

KGAKETSANG MATHOBISA – BOCHABELA, BLOEMFONTEIN, FREE STATE

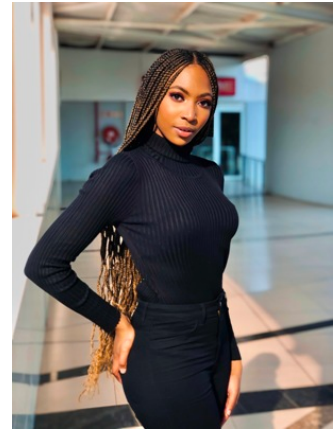
Name: Kgaketsang Mathobisa

Region: Bochabela, Bloemfontein, Free State.

Age: 22 (June 19, 1999)

Occupation:

I am a third-year student at the University of the Free State pursuing my BA degree in integrated organisational communication.



Previous beauty competitions or pageants you have entered:

Miss Free State SA 2020, Top 14 finalist.

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

Entering Miss South Africa has been something I've wanted to do for a long time, but I knew I never really fulfilled the requirements before, but now that the organisation's entry rules are more inclusive, I had no excuse not to enter. Together with Miss South Africa platform, I want to be at the forefront of fighting against social injustices and celebrate one another for our authenticity and individualities.

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

My biggest disappointment was not enrolling in my first year of university the year after matriculating. I felt embarrassed knowing I was on an extended programme instead of doing my first year like the rest of my peers. I viewed this as such a setback and thought that I was a failure. Looking back a year later I realised the benefits of doing the extended programme and now I cannot believe I felt as though my world was ending.

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

The lack of opportunities presented to them to help nurture their talent and improve their skills. We face huge unemployment in this country and it's only getting worse. Another problem that the youth is facing is comparisons against each other and seeking approval on social media. This makes others feel as though they are behind and it's too late to pursue what they want to achieve in life.

Who are your role models?

Bonang Matheba. She dared to live out her wildest dreams and did not let other people's opinions discourage her. She showed me that it takes hard work and dedication to make your dreams come true and having witnessed her do it makes it attainable for us too.

Tell us a bit more about your family?

I live with my mother and grandmother. My grandmother has three daughters who each have one daughter making us a household of women. My older aunt is a primary school teacher and her daughter is 14 years, my mom is an entrepreneur and my younger aunt is a high school teacher and her daughter is 27-years-old.

What do you do in your spare time?

When I'm not catching up on my reading, I love spending time working on improving my make-up skills.

What is your single biggest achievement?

My biggest achievement has been putting myself out there and not letting fear and self-doubt hold me back. This happened when I entered my first pageant, Miss Free State. Deciding to embark on that journey has led me to uncover so much about myself and tap into my true potential and has given me the courage to enter Miss South Africa.

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

Pageants remain relevant because not only do they focus on beauty, but they also encourage community upliftment. This platform empowers women to focus on their causes and use their voices to bring about change and awareness. People who say pageantry degrades women are wrong. Pageants allow women to step into their true potential and use their power and voices to bring positive change, not only in their lives, but also in the lives of those around them. They teach self-confidence and how to use this platform for good.

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

To continue even when they feel fear. I want to dare them go after their hopes and dreams and be the change they wish to see. I'm not saying fear won't be there, but let it not stand in the way of you working towards being the best version you envision for yourself.

What do you love about South Africa?

I love the different cultures we have and how we embrace our diversity and pride ourselves in being called the Rainbow Nation.

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

We don't treat each other equally and we don't always see each other as one. I want to change the social injustices we face as a nation and encourage people to see each other as equals rather than inferior.

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?

This global pandemic has slowed things down and made us put things into perspective. We've learned to be more grateful for those around us and living more in the present because tomorrow isn't guaranteed.

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 Khanyi Dhlomo. She's been such an inspiration and witnessing her working towards a vision she had for herself and making it come true is proof that we truly can do anything we put our minds to as long as we can see it and believe we can do it. I'd love to explore her views on females being treated as inferior in the corporate environment, whether she has experienced it and how she dealt with it and overcame it.

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

Growing up I felt very insecure about my height.

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

Stop worrying so much about what the future holds. Trust that what's for you will always find you.

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS

Describe yourself in three words:

Tall, mindful, compassionate

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

Do you, for you.

Who's your favourite designer and why?

Zuhair Murad. His designs always capture one's eye and he makes breath-taking garments of which I can envision myself wearing almost each and every one of them. His designs embody femininity, regal and boldness all at the same time

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

Handbags.

What would be your dream holiday?

A two week stay in Santorini, Greece.

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

To teleport.

What are you reading?

Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichi.

What music are you listening to?

Mostly Amapiano and some Afro Pop.

What are your favourite TV shows?

Friends re-runs and *All American*.

What is your favourite meal?

My aunt's signature lasagne.

Who is your local and international celeb crush?

Local is Skhumbuzo Radebe from the House Music DJ Duo, Lemon & Herb and international is Jay Ellis.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Dark chocolate brownies from Woolworths.

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