

MAWUSIVE SIBUTHA – NTABANKULU, EASTERN CAPE

Name: Mawusive Sibutha

Region: I am representing the Eastern Cape, my family live in Ntabankulu. I currently live in Bloemfontein, Free State.

Age: 24 (March 9, 1997)

Occupation:

I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences and majored in psychology and industrial psychology at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein. Due to the high unemployment rate as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, I decided to tap into my artistic side and start a picnic set-up business.



Previous beauty competitions or pageants:

Winner of the Miss Mundell Drive beauty pageant, Kokstad in 2006; winner of Miss Valentines at Kokstad Primary School, 2007; winner of Miss Kokstad College, 2015.

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

I decided to enter because I understand the impact and influence that the Miss South Africa Organisation has. Last year December, my brother and I took a drive to an informal settlement in Ntabankulu. As we were driving past one house, there sat a large group of people who seemed like a family. I could see the sadness and hopelessness in their eyes as they passed around a loaf of bread. The fact that I had witnessed that shook me to the core. How many families are going through this in South Africa? I've always had a passion for people who are less fortunate than I am and the alleviation of poverty in our country. I believe that the Miss South Africa Organisation has the ability to assist me in empowering people who live in poverty due to lack of education, being orphaned or homeless so that they too can have a decent livelihood and in turn empower others. I deserve to win because I am a dedicated, hard worker and when something is laid on my heart I cannot rest until it is done.

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

My biggest disappointment was when I had to repeat two of my final year modules, which meant that I couldn't graduate with my class. With the help of my friends and family, I quickly realised that the battle was not over until I completed my degree, so I enrolled again and walked away victorious.

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

Authenticity. I believe that social media stands at a position of considerable influence when it comes to young people being their real and true selves. The unrealistic standards that social media puts out drives young people to aspire to being people they are not meant to be, thus leaving a gap in the place and position they were meant to occupy.

Who are your role models?

Nomzamo Mbatha, who has dedicated her life to helping people in need through her thriving foundation. She's a UN Refugees Ambassador and is also in production, which is another one of my passions. Also, At Boshoff who has exceptional leadership skills and a huge heart

for people. He has the ability to influence people to strive for perfection and being your best self in order to bring out the best in other people

Tell us a bit more about your family?

My mother Tembisa, is an educator, my father Zolani is an entrepreneur and I have two sisters, Lungisani, who works for the municipality in Ntabankulu and Pozisa who is also a teacher and a brother Siphe, who is currently completing his Social Sciences degree at Walter Sisulu University in Umtata

What do you do in your spare time?

I love film productions and music, so I watch series and movies. I also love practicing my singing.

What is your single biggest achievement?

My biggest achievement is completing my degree.

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

Beauty pageants are more relevant than ever. I've seen hundreds of women who were given the opportunity to amplify their voices through the world of pageantry and becoming better women and in turn empowering other women to stand up and be the women they are meant to be. Pageantry is not just about beauty you see outside, it's a beauty that roars from within and that seeks to leave everyone who comes in contact with you a better person.

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

As Cheryl Sandburg puts it in her book *Lean In*, "What would you do if you weren't afraid?" As women we need to start believing in our own abilities because we have greatness embedded in us. If you want to be something in this world, fear should never be what stops you.

What do you love about South Africa?

The togetherness that rises as a need in our fellow citizen's life arises. I've seen South Africa come together to help someone complete their degree or plan an entire wedding for a random couple. Even though we have our differences, underneath all of it is a South Africa who truly loves and cares about each other.

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

The way that we look at poverty and think that it is ok for some people to die in it. We need to acknowledge that poverty exists in South Africa and that it is a root cause of social injustice. It is at that point where we can actually stand up and do something about it.

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?

Some people were able to find gaps in the economy and were able to start businesses, but the biggest positive was families having the ability to be together and relearn things about each other that they didn't necessarily have the time to notice through their busy schedules.

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

I would love to meet Prof. Thuli Madonsela. She is a huge advocate for social justice and she uses the influence she has to do something about it.

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

I've never been to Gauteng!

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

Live in each and every moment, moments don't last forever.

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

Describe yourself in three words:

Ambitious, vibrant, kind

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

Show up every day.

Who's your favourite designer and why?

Laduma Maxhosa. His style is unique and purely South African.

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 am a goofy and awkward person.

What would be your dream holiday?

Veranda Grande Baie in Mauritius

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

Read people's minds

What are you reading?

Lean In by Cheryl Sandburg

What music are you listening to?

Gospel and AmaPiano

What is your favourite TV show?

Money Heist

What is your favourite meal?

Wings and fries

Who is your local and international celeb crush?

Rorisang Thandekiso and Denzel Washington

What's your guilty pleasure?

Doughnuts

Your social media tags:

- Facebook: Mawusive Sibutha
- Instagram: @Mawusive_Mawu
- Twitter: @MawusiveSibutha