serves as a Member of the Eminent Persons' Group (EPG) for Transformation in Sport under the Minister of Sport. She was also the Deputy Curator for the Johannesburg Hub of the World Economic Forum Global Shapers. And as an advocate for the empowerment of women, in 2018, Nizenande was elected as a fellow on the Zanele Mbeki Fellowship, which was designed by the Former First Lady to cultivate Feminist Leadership for Africa's economic and socio-political leadership development.

”

Feminism has moved me from the fringes of my life to its centre. It has taught me to rage, be kind, be steady, be unstable, be messy and put-together all at the same time. To me, it is a sloppy wet kiss with the love of your life: you're constantly aware of the need to improve, but feel deeply sated and loved with every encounter.



Noluthando Zama Mthonti (28)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** ENTREPRENEURSHIP/MEDIA

Noluthando Mthonti is a financial services professional, a broadcaster and entrepreneur. She is a student at the Wits Business School pursuing a Post Graduate Diploma in Business Administration.

Noluthando exited the formal corporate space in January 2019 to pursue radio broadcasting on a full-time basis. Through her involvement with various youth led organisations, Noluthando identified an opportunity to advocate for the SDGs in her community, this has subsequently led to her founding a consultancy that will partner with the South African private sector to support the SDGs through their Corporate Social Responsibility and Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment (B-BBEE) compliance initiatives. Noluthando founded the Financial Consultancy (Pty) Ltd, an accounting services company aimed at servicing small businesses and start-ups.

During her time in the formal corporate space, Noluthando worked as an Enterprise and Supplier Development Consultant, advising mining companies on this specific mining charter requirement, as well as performing due diligences, screening and recommending SMMs to be funded.

Noluthando served as the Deputy Chairperson of the Youth Against Unemployment Working group founded by the Association for Black Securities and Investment Professionals (ABSIP) along its strategic partners, AISEC, ABSA, BMF and the AWCA. She also served on the ABSIP Student Development Sub-committee for 2 years, assisting young people in 13 Universities across South Africa in facilitating their readiness to enter the South African financial services sector. Through her various leadership roles representing young prospective female Chartered Accountants, the African Women Chartered Accountants (AWCA) awarded her the President's Ambassador Award at the annual Women of Substance awards in 2014 alongside UN Women Director, Dr Phumzile Mlambo Ngcuka.

Noluthando is the incoming curator of World Economic Forum Global Shapers Soweto Hub and will represent her community in Geneva, Switzerland in September 2019. She is also a member of the South African Institute of International Affairs and a Zanele Mbeki Fellow. Noluthando is a passionate steward of the world and believes it is important to leave the world better than she found it, especially for girls and women.

”

Feminism is the world's best bet - the unburdening of men and the process of reconciling women to their innate being, the rebalancing of the world as we know it.



Nomfundo Mahlangeni (30)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** SCIENCE

Nomfundo Mahlangeni was born in Eshowe, and raised in Ndwedwe.

She earned her Bachelor's degree in Applied Chemistry and Honours in Chemistry at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She completed her Masters and PhD under the supervision of Prof Sreekanth B. Jonnalagadda and Dr Roshila Moodley, with a research focus on the chemical composition of some medicinal plants used in African Traditional Medicine. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at UKZN, with a project focus on plant based synthesis of nanomaterials and their biological activities. Her research interests lie in the field of medicinal chemistry, environmental chemistry and nanotechnology.

”

I have now been given the tools to actually look at the facts and decide what the truths are.



Nontokoza Mahamba (30)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** BANKING

I am a graduate from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg a Global Shaper for the World Economic Forum and an Advocate of the High Court. I am the founder of Fundisa - an e-Tutoring and e-Mentoring platform at Wits University in collaboration with Wits Citizenship & Community Outreach Programme and Student Development & Leadership Unit.

I am passionate about Compliance, Governance, Education, Public Policy, Human Rights, Human Development and bridging the digital divide through increased access to Technology.

I work as a Regulatory Risk Manager in the Executive Office of FirstRand Bank.

I moderate and speak on a number of panel discussions and radio programmes regarding the issues closest to my heart; education, development and thought leadership. In a nutshell; I am a vibrant, driven, compassionate and ambitious young woman who believes that the problem that infuriates you the most is the one that you have been assigned to solve.

