

Makoyda

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A Tribute to Peliwe Lolwana



06

Peliwe Lolwana ensured that Umalusi remains an independent quality council

08

Peliwe Lolwana laid the foundation to bring the mandate of the QCTO to life

10

SAQA CEO's Tribute to Peliwe Lolwana

UMALUSI



Quality Council for General and Further Education and Training

Contents

- 03** **Guest Editor**
Ms Nthabiseng Khotlele
-
- 04** **Message from the minister**
Ms Angie Motsheka MP
-
- 06** **Peliwe Lolwana ensured that Umalusi remains an independent quality council**
Dr Mafu Rakometsi
-
- 08** **Peliwe Lolwana laid the foundation to bring the mandate of the QCTO to life**
Mr Vijayen Naidoo
-
- 10** **SAQA CEO's Tribute to Peliwe Lolwana**
Ms Nadia Starr
-
- 12** **Peliwe Lolwana: A strategic thinker, a teacher, a mentor par excellence**
Ms Confidence Dikgole
-
- 14** **Peliwe Lolwana's leadership prowess**
Mr Biki Lepota
-
- 16** **Life Lessons from my mother**
Ms Kungeka Lolwana
-
- 18** **AEAA EXCO satisfied with Umalusi's preparations for the 40th Conference**
Ms Lebohang Mafereka
-
- 19** **Peliwe Lolwana's time at Umalusi**
-

FROM THE GUEST EDITOR



Ms Nthabiseng Khotlele
Manager: Public Relations and Communications,
Umalusi

Dear NQF family members,

Peliwe Lolwana, the matriarch of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) family, departed this world on 18 December 2023.

She departed 24 days after she had been to Umalusi on 24 November 2023 to give a memorable tribute speech at a memorial lecture organised in honour of her South African Certification Council (SAFCERT) predecessor, Dr Fred Calitz. Little did we know that she had come to bid us goodbye.

Given her immeasurable contribution to the NQF space, Umalusi decided to dedicate space in this edition of the newsletter for her former colleagues to pay tribute to her. Reading every one of the seven tributary messages, I am sure you will agree that the theme that connects the messages is:

“transformational leader”. The contributions were all delivered during Peliwe Lolwana’s memorial lecture, held on 20 January 2024 at the University of the Witwatersrand. Like the thread in a tapestry, the theme has spun through and connected every one of the contributions.

The last contribution in this issue is a brief report on Umalusi’s state of readiness to host the 40th Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) Conference in August 2024. This is an amazing coincidence in that, in August 2003, Umalusi, under the leadership of Peliwe Lolwana, organised the 21st AEAA Conference in Cape Town. The 21st conference took place during the 40th anniversary of the Organisation for African Unity (OAU).

The 40th AEAA Conference is a golden opportunity to bid farewell to Peliwe Lolwana in a befitting manner by rethinking and reinterpreting the ways in which the education system can be propelled forward in the context of current realities.

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



Ms Angie Motshekga, MP **Minister of Basic Education**

The Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga, has noted, with a deep sense of sadness, the sudden passing of Prof Peliwe Lolwana, who contributed significantly to education in this country.

Prof Lolwana served in various leadership roles in the education field, but her most significant role would be the transformation of the South African Certification Council to the Quality Assurance Council, Umalusi, in 2002. In 1992, the need to centralise the certification process across the 19 former departments was mooted. This resulted in the establishment of the South African Certification Council (SAFCERT). Prof Lolwana was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SAFCERT in 2000. She succeeded the outgoing CEO, Prof Fred Calitz. Prof Lolwana was tasked with the responsibility of transforming this pre-democratic structure into a Quality Assurance Council that would take responsibility for the quality of education after 13 years of schooling.

Prof Lolwana must be applauded for having painstakingly studied the SAFCERT processes. She did not haphazardly dismantle them, but built on their strengths.

Her foresight and meticulous objectivity resulted in Umalusi today confidently standing on the fundamental quality assurance pillars of the moderation, monitoring and standardisation of examination results. In addition to being elements of the SAFCERT model, she harnessed and aligned them to the national imperatives of quality education in a post-apartheid society.

