

MAKOYA

AUGUST 2019 | SPECIAL EDITION



CELEBRATING

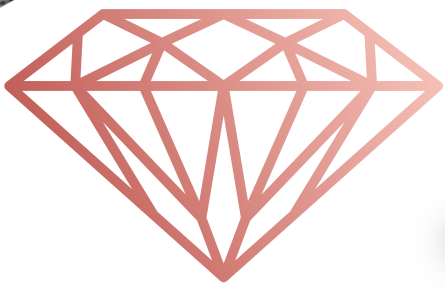
Women's
MONTH

#FemicideMustFall

UMALUSI



Council for Quality Assurance in
General and Further Education and Training



Umalusi women: Shining bright like a diamond





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Editor's Note

Kgaugelo Sekokotla

It gives me great pleasure to bring you this special edition of Makoya, in honour of our female colleagues and, by extension, in celebration of Women's Month, August, and the public holiday that commemorates the famous 1956 march of 20 000 women in protest against pass laws. Throughout history, women have fought against inequality and discrimination and have been sidelined on the grounds of their gender. But women have continued fighting for the betterment of our society.

On a separate note, I would like to congratulate our national netball team, the 'Spar Proteas', on finishing 4th in the 15th competition of the Netball World Cup, which was held from 12–21 July 2019 in Liverpool, England. We are proud of our women for representing our country well. This success is one of many exhibitions of excellence by women in South Africa. The Umalusi family wishes all the women in our country a blessed and a wonderful Women's Month.

“No country can ever truly flourish if it stifles the potential of its women and deprives itself of the contributions of half of its citizens”.

Michelle Obama



From the CEO's Desk

Dr Mafu Rakometsi

A special greeting to all our women!

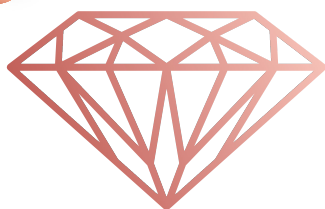
Umalusi management strives to create an environment that enables our female colleagues to innovate, make a difference and impact our nation. Umalusi will do everything possible to ensure that the women in our organisation take their rightful, equal place in contributing towards the attainment of the Council's strategic outcomes. We recognise the contribution of our female colleagues. As a people, we have come a long way in the fight for gender balance in our country.

We know the benefits of diverse representation in the workplace; and that a gender-diverse workplace fosters creativity and innovation. We recognise, too, the emotional intelligence that women bring to the table.

Thank you to all the wonderful women in the Umalusi family!

Happy Women's Month!

Wathint'Abafazi Wathint'imbokodo!



Phenomenal Woman

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size
But when I start to tell them,
They think I'm telling lies.
I say, It's in the reach of my arms
The span of my hips,
The stride of my step,
The curl of my lips.
I'm a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That's me. I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please,
And to a man,
The fellows stand or
Fall down on their knees.
Then they swarm around me,
A hive of honey bees.
I say, It's the fire in my eyes,
And the flash of my teeth,
The swing in my waist,
And the joy in my feet. I'm a woman
Phenomenally. Phenomenal woman,
That's me. Men themselves have wondered
What they see in me. They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery.
When I try to show them
They say they still can't see.
I say, It's in the arch of my back,
The sun of my smile,
The ride of my breasts, The grace of my style.
I'm a woman Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman, That's me. Now you understand
Just why my head's not bowed.
I don't shout or jump about
Or have to talk real loud.
When you see me passing It ought to make you proud.
I say, It's in the click of my heels,
The bend of my hair, the palm of my hand,
The need of my care,
'Cause I'm a woman Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman, That's me.

Maya Angelou



Marisa du Toit

**Senior Manager:
Quality Assurance of Assessment:
Post-School Qualifications
(QAA: PSQ Unit)**

1. Tell us about yourself?

I was born in Pretoria, matriculated at the Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool, Pretoria, and studied at the University of Pretoria. My mother advised me to do a post-graduate diploma in education – which I only did in my early thirties.

The money spent on this diploma as well as the money spent on a typing course are some of the best investments that I made in my life. I am very passionate about community development, education and training and exploring new places. My hobbies include, amongst others, traditional embroidery, reading, entertaining and hiking.

2. What does your role entail?

As the Senior Manager of the QAA: PSQ Unit, it is my responsibility to establish, maintain, improve, oversee and report on all Umalusi's post-school qualifications' functions. This is quality assurance of assessment of TVET and AET qualifications registered on the General and Further Education Quality Assurance Sub-framework (GENFETQSF). The unit currently has 10 staff members. I provide guidance to the unit through the managers of the TVET and AET sub-units. I also provide input and write reports, policies and other documents, as well as lead and serve on committees that strive to improve education in the post-school sector.

3. How does your work and the role of your unit contribute to the overall work of the organisation?

The staff of the QAA: PSQ Unit strives to continuously improve the standards and quality of assessment in the AET and TVET sectors. These sectors are, to a large extent, neglected, but they should play an important role in much-needed skills development in South Africa. The unit plans and executes a series of different quality assurance of assessment processes and reports the findings to the Executive Committee of Council (EXCO) and the assessment bodies. Based on the findings, the EXCO will approve or not approve the release of results of the qualifications that are certified by Umalusi.