Being a part of the inaugural Zanele Mbeki Fellowship has been one of the most rewarding and transforming experiences of my life. It has enabled me to love and engage women and myself in ways that I have been unable to before. It has illuminated my feminist path and journey and created an urgency to do the work of a feminist in the spaces I currently find myself and not in future spaces or platforms that I had previously imagined to be bigger and more influential. I am becoming a better, kinder, more loving feminist and I know that requires all of my personhood.



Nothando Khumalo (29)

COUNTRY: ESWATINI | **SECTOR:** ENGINEERING

Nothando is the COO of Kulani Engineering, a 100% black female-owned Consulting Engineering firm offering multidisciplinary professional services within the infrastructure value chain.

Nothando holds a BSc in Civil Eng. (2012) and MSc in Civil Eng. (2014) obtained from the University of Cape Town. In 2015, she was one of 100 global scholars selected to be part of the first cohort of the prestigious Yenching Academy Program at Peking University in Beijing (China). During this year that she spent completing her Master of Economics in China Studies, she grew a profound appreciation for the role infrastructure plays in economic development, and its potential to uplift Africa's economies when strategically implemented with a clear regard for contextual appropriateness. Her time in Asia also fuelled her wanderlust and lifelong interest in tourism and desire to explore the world's immense diversity and cultural offerings. Living in a country (China), and within a culture, so different from her own was one of her best life decisions yet. It was more than an eye-opener – it was a doorway to greater consciousness. Since returning, she has made it her mission to be a socially mindful engineer who equally prioritises the technical and social aspects of engineering in her work. As part of this mission, Nothando is involved in a housing strategy project whose mandate is to aid lower-income employees in her workplace enter the housing market earlier by seeking solutions that mitigate affordability barriers. Nothando has made it her mission to expose herself to as many opportunities and experiences as possible, to enable herself to contribute to society and to engineer economic change in any way that she can for our Africa.

Feminism means acknowledging and comprehending its intersectionality, and understating what that means for me as, not only a black woman, but an African as well. One with deep cultural heritage which in itself requires pragmatic dissection to understand the layers of patriarchal influences.



Nthabiseng Montsho-Mngoma (37)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A transformation champion and change agent at heart and in deeds. Nthabi Montsho, 36 Years of age, is the founder and Director of Soul Inspiration Global and Soul Inspiration Foundation. She is passionate about Social, Life Skills and Entrepreneurial Development to help women and children who are victims and survivors of gender based violence.

Her Audio Book Broken Woman Arise with Power has been narrated to shift the mind-sets of women which will enable them to take back their power through self-development. She hosts various Seminars to help women in this regard.

Her other Audio Book and Life Skills Diary designed for the Learners aged 9-19 speaks to social challenges faced by the youth in and out of school premises. Topics covered are bullying, the 'Blessor' phenomenon, teenage pregnancy, addictions; youth in entrepreneurship including financial literacy are some of the topics covered. It is designed such that the learner can learn about each topic and therefore apply solutions in their personal lives. Soul Inspiration Global has the solutions to the Department of Education and Social Development challenges for leadership, teachers in schools and the community at large.

She continues to travel offering mentoring, coaching, life and social skills training to various communities in and around South Africa.

She runs Soul Inspiration Global and Foundation full time and had experience in senior corporate rankings in the financial industry, telecoms industry and the education division in Times Media. She participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women 63 in New York USA as part of the South African Delegation.

She continues to serve and inspire the Souls through the Power of Talk.

”

Now that I understand the notion of feminism being equality, fairness, non-judgemental and wholeness. Then if that is the case, I can boldly declare that Jesus Christ is a Feminist!



Rachel Sibande (33)

COUNTRY: MALAWI | **SECTOR:** TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

Rachel Sibande is the Founder of Malawi's first technology hub; mHub. The hub nurtures young technology enthusiasts with technical and entrepreneurship skills and champions the development of technology solutions. Rachel was named by Forbes as one of Africa's most promising young entrepreneurs in 2016. In 2015; she received the Anita Borg Scholarship from Google given to outstanding female computer science students from around the world.

She is Malawi's Ambassador of the Next Einstein Forum Initiative which promotes science, technology engineering and mathematics. Rachel is also an alumna of President Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative. Rachel is the first Malawian to hold a local TEDx License. She is a PhD candidate in Computer Science at Rhodes University in South Africa.

Rachel Sibande has piloted a technology platform in Malawi, called Mzinda, where citizens engage with locally elected leaders and service providers on service delivery. Rachel has also led the deployment of citizen engagement initiatives using technology during elections in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia. She also has a Certificate in Entrepreneurship for Scientists from ICTP in Italy.