Prof Lolwana was appointed CEO of Umalusi in 2002. She is credited for putting in place the legislative processes and procedures for Umalusi to operate; thus entrenching Umalusi's central role in the national education landscape. In fact, the name Umalusi refers to the shepherd or the custodian of the nation's most treasured assets. The standards of general and further education and training were formulated and subsequently adopted by the Umalusi Council based on the initiative of Prof Lolwana.

She retired from Umalusi in 2008, but continued to serve in various leadership roles as the Chairperson of the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO). At the time of her death, she was serving as the Chairperson of the Board of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

She also served as the Director of the Centre for Researching Education and Labour (REAL), an institution that is part of the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), and continued to serve as

a visiting associate professor of the Wits School of Education. She has written and published in the areas of assessment, vocational education, skills development and post-school education.

On behalf of the basic education sector, I extend our sincere condolences to the Lolwana family and to all her colleagues and associates that mourn her death.

Prof Lolwana will be remembered for her passion and commitment to quality education and for her dedication to research in education. She will be sadly missed by all those who were beneficiaries of her knowledge and wisdom.



PELIWE LOLWANA ENSURED THAT UMALUSI REMAINS AN INDEPENDENT QUALITY COUNCIL



Dr Mafu S Rakometsi
Chief Executive Officer
Umalusi

The passing of Prof Peliwe Lolwana has sent shockwaves through the assessment and quality assurance communities in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region, on the continent and internationally; notably in the regional structure of the examination councils on the continent, the Southern Africa Association for Educational Assessment (SAAEA); the African assessment chapter, the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA); and the international assessment chapter, the International Association for Educational Assessment (IAEA). Each member of these associations has expressed shock at the loss of the matriarch of the assessment and quality assurance family.

Umalusi does not hesitate to state that Prof Lolwana was a real visionary.

She played a transformational role by shaping the form and focus of all the organisations that she was assigned the responsibility of leading.

She served as an important bridge or pillar between the old and the new education dispensations in South Africa.

As the founding Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Umalusi, Prof Lolwana ensured the development of quality assurance frameworks and policies to guide Umalusi in the delivery of its legislative mandate. She did that in support of South Africa's educational transformation agenda.

The highlight of Prof Lolwana's eight-year tenure as the CEO of Umalusi is the setting up of frameworks and systems for the following:

- Monitoring the standards and adequacy of qualifications;
- The accreditation of institutions;
- The quality assurance of the General Education and Training Certificate (GETC);
- The assessment and examining of learners, both in public and private institutions, through a common standard; and
- The transformation of Umalusi into a research-based organisation.

Prof Lolwana played a crucial role in ensuring that Umalusi remains an independent Quality Council.

To cite one example, she ensured that Umalusi had the full ownership of the standardisation meetings and associated processes. Today, Umalusi enjoys a high degree of autonomy that has been achieved over many years by commanding the respect of all stakeholders.

Prof Lolwana had a passion for the adult education and training space.

In this regard, she played a critical role in the conceptualisation of the National Senior Certificate for Adults (NASCA). Sadly, the adult learners of our country are yet to be given the opportunity to study towards the NASCA.

The greatest service we can do in her honour is to ensure that this project reaches its logical conclusion in order to bridge the gap in adult illiteracy.

Another noteworthy achievement is that Prof Lolwana oversaw the purchase of the Umalusi Building for R18 million in 2003 during the infancy stages of the organisation.

When I took over from Prof Lolwana in January 2009, after she had served from 2002 until her retirement at the end of 2008, I experienced that she had built a solid organisation on various fronts.

The name Peliwe Lolwana is synonymous with the establishment of Umalusi. Her name is closely associated with “assessment” and “quality assurance” in South Africa. We state without hesitation that each and every village, township, town and city in South Africa is clad in a certificate that bears Peliwe Lolwana’s signature.

It was during her tenure as CEO of Umalusi that the organisation issued, under her signature, over three million certificates to qualifying learners. Of those, 73% were for the Senior Certificate (SC), which was replaced by the National Senior Certificate (NSC) in 2008. Based on that, Prof Lolwana coined her favourite mantra: “For a person to prove that they are a true South African, they need to have two documents: a matric certificate and an identity document.”

