

TSHEGOFATSO MOLEFE – KESTELL, FREE STATE

Name: Tshegofatso Molefe

Region: I come from Kestell in the Free State although I currently live in Maritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal.

Age: 26 (February 3, 1995)

Occupation:

I hold an LLB degree from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. I have also completed one year of my Masters in Advanced Criminal Justice. However, I had to take a break to go work as a criminal law defence candidate attorney at Legal Aid South Africa for the past two years. I'm now currently awaiting to be admitted as an attorney of the High Court.



Previous beauty competitions or pageants you have entered:

Miss Pietermaritzburg 2014; Miss Mamelodi Sundowns Free State 2019/2020

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

I entered Miss South Africa because I see value where the Miss South Africa Organisation sees value. I'm passionate about my country and its people. I wear my heart on my sleeve when it comes to the office of justice and the people who seek refuge from it. I believe this is my greatest contribution to society on a daily basis and a platform such as Miss South Africa will allow me to share my truth and to inspire others.

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

My biggest disappointment was when I completed my degree and the National Prosecuting Authority simultaneously closed its aspirant prosecutor programme due to lack of funds. The reason I went to law school was to graduate and practice as a Public Prosecutor. After this disappointment I decided to register for my Masters in Advanced Criminal Justice and I took on an offer to work as a criminal defence candidate attorney at Legal Aid South Africa to be able to accumulate the years required to qualify as a public prosecutor. Those two years taught me a great deal of diligence. That one can be diligent even in an environment you had no intention to be in if your eyes remain on the ball. A month ago, I was invited to my first public prosecutor interview and I'm currently awaiting feedback.

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

Lack of purpose. The youth of South Africa fails to realise its potential. We see an individual becoming an influencer or dancer and we all want to do that, forgetting that each and every one of us has a purpose and a task to fulfill on earth.

Who are your role models?

Redi Thlabi and Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng. I admire their diligence and impeccable work ethic. I'm inspired by women who work relentlessly towards their dreams. Women who refuse to be captive of the environment they first came into.

Tell us a bit more about your family?

I'm an only child. My father passed away from leukaemia when I was seven years old. My mother, Motlatsi, is a retired teacher who now enjoys working in her garden and baking. I'm very close to my cousins and we consider each other siblings.

What do you do in your spare time?

I read and sleep.

What is your single biggest achievement?

My single biggest achievement has been discovering my purpose which has made it so easy for me to navigate through life. In a world that has so much to offer, I know which table to sit at and which not to. I know which opportunities are for me to take and which ones are not. I do not compete, but I live to impact.

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

I believe that as much as beauty pageants celebrate the beauty of women, they also empower women mentally, financially and emotionally. They better the livelihoods of women. Women are heard and seen on pageantry platforms. They are able to impact and bring about change in societies.

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

The world is your oyster. Professor Mamokgethi once said: "We are the ones we have been waiting for." The youth of today has access to innovative resources that enable them to empower themselves and bring about tangible change in their societies. Globalisation has completely changed the way we interact with one another and allows us to share knowledge and ideas. There is a purpose for each and everyone of us. I believe in the potential of our youth to change the narrative.

What do you love about South Africa?

I love the food. We are a melting pot of different cultures and that includes amazing dishes. From bobotie to malamogodu.

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

The racism.

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?

Yes. A lot of people have started their own businesses and others have perfected their culinary skills. We have become more compassionate and grateful for life.

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

Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng. I admire her work ethic and passion for the youth.

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

I used to catch birds as a child and roast them before eating them. I don't know why I did that.

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

Find your highest calling which is self. Know yourself and be comfortable with who you are.

QUICKFIRE QUESTIONS**Describe yourself in three words:**

Bubbly. Diligent. Passionate.

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

Give it your best.

Who's your favourite designer and why?

Mamoruti. A local designer who is able to bring to life any outfit I have in mind. She even designed my entry video dress.

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

Shoes.

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

That I'm very loud.

What would be your dream holiday?

Tibet.

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

To be able to fly.

What are you reading?

Francine Rivers – *The Scarlet Thread*.

What music are you listening to?

Maskandi.

What are your favourite TV shows?

7de Laan, Mamazala, MasterChef Australia.

What is your favourite meal?

Pap and malamogodu.

Who is your local and international celeb crush?

Local is Thapelo Mokoena and international is Angelina Jolie.

What's your guilty pleasure?

Buying books.

Social media tags:

- Instagram: tshego_mogatla
- Twitter: tshego_mogatla