

## Busisiwe Mmotla - Soweto, Gauteng

**Name:**

Busisiwe Mmotla

**Region:**

Emdeni, Soweto

**Age:**

27 (Born March 19, 1993)

**Occupation:**

Senior & FET Phase Teacher who graduated from the University of Johannesburg in 2017 with a Bachelor of Education degree. Currently studying towards a Diploma in Personal Training at Trifocus Fitness Academy with the goal to become a Wellness Coach.



**Previous beauty competitions/pageants won:**

Previously crowned Miss Soweto in 2017 and won USN Face of Fitness 2019

**Why do you want to be Miss South Africa and what do you think you will be able to bring to the role?**

I want to be crowned Miss SA because the title will allow me to grow personally by engaging in more charity work in different communities in South Africa. Miss SA opens more doors to different resources and this will help my charity work because that was one of my most favourite things to do during my reign as Miss Soweto and after. I also want to be Miss SA because I would like to provide positive representation for the people of my community. When I won Miss Soweto in 2017, the young women in my community were overwhelmed with pride for me and the community itself as I was the first Miss Soweto from Emdeni.

**How have you handled the lockdown due to the Covid 19?**

It has given me time to perfect my personal passions and my work skills that could advance my career. I have put more effort in my wellness techniques and I have taken up listening to interesting teaching podcasts and videos to help me improve my techniques so I can become a better teacher.

**What has this time taught you?**

That there are better and more effective ways to manage your time and achieve different tasks in an appropriate fashion. Good time management has helped me find more opportunities to do important things such as bonding with my family.

**2020 has been a tough year globally. Do you see any positives in what has happened in the past months and weeks?**

Some of the positives that I have noticed include how people have taken their health and hygiene seriously. The pandemic has forced many people to confront their usual practices and to re-evaluate them. Another positive I have seen is how humans are always willing to lend a helping hand especially to the underprivileged. Many people are stranded and hungry and celebrities and

community leaders have stepped up by either sending donations to those that need or by providing shelter to those homeless and it has been heart-warming to see that side of humanity.

### **What do you love about South Africa?**

I love that we have such a rich cultural diversity.

### **What is one thing you would like to change about South Africa?**

I would love to change the current legislation around keeping women safe. SA has a very high crime rate and femicide is the most concerning and topical issue for me. Most people in positions of power have not really helped bring light to the situation because they have ignored women's appeals. The government needs to provide more tighter legislation, accompanied by the funding of programmes that help women build a support network to ensure victims are not isolated and made to feel helpless.

### **Who is a previous Miss South Africa who has inspired you and why?**

Miss South Africa 2018, Tamaryn Green has inspired me immensely. Her #breakthestigma campaign taught me that it is okay to speak about your bad experiences because you never know who you might help.

### **Who are your role models/who has inspired you and why?**

The strong females in my family both late and living really inspire me. I lost two of my sisters to cancer and during their battle with the illness I was in awe of how positive they were. Being in such situations affected my perspective on life and motivated me to be hopeful even during the dark times. My mother continues to be my daily inspiration as she is the epitome of a strong woman. After we lost my sisters, she kept encouraging us to be positive and take good care of ourselves

### **Tell us a bit more about your family**

I come from a cosmopolitan family of seven. I am the last born. As mentioned above, two of my sisters passed away from cancer. At the age of 4 my parents divorced and we moved from Limpopo to Johannesburg. We lived in a shack and my mom was unemployed so she had to ask my brothers to drop out of school to assist the family. My mom would reupholster old couches and my brothers would sell vegetables and stationery for us to make ends meet. Currently I reside with my mom and my extended family and the goal is to one day buy my mom a nice house.

### **What do you do in your spare time/hobbies etc?**

I love outdoor activities such as hiking, jogging, working out and taking long strolls in the park with family and friends. I also love to go to soccer matches and I read a lot of books.

### **Do you think beauty pageants are still relevant today?**

Pageant queens are important national ambassadors who are self motivated philanthropists who want to help improve lives. Pageants are also great confidence builders - I gained my confidence through participating in pageants- so yes, they are definitely relevant today.

### **Name two of your female role models and why?**

Firstly, Beyoncé - a hard working woman whose efforts have translated into awards and record-breaking projects. Also, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma who has used the opportunities given to her to go to the next level of her career. She has risen above so much criticism and used her role in government to ensure that we are safe and sound. Her work in the 90s as Minister of Health is unforgettable - she was the power behind powerful campaigns such as the prioritising of pregnant women and the ban on smoking in public places and cigarette advertising.

### **What is your message to young girls and young women in South Africa?**

To be proud and own their individual stories. Owning your story is important especially in this day and age when people want to control female narrative because it helps you seek inner power and urges you to be the best version of yourself. I was in a physically abusive relationship for a long time but I found the strength to get out by owning my power and telling myself I deserved better. Owning your story also gives you the right to tell the story how you want to tell it. So be proud and more will be inspired by you and your experiences.

### **If you won the Miss South Africa crown and was able to meet one person, who would it be and why?**

Michelle Obama. She is a great representation of black excellence. Her influence transcends gender and race. She carried out her First Lady duties effortlessly and she was voted the most influential person in America - a first for a sitting First Lady. A lawyer in her own right, she is always graceful even when under pressure or trying situations. She is a fashion icon and an amazing mother.

### **What is the one thing people would be surprised to know about you?**

I entered Miss Soweto three times. You'd think after two attempts one would give up but I went on to enter three times and the third time I won.

### **What is the No 1 piece of advice that you would give to your younger self?**

That you deserve better young Busi. This piece of advice would have been very helpful and useful especially in situations such as how I handled my unfortunate experiences with physical abuse.

### **Describe yourself in three words:**

Relatable, accountable, empathetic

### **What are you reading?**

Becoming by Michelle Obama

### **What music are you listening to?**

Jhene Aiko - Chilombo Album. It is an amazing piece of art.

### **What are your favourite TV shows?**

Sports at Ten and TLC's My 600lb Life

### **What is your favourite meal?**

Spaghetti bolognaise

**Who's your local and international celeb crush?**

Locally - Thomas Mlambo; internationally - Roman Reigns

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

Almonds and peanut butter

**Dream Destination**

Paris, France

**Your social media tags:**

- Facebook: [busisiwe.mmotla](https://www.facebook.com/busisiwe.mmotla)
- Instagram: [busi\\_mmotla](https://www.instagram.com/busi_mmotla)
- Twitter: [busi\\_mmotla](https://twitter.com/busi_mmotla)