

## ITUMELENG BALOYI – SESHEGO LIMPOPO

**Name:** Itumeleng Baloyi

**Region:** Seshego, Limpopo.

**Age:** 23 (July 8, 1997)

**Occupation:**

I am a full-time student completing my B Tech/advanced diploma in project management at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology in hopes on furthering my honours in construction management. I am also a part time junior site manager at Wright Engineering, a digital creator and a freelance model.



**Previous beauty competitions or pageants you have entered and either placed or won:**

Miss Centurion Schools 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> runner-up; Miss City of Cape Town 2019 -1<sup>st</sup> runner up; Miss Mamelodi Sundowns 2021, semi-finalist.

**Why did you decide to enter Miss South Africa 2021 and why do you deserve to win this title?**

The Miss South Africa Organisation is opening doors for the inclusion of all types of women and, as a young woman battling with eczema, I believe that holistic representation is equally important. Given the opportunity I would like to amplify the narrative of how beauty standards are deemed whilst empowering women and the community at large to be empowered.

**Tell us about your biggest disappointment and how you bounced back from it.**

I was not accepted in the qualification that I initially wanted to study and I needed to act fast. Fast forward five years and who would have thought that I would be in the path of owning my own construction company.

**What do you think is the biggest problem facing young people today?**

Lack of employment opportunities.

**Who are your role models?**

My grandmother, who continues to teach me the principle of staying true to your spiritual self and my mom who continues to teach me the importance of striving hard no matter what life throws at you. The best advice I have received from her recently that I will carry with me into the competition is: "What if it turns out better than you ever imagined?" Other role models are Oprah Winfrey, Kamala Harris, Michelle Obama and Basetsana Khumalo.

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

My parents separated while I was still young. My mom Stella is a hard-working businesswoman and works in the engineering field. I am blessed to also have both my grandmothers alive and my one grandfather. My brother is 13 and loves soccer. My late dad had five children and I am the second oldest. Due to our distant upbringing, we are all not really close but whenever we meet memories are created!

**What do you do in your spare time?**

Unwinding in the kitchen, hiking and extreme sports - I am an adrenaline junkie! Binge watching on series and reading - Robin Sharma is a favourite.

**What is your single biggest achievement?**

Entering this competition! It takes a lot for someone to gather the courage to enter this competition so I am proud of myself.

**In what way do you think beauty pageants are still relevant today?**

Beauty pageants are important to society because they supply us with necessities such as communication and confidence, they foster goals, and teach discipline. They no longer focus on beauty but the brains behind it and how women can influence and better society.

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

Take pride in who you are and shine as brightly as you can. Don't dim your light for anyone or ever feel the need to diminish your intellect or your sense of humour to fit in and don't allow the naysayers to silence you.

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

I love how we are incomparable to any other country, our rich history and our diversity

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

Fixing the educational system, adopting financial education and ensuring social stability could eradicate a lot of economic problems we face in our country.

**2020 and 2021 have been extraordinary years and difficult for people around the globe. Do you see any positives in what has happened in the past 18 months?**

As hard as it is, I believe that times of discomfort are periods of growth. In the past 18 months the pandemic has forced us to slow down which has brought us closer to our families and friends.

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

Former Miss Universe Zozi Tunzi – her ability to re-define social standards of what beauty means has opened doors to many.

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

I have never ever had a sip of alcohol in my entire life.

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

Stop biting your tongue in the presence of being afraid that you will say something wrong. As young as you are, you've got the words to change a nation. It is absolutely okay to make mistakes, the courage lies in trying.

**QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS**

**Describe yourself in three words:**

Assertive, bold and empowered.

**What's the best advice you can give in exactly four words?**

Always pursue your dreams.

**Who's your favourite designer and why?**

Gert Johan Coetzee. I'm a fan of his multi-museum worthy creations from what I heard "you envision and he delivers." Hopefully one day I can attest to that!

**You have to give up one of these? Handbags or shoes?**

Handbags.

**What is one thing that we would not know about you just by looking at you?**

I was such a tomboy growing up

**What would be your dream holiday?**

Venice, Italy.

**If you could have any superhuman power, what would it be?**

Definitely healing powers; the world and its people need it right now.

**What are you reading?**

*5AM Club* – Robin Sharma.

**What music are you listening to?**

Mostly underground R&B, soul, jazz, gospel

**What is your favourite meal?**

Anything with seafood and my grandmother's morogo.

**Who is your local and international celeb crush?**

Local is Lungile Shabalala. International is Lewis Hamilton.

**What's your guilty pleasure?**

Staying in my pyjamas all day.

**Social media tags:**

- Instagram: Itumeleng.b