4. How has your experience working for Umalusi been so far?

I joined Umalusi on 1 August 2003 and I am, therefore, one of the longest serving staff members. Umalusi has changed substantially through the years. I am very thankful for the wonderful opportunities I have had, such as a study visit to Britain (arranged by the British Council), attending an assessment course at Cambridge University and attending several conferences and seminars. Also, in terms of promotions, I started as an assistant manager and was promoted to manager and then to senior manager positions.

5. The month of August is dedicated to honouring and celebrating women in our country. To this end, what message would you like to share with women at Umalusi and the rest of the country?

Be strong; make the best use of every opportunity. Trust God as He will never fail you and never abandon you. And, something that I learned from my father: "Werp jou brood op die water, dan kry jy dit in toebroodjie vorm terug".



"Werp jou brood op die water, dan kry jy dit in toebroodjie vorm terug."

My absolute favourite:

Music: Classical

Food: Fruit and trying out new food products

Drink: Water

Colour: Blue

Sports and team I support: Athletics

Book: Too many – a book I read recently that I enjoyed:

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Motto in life: Contentment is not getting what we want, but being satisfied with what we have.





Mary-Louise Madalane

**Senior Manager:
Quality Assurance of Assessment:
School Qualifications (QAA: SQ)**

1. Tell us about yourself?

Born in Pretoria, in Lady Selborne in the 50s. I was second-born in a family of three children. I taught for 21 years before joining Umalusi in 2004. Prior to 2004 I was involved with Umalusi as a moderator for GETC Mathematics and Life Orientation.

In 2004 I was appointed Assistant Manager: QAA: ABET. In 2006 I was appointed Assistant Manager: Evaluation and Accreditation (E&A): ABET, a post I held for two years. In 2008 I was promoted to Manager: E&A: ABET. With the reconfiguration of the E&A Unit in 2013 I became manager for the newly formed sub-unit, Accreditation and Coordination. In 2015 I was appointed Senior Manager: E&A and, in 2017, I was transferred to my home unit, QAA, as a Senior Manager for the School Qualifications Unit.

2. What does your role entail?

My role entails managing all the quality assurance of assessment processes related to the national certificate assessments and examinations for the Department of Basic Education (DBE), South African Comprehensive Assessment Agency (SACAI) and the Independent Examinations Board (IEB).

3. How does your work and the role of your unit contribute to the overall work of the organisation?

Umalusi is mandated to quality assure qualifications on the GENFETQSF. Quality assurance of assessment is one of the strategies Umalusi employs to quality assure the qualifications. The work of the QAA teams informs the Umalusi EXCO on the findings of the different processes. This data is used to either approve, or not approve, the results of particular examinations, as presented by the different assessment bodies.

4. How has your experience working for Umalusi been so far?

Every day of the 15 years I have spent at Umalusi has been a day filled with new experiences. I have learned a lot about education and even more about life.

When I joined Umalusi I was employee number 20 or so. You can imagine how many more fellow employees I have interacted with ever since. Each one has made an impression in their own unique way. Umalusi has taught me lessons I will cherish for a very long time.



“Live your life in such a way that when you reach your future you do not have your past to blame.”

5. The month of August is dedicated to honouring and celebrating women in our country. To this end, what message would you like to share with women at Umalusi and the rest of the country?

Every woman must be an agent of change, no matter how small that change may be. The important thing is to pick up at least one person as you move along in life. It can be done in small packages. One can join a church group, where you will pray together and pray for those who need prayers, join a parent-teacher association, or a cancer awareness group, or give a few minutes of your time to a charity organisation, perhaps an elderly person at an old age home whose sight is failing would appreciate you reading a few stories.

These little things will help you define yourself. Along this path you will find what inspires you and, step-by-step, you will get there.

My absolute favourite:

Music: R&B, Pop and Soul.

Food: Rice, chicken and gravy

Drink: Gin and tonic as well as pure mango and orange fruit juice

Colour: Black and white

Sports and team I support: Soccer – Mamelodi Sundowns and Manchester United

Book: *Some Things Are Better Left Unsaid*, by Erni Johnson

I encourage every woman to have a copy of *“the Precious Little Black Book- A Resource Guide for Women Across South Africa”* Published by Motsepe foundation

Motto in life: “Live your life in such a way that when you



Gugu Chili

**Administrative Assistant
Evaluation and Accreditation:
Schools (E&A: Schools)**

1. Tell us about yourself?

I am Gugu Chili; I was born and bred in Tweefontein "K" KwaMhlanga, Mpumalanga. I am an Admin Assistant at Umalusi, in the E&A: Schools sub-unit.

I hold a Diploma in Financial Management and I am doing my Bachelor degree in Business and Administration through the University of South Africa (Unisa). I am very friendly; I can be loud, and sometimes shy. I am an ambitious, goal-orientated and career-driven young lady, passionate about learning new things. I love singing – but don't have a melodic voice – I love cycling, hiking and farming. So help me God, I want to be a farmer one day.