Although she reached her statutory retirement age over 15 years ago, Prof Lolwana continued to serve her own country within the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) space. She was indeed the NQF family’s matriarch.

As the CEO of Umalusi, Prof Lolwana wrote on page 12 of the 2002/03 Annual Report that “...Umalusi

must be given a chance to grow...build sufficient competences and act on its mandate before any re-arrangement is considered”. We commit ourselves to ensuring that Umalusi remains a trusted authority in fostering high education standards.

Undoubtedly, Prof Lolwana was counted among the great South Africans. Her greatness was demonstrated by the decision taken by Umalusi and the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) to move the date for the standardisation of the NSC and GETC examination results from 22 December to a later date.

That was done to allow the NQF community members to pay their last respects on the day of her funeral, 22 December 2023. That had to be done to honour the immeasurable contribution she had made to the education and training system of South Africa.

Umalusi was privileged to spend the whole afternoon with Prof Lolwana on Friday, 24 November 2023. She had come at Umalusi’s invitation to give a memorable tribute speech at a memorial lecture and roundtable discussion organised in honour of the late Dr Fred Calitz, her SAFCERT predecessor. Little did we know that she had come to say goodbye to all of us. She left us with the challenge of properly documenting the history of Umalusi’s predecessors, SAFCERT, and, of course, the Joint Matriculation Board (JMB).

Prof Lolwana’s name and character are in the very DNA of assessment and quality assurance.

Just like us today, future generations will enjoy the benefits of her work. We thank the Lolwana family and friends for allowing Prof Lolwana to dedicate her whole life to shaping our understanding of what it means to be in the education and training system. She has served her country diligently.



Peliwe Lolwana laid the foundation to bring the mandate of the QCTO to life



Mr Vijayen Naidoo
Chief Executive Officer
Quality Council for Trades and Occupations

I am indeed humbled to stand before you today to convey, on behalf of the management and staff of the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO), as well as my family, our sincere condolences on the passing of Prof Lolwana. I am humbled because, had it not been for Prof Lolwana's trust, confidence and unwavering support throughout a major part of my personal trajectory in education and training, it is very unlikely that I would be the one standing here as CEO of the QCTO.

I am fortunate to have been mentored by someone of the calibre of Prof Lolwana, whom I will always fondly remember as a rare combination of an academic, a pragmatist and a social scientist, who critically applied her mind to our country's policies, systems and structures through the lens of social justice for the people of our beloved country.

She was always ready to travel the less popular road and speak her mind without fear or favour ... sometimes even revealing her mind on her signature T shirts. I had the pleasure of working under Prof Lolwana both at Umalusi and at the QCTO.

The first Council of the QCTO was appointed in 2010. Prof Lolwana was appointed as the Chairperson in September 2011 and continued in this role until the end of the Council's second term in March 2020 coinciding with the QCTO's 10th anniversary. During the first few years, the QCTO was incubated within the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). During this time, Prof Lolwana focused on laying the foundation for a sustainable organisation and developing policies and guidelines to bring the mandate of the QCTO to life. This culminated in the QCTO weaning itself from the DHET and moving to its own premises at the end of 2013. It was also in 2014 that the first Occupational Qualification Sub-framework (OQSF) was gazetted. This heralded a new beginning in occupational training and skills development, in particular. Her primary focus was to consolidate the education and training quality assurance (ETQA) work previously undertaken by the sector education and training authorities (SETAs). To drive this agenda forward, Prof Lolwana initiated Vision 2020, the implementation of which would allow the QCTO to be the owner of the intellectual rights associated with occupational qualifications development, quality assurance and certification. Unfortunately, this has to date been only partly achieved due to funding constraints.

I was appointed as CEO in June 2017. Together with Prof Lolwana, we immediately commenced with a revision of the OQSF, which was

subsequently gazetted by the Honourable Minister Nzimande in August 2021. The QCTO launched this qualifications framework, dubbed the game changer, on 9 March 2023. The game changer is set to reimagine the post-school education and training sector. As a representative of the QCTO, I am committing to the full implementation of the framework, as it will go a long way to addressing the many issues that Prof Lolwana, and indeed our education and training system, have been grappling with and seek to address – issues of access articulation and mobility employment and/or self-employment. As I mentioned at the funeral, the name “game changer” is so apt to Prof Lolwana, as she was truly a game changer.