Through the hub, Rachel has established a Children's Coding Club and a Girls Coding Club where children and girls are taught how to develop mobile technology applications in quest to enhance a generation of creators of technology. In her free time, Rachel loves to spend time with her three bundles of joy; Uwemi, Uzengi and Unenesco and experimenting with spices in the kitchen.

”

The ZMDT fellowship has activated the feminist in me. It has been a journey of self-discovery. I am now working on creating a ripple effect to have more young feminists within my network of innovators and entrepreneurs.



Shalate Ngoben (30)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** CIVIC LEADERSHIP

Shalate Teffo is an Advertising Management graduate with eight years' experience in marketing and advertising. Being passionate about the development of young people & community development, She currently runs a non-profit organisation called Dimphonyana Tsa Lapeng(little gifts of home) which was founded by her mother in 2001.

The core services offered is a children's home, early childhood development programme, skills development projects, community garden and homework programme. She is a brand ambassador for Brand South Africa 'play your part' initiative and ran sanitary pad drive together with Procter and Gamble, through their "Always keeping girls in school" programme after graduating from their Leadership College between 2015 & 2016. This has sparked her desire to now work on her own sanitary pad line. In 2016 she was selected to participate in the Mandela Washington Young African Leaders Initiative which is a flagship programme of the former US President Obama, where she attended a civic leadership programme for 6 weeks in the US and currently serves on the board representing the 2016 cohort under Civic Leadership. In 2017, the local Radio Station Kaya FM profiled her in their "SA's 16 ordinary youth, doing extra ordinary things" campaign during youth month. Her long-term goal is to build more full service centres in the disadvantaged communities she works with as there is a desperate need for such support programmes, to improve the lives of young people living in South Africa.

”

*As you continue to work a little and live a little, remember to serve a little bit more.
The world today needs us to be more human than intellectual.*



Sheistah Bundhoo (26)

COUNTRY: MAURITIUS | **SECTOR:** NGO

From the time I left college, I knew what I wanted to be. I had my goal clearly set in front of me. After pursuing a degree in Sociology & Gender Studies, I joined Gender Links, an NGO working towards gender equality in Mauritius. The thrill I get to advocate for women's rights cannot be expressed in words. I want to see women – the future of tomorrow in the decision making sector, in the news, in the private sector but most importantly leaving and leading a life of dignity. When our project to open the first ever halfway home in Mauritius was announced, I cannot disagree that I was scared. Scared of the fact that I might not be able to make it up to the level. Being the Shelter Manager for a halfway home providing a safe space to homeless young adults contributed a lot in my own empowerment. I believe in learning at each stage of life – each moment and every day. I am believer, a dreamer.

I am passionate about writing and absolutely love my mother tongue being 'Kreol Morisien'. My fav hobbies include reading, writing short poems, cooking and snorkelling

”

The journey has been very enriching and I am sure that this learning process will help me both professionally & personally. I intend to use the knowledge gained in my country work targeting women and young girls who are homeless and victims of violence.



Thato Valencia Mmatli (29)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** GOVERNMENT

Thato Valencia Mmatli was raised in a humble, yet vibrant home in Soweto. She is dedicated to her large, non-nuclear family and takes personal responsibility for the education of those who succeed her. She is an avid reader and advocate for the liberating capacity of literature.

She takes great pride in her background and seeks to reconcile her respect for her cultural upbringing with her feminist views. She is deeply introspective and delights in critical dialogue on issues affecting South Africa and the world. Professionally, Thato is a registered Industrial Psychologist and has work experiences within the corporate, consulting and government services. She holds two master's degrees, her alma maters include the University of Johannesburg (undergraduate studies), Wits University (Postgraduate Psychology studies) and Linnéuniversitetet in Sweden (International Leadership and Management studies). She is the former chairperson of the Kalmar Network for Future Global Leaders, an initiative to promote youth agency. She is also currently the Deputy President for the Sweden Alumni Network in SA, which aims to continue the bi-national relationships between scholarship holders and their institutions. Among her many passions and ambitions she seeks to contribute to the areas of female leadership identification and development, overcoming the 'glass ceiling' and 'glass cliff'. Being a Zanele Mbeki Fellow continues to equip her with feminist ideology and strategy. Principally, creating better awareness of and access to education and business opportunities for underprivileged youth is her lifetime goal.