2. What does your role entail?

I handle the administrative demands of the E&A: Schools sub-unit.

3. How does your work and the role of your unit contribute to the overall work of the organisation?

My role is to give our assistant manager and manager support in the unit. I am responsible for travel arrangements when they conduct site visits and I prepare booklets and claim forms for the team going into the field. I implement the sub-unit plans and budget and report on expenditure and progress. I am also responsible for logistical arrangements for provincial education department meetings, scheduled and aligned with project plans. I also create an accurate list of all improvement and consolidated reports that are to be presented to the Accreditation Council Committee.

4. How has your experience working for Umalusi been so far?

Umalusi is a good organisation; it has its own challenges, just as every other organisation does. I have learned a lot – it was my first job, so I have gained a lot of exposure. Umalusi teaches a person to be independent. There's no time to be baby-sat; you are put in an ocean without having been taught how to swim! You might drown ...but instead emerge as a person who finds ways to do what needs to be done.

5. The month of August is dedicated to honouring and celebrating women in our country. To this end, what message would you like to share with women at Umalusi and the rest of the country?

You can do almost anything you put your mind to. You can swim the deepest ocean and climb the highest peak. You can face adversity and still walk, dauntless. You are strong, beautiful and compassionate, much more than words can ever say. 1 Corinthians 10:13 is my bible verse to you. Happy Women's Month!



"The most important thing in life is knowing the most important things in life."

My absolute favourite:

Music: Gospel and Classic – music heals my soul

Food: Mince and spaghetti with cheese

Drink: Passion fruit and lemonade

Colour: Red

Sports and team I support: Soccer – Kaizer Chiefs and Manchester United

Book: *Healing the Soul of a Woman*, by Joyce Meyer

Motto in life: The most important thing in life is ... knowing the most important things in life.





Pinky Pule

Housekeeping
Corporate Services Branch

1. Tell us about yourself?

I grew up in Mamelodi and I am blessed with five beautiful children and four grandchildren.

2. What does your role entail?

I am part of the Corporate Services Unit and my role involves offering housekeeping support to the Umalusi family. This involves ensuring that our kitchens are hygienic and that whenever staff have both internal and external meetings, boardrooms are ready and replenished with refreshments, and cutlery and crockery are clean.

3. How has your experience working for Umalusi been so far?

My experience has been fruitful. I have met different people from various walks of life and I have learned a lot from different people.

4. The month of August is dedicated to honouring and celebrating women in our country. To this end, what message would you like to share with women at Umalusi and the rest of the country?

As women we need to be more accepting and tolerant of each other's backgrounds in order to foster relationships that would be beneficial for us all. Unfortunately, as women we are not supportive of one another, which in turn strains us; not only in the work environment but also in our personal lives. Women should come together, if not for our sake then for the sake of the next generation of young ladies and future Umalusi employees.

My absolute favourite:

Music: R&B and Jazz

Food: Fish biryani

Drink: Soft drinks

Colour: Red

Sports and team I support: Soccer - Mamelodi Sundowns

Book: *I Write What I Like*, by Steve Biko

Motto in life: Less is more; happiness is a place between worrying about having too little and too much.



“Less is more; happiness is a place between worrying about having too little and too much.”



Grace Khokela

**Administrative Assistant
Evaluation & Accreditation (E&A) Unit**

1. Tell us about yourself?

Humble, down-to-earth woman who fears God deeply.

2. What does your role entail?

To provide support to my supervisor and the sub-unit, including clerical tasks such as assisting with the monthly plan and progress reports, statistics, bookings, monitoring budget expenditure and preparing and finalising submissions and official correspondence for the appropriate signatures. I also support the implementation of the operational plan of the unit and the sub-unit, among other matters.

3. How does your work and the role of your unit contribute to the overall work of the organisation?

By working effectively with my colleagues.

4. How has your experience working for Umalusi been so far?

My experience at Umalusi has been great so far. I have been able to learn a lot in a fast-paced environment. It's a great place to work, evolve and grow professionally, both short-term and long-term.

5. The month of August is dedicated to honouring and celebrating women in our country. To this end, what message would you like to share with women at Umalusi and the rest of the country

What I can share with the women at Umalusi and the rest of the country are two verses: Proverbs 31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue; and Psalm 111:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

My absolute favourite:

Music: Gospel and Soul

Food: Mutton stew and samp

Drink: Grapetiser

Colour: Turquoise/green

Sports and team I support: Soccer – Orlando Pirates

Book: *Knowing God Intimately*, by Joyce Meyer

Motto in life: *When you are tempted to give up, your breakthrough is probably just around the corner,*



“When you are tempted to give up, your breakthrough is probably just around the corner.”





Contact us

Umalusi House
37 General Van Ryneveld Street, Persequor Technopark, Pretoria
PO Box 151 Persequor Technopark, Pretoria 0020

Tel: +27(12) 349 1410
Fax : +27(12) 349 1511

Email: info@umalusi.org.za
Web: www.umalusi.org.za
Anti-fraud Hotline: 17737

 UmalusiSA  @UmalusiSA

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