The trajectory for the QCTO is set and the architect is Prof Lolwana. Those to follow will have to engineer and reengineer to fulfil the architect's design.

Over the years, I have become used to bouncing ideas off Prof Lolwana. If you wanted an honest

and open view, she was the go-to person as she always had enough information at her disposal to direct you. She always held the inside lane. Our last one-on-one meeting took place at Jackson's Kyalami Corner, around the corner from her home, on 30 August 2023. In true Peliwe style, I got more than I bargained for. I certainly got some clarity, but also a whole lot more to think about. One of the issues she raised was a concern regarding our community education and training colleges, and one particular site in the Eastern Cape. She understood why the QCTO could not accredit that site, but her plea to me was how the QCTO could help. In remembrance of her legacy and contribution, the QCTO commits to ensuring that the vision she held for this particular community college will be fulfilled.

Her voice may have gone silent, but this silent voice shall forever resonate in the ears of our conscience.

A better life for all!



SAQA CEO's Tribute to Prof Peliwe Penelope Lolwana



Ms Nadia Starr
Chief Executive Officer
South African Qualifications Authority

Prof Peliwe Penelope Lolwana (formerly Somyalo) passed away in Midrand on 18 December 2023. She had recently retired as the founding Director of the Centre for Education, Research and Labour (REAL) at the University of the Witwatersrand. She was also the Chairperson of the Board of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), as well as many other education entities of national importance.

Born and raised in Balasi, Qumbu, in the Eastern Cape, she obtained her teaching qualification from Shawbury Teacher Training School and later earned a BA degree from the University of Transkei. In 1984, she was granted a Fulbright Scholarship to pursue a master's degree at the USA's Amhurst University. Following the completion of her master's degree, she furthered her academic achievements by obtaining a PhD in Psychology, becoming a qualified counselling psychologist.

Prof Lolwana played a pivotal role in shaping and reshaping the South African education policy and landscape. This was particularly evident in her contributions to the National Qualifications Framework (NQF) and her leadership roles at Umalusi, the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) and SAQA. In her most recent efforts, she spearheaded a crucial initiative

to review the NQF, challenging academics and senior administrators to reflect critically and deeply on the education ecosystem and its impact. Her resounding challenge was always that the work would be done when "people in her village knew and were positively impacted by the NQF".

Describing her mother, Leslie Lolwana shared: "My mother was adventurous and enjoyed travelling with her family, visiting every continent except Antarctica. Despite her prominent status, she remained a simple person, preferring traditional food and avoiding formality in her attire. She danced to her own rhythm."

The CEO of SAQA reflected that "Prof Lolwana was a unique blend of esteemed academic and visionary policy maker. She was a trailblazer who was never afraid to raise her voice to challenge the failures of the system and equally always open to hearing the voices of those with alternative views and well-conceived arguments. She shall be sorely missed for her intellect, generosity and sharp wit."

The Chairperson of the Council on Higher Education (CHE) added, "Peliwe was an academic par excellence, with a sharp mind, an incisive thinker, capable of injecting robust, critical views into education debates and discussions, without fear or favour, and always in the interest of building our society and the people of South Africa for whom she displayed enormous love."

Prof Lolwana's legacy will shine long and bright based on her unwavering dedication to closing the divide between higher education and the professional realm, her outspokenness and capacity to speak truth to power, and her commitment to research in the fields of education and labour.

Prof Lolwana is survived by her children, Kungeka, Sanelisiwe and Sivene, as well as five grandchildren, Bahle, Bathandwa, Lilitha, Zanovuyo and Zuko.



Peliwe Lolwana: A strategic thinker, a teacher, a mentor par excellence



Ms Confidence Dikgole
Chief Executive Officer
Independent Examination Board

I met Prof Lolwana 23 years ago, in 2000, when I arrived for a job interview at the South African Certification Council (SACERT), now known as Umalusi. I was interviewed by Prof Lolwana and another person, and I was offered a job as assessment coordinator. This was the beginning of an invaluable journey in my career: an experience I will forever be grateful for; the privilege and honour of learning, being mentored by, and gaining insights from Prof Lolwana. These are experiences that transcend traditional education; rich lessons that no university can ever teach you.