”

I am able to move through the world fearlessly! And I am armed with the deepest self-love because of feminism. This Fellowship has been the most transformative experience. The journey continues!



Tumelo Moreri (30)

COUNTRY: BOTSWANA | **SECTOR:** NGO

Tumelo MORERI is a Social Entrepreneur and a Self-Leadership and Reconciliation Teacher. Her work on Self-Leadership fuses practical principles of developing inner leadership of self with Universal Spiritual Truths and African Indigenous Knowledge.

She is a 2018 Fellow of the Zanele Mbeki Fellowship, whose mandate is to cultivate and support a new generation of African feminist leaders. In 2017, she was named and selected as a Global Shaper of the Global Shapers Community, which is an initiative of the World Economic Forum. And, in 2014, she was awarded the Mandela Rhodes Leadership Scholarship by the Mandela Rhodes Foundation for postgraduate studies in Mathematical Statistics.

Tumelo has founded *Tumelo Moreri Inc.* (est. 2019) where she curates spaces, experiences and programs for the Self-Leadership development of professionals and entrepreneurs in various work spaces and communities. She also hosts *Conversations on Self-Leadership* in schools, for work-teams, in corporate institutions, and local communities and organizations. She is founder of Afrika lthute (est. 2016), which is a space for the healing and reconciliation of the African – for the African to remember who she truly is, and begin to reclaim her true power. Through Afrika lthute, she curates and facilitates grassroots leadership development programs whose aim is to facilitate this process of healing and reconciliation for African youth, and to build leadership capacity within African communities.

Tumelo holds degrees in Actuarial Science (*Cum Laude*, 2012) and Mathematical Statistics (2013) from the University of the Free State in South Africa.

”

In applying for this Fellowship, my intention was to fully explore Feminism and locate myself in it. And, I have got this, and more. While in the Fellowship, I finally surrendered to my true feminine power - my intuition - and I have developed hearing beyond my body and bones. I feel at one and at home with myself, and I'm grateful for the Fellowship, for having kick-started this process (of hearing beyond bones) for me.



Ziyanda Nqebelele (29)

COUNTRY: SOUTH AFRICA | **SECTOR:** FINANCE/ACADEMIA

Ziyanda Nqebelele is a Chartered Accountant by profession with experience in corporate finance and auditing. Her experience in corporate has cultivated her ability to analyse problems both within and outside of the organizational and business environment.

She has also learnt about patience and the importance of cultivating an environment where people from various backgrounds can be free to think critically and question the information being presented to them without taking everything at face value. Her interests lie in mentorship, education and finding sustainable solutions that will improve the lives of the marginalized. To this end, she founded a company, Au Pair Express (Pty) Ltd, an on-demand market place that connects families with reliable, background screened and experienced childcare professionals. The platform connects and negotiates fair wages for unskilled women who had struggled obtaining employment, with families in need of such services.

She is also a Senior Lecturer at Walter Sisulu University in Mthatha, Eastern Cape, a university that predominantly caters for a disadvantaged student profile, and offers much needed guidance and support to students who come from very unstable homes.

Ziyanda plans to open early childhood centres in the Eastern Cape in the near future, with a primary target of rural and poor communities. She hopes these centres will have a positive contribution to the dire school leaving results produced by the province.

”

The Fellowship has broadened my thinking around feminism and impact work and what contribution feminists can have in making the world easier for those less fortunate than us.

MESSAGE TO MRS MBEKI



In New York, when asked how you have raised and supported generations of women you replied: *“I’ve done it through not speaking”*.

Thank you for choosing each one of us to walk this journey with and for you. Over the past year we have experienced a rare kind of power through you. You are a power that is authentic, gentle, generous and moves through the world with a remarkable humility and poise.

You have curated an intergenerational space and Pan-African feminist experience of a lifetime, that constantly reminds us of the importance of sisterhood, integrity and the pursuit of being whole.

Thank you! We love you!

From the inaugural class of the Zanele Mbeki Fellowship

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Until one is committed, there is always hesitancy
The chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness.
Concerning all acts of initiative and creation
There is one elementary truth,
The ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans;
The moment one definitely commits oneself then providence moves too.
All sorts of things occur to help that would never otherwise have occurred.
A whole stream of events issues from the decision,
Raising to one's favour all manner of unforeseen accidents and meetings and
material assistance
Which no man could have dreamed would come his way.
Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it
Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.
– Goethe*

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