During her tenure as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Umalusi, Prof Lolwana established a culture of learning and deep meaningful engagements.

She hosted what was termed “quality promotion” meetings for managers from all the relevant departments within Umalusi. She would share a relevant and thought-provoking article on quality assurance, assessment or education broadly. We would be expected to have read it prior to the meeting so that we could contribute to the discussion. At that time, this felt like torture, and we would often dread those meetings. Upon reflection, all of us who went through that

era agree, without a shadow of a doubt, that, gruelling as those sessions were, they exposed us to deep and rich thinking on issues so pertinent to education.

After Prof Lolwana's passing was announced, every single person I spoke to who had previously worked with her expressed the same sentiment: “She taught us so much; she made us who we are.”

She was a remarkable mentor and teacher par excellence!

Prof Lolwana's contribution to the IEB

Prof Lolwana served the Independent Examinations Board (IEB) with distinction between 1993 and 1996 as Director of the Policy Research and Evaluation Unit. This was not too long after her return from the USA. She was tasked with the responsibility of coming up with transformative education policies. This is where she conceptualised the idea of community colleges for adult learners, a concept she came with from the USA where community colleges are a big thing. Community colleges in the USA offer a two-year qualification that becomes a pathway to a four-year university degree. Community colleges play an important role in preparing students for the workforce. This

was Prof Lolwana's thinking for adult learners in South Africa. The White Paper on Community Colleges was released in 2013. I have been reliably informed that, as we speak, there are roughly 51 000 learners in community colleges in South Africa.

Many of the IEB's ongoing efforts in adult assessment are rooted in the policies she developed during her tenure at the IEB.

Her passion for adult education

I used Prof Lolwana as my sounding board on a range of issues. I had a breakfast meeting with her a month before her demise. It was a great honour for me that, despite her very tight schedule, she made time for our meeting.

For the first hour of our meeting, she told me about the traditional wedding of her son Sivene that had taken place about two months prior to our meeting. She showed me pictures of the wedding and she was beaming with joy. It was so heartwarming for me to see how just talking about her son lit up her face.

The next hour and half, she told me about work she was doing with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) regarding adult education. Prof Lolwana articulated her concern about the inadequacy of the current adult education in our country. Her deep concern with the current adult education was that it is just not fit for purpose; it is not structured around the needs of adult learners, it does not prepare adult learners for the world of work. She indicated that she was working on the development of an appropriate qualification, curriculum and assessment that would ensure that adult learners are ready for the world of work upon successful completion of their qualification. This is how passionate she was about adult education.

It is my wish that the good work that Prof Lolwana pioneered and continued to advocate for, particularly in the adult education space, should not be in vain.

As the education sector continues to mourn her loss, the IEB remains steadfast in its commitment to prioritise and uphold the rigour of adult education assessment, ensuring a legacy that echoes her unwavering commitment.

Her humorous side

Prof Lolwana used to wear these outrageously confrontational T-shirts, and I cannot pay tribute to her without mentioning these.

The famous one she used to wear during her tenure at Umalusi was: "I can only see one person today

and today is not your day." We knew when she wore this T-shirt that if we were to approach her or start a conversation with her on that day, we'd be doing it at our own risk. So, we kept out of her way. When I had my breakfast meeting with her as referred to earlier, she wore a T-shirt that said: "To save time, let's just assume I know everything." Indeed, she knew everything!

Apart from her famous T-shirts, she had a way of making statements that would leave one baffled. I remember one day she walked into my office at Umalusi. I was hard at work behind my computer, and she said: "Confidence, how do you work with a scarf around your neck?" I looked at her and didn't say a word, I wouldn't dare, but in my mind I was thinking, what exactly does my scarf have to do with what I'm doing on my computer.

That was Prof Peliwe Lolwana, Sisi, as we fondly and respectfully called her, a strategic thinker, a mentor, a teacher par excellence! She will be sorely missed.



Peliwe Lolwana's Leadership Prowess



Mr Biki Lepota

Senior Manager: Public Relations and Communications, Umalusi

Prof Peliwe Lolwana served in several associations, boards, councils and foundations of education and training in South Africa, on the continent and in the Commonwealth. She played a transformational role in all the institutions she was assigned the responsibility to lead.

Serving her country through leadership roles

At the time of her departure, Prof Lolwana had just retired as a visiting associate professor at the University of the Witwatersrand's Centre for Researching Education and Labour (REAL), a position she had held since 2016. She was appointed to that position after retiring as Director of the Centre. She is highly credited for transforming the Education and Policy Unit of the University of the Witwatersrand to its current state as a research centre.

In March 2000, Prof Lolwana succeeded Dr Fred Calitz as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the South African Certification Council (SAFCERT), the forerunner to Umalusi. Thereafter, Prof Lolwana assumed the role of CEO of Umalusi in the early 2000s, a position she held until her retirement at the end of 2008.

The period before SAFCERT and Umalusi

Prof Lolwana started her career as a high school teacher at Mnceba Senior Secondary School, where she worked between 1973 and 1975. She then taught at Ngangelizwe Senior Secondary School in the Eastern Cape from 1976 to 1978. Between 1979 and 1984, she worked as a junior researcher and guidance councillor at the University of Transkei (now the Walter Sisulu University).

In 1990, she received Fulbright Scholarships to study for her master's and doctoral degrees in the USA. While in the USA, Prof Lolwana worked as a graduate assistant at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1985 and 1986, while working as a career councillor at Smith College in Northampton at the same time.

She moved on to become a psychology intern at Hathaway Children's Home in San Fernando between 1986 and 1987, and at Santa Monica's Women's Health Centre between 1987 and 1988, both in the USA. Her last assignment in a foreign country was as academic advisor and councillor at Hampshire College at Amherst from 1988 to 1990.

Upon her return to South Africa, she was appointed as a senior student councillor at the University of the Witwatersrand from 1991 to 1993. Between 1993 and 1996, she served as Director for Policy

Development at the Independent Examinations Board (IEB). She left the IEB to join the Institute for the Development of Learnerships and Assessments (INDLELA) in 1996. She transformed the organisation from its original role as the Central Organisation for Trades Testing (COTT) to INDLELA.

Serving through board membership

Prof Lolwana served as Chairperson of SAFCERT in the 1990s before the ushering in of the democratic dispensation in South Africa. At the time of her passing, she was the Chairperson of the Board of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), a position she had held since 2021. Before that, she chaired the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) between 2011 and 2020.

From 2013 to 2023, she was the Chairperson of the Council of the East Cape Midlands Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College. In 2017, she served as the Chairperson for the Ministerial Task Team on Community Education and Training Colleges.

Aside from chairing boards or councils, Prof Lolwana participated in various organisations as a board or council member. These included the boards or councils of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), the Human Resources Development Council (HRDC), the National Research Foundation (NRF), the Gauteng Premier's Advisory Council, the University of Fort Hare (UFH), the Higher Education Committee, the Ministerial Committee on Further Education and Training, and the National Education Policy Initiative (NEPI).

These boards and their entities carry the important mandate of transforming education in South Africa. In addition to that, Prof Lolwana served as a board or council member of non-governmental entities, including the Equal Education National Council, the Hotazel Manganese Mines Education Trust, the Momentum Metropolitan Insurance Foundation Board, the Buffelshoek Education Trust, the Conservation South Africa Board and the Programme to Improve Learning Outcomes (PILO).

Service to the world

Not only did Prof Lolwana serve her country, she also served the continent and the world at large.

Between 2000 and 2008, she served as the Executive Secretary of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA).

She consulted on education-related matters for international education and training organisations such as the African Bank, the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA), the Department of International Development (DfID), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education (NICHE), the Network for International Policies and Cooperation in Education and Training (NORRAG), the Dutch Organisation for Internationalisation in Education (Nuffic), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and the World Bank.

Research interests

Her particular forte was translating conceptual ideas into implementable projects, and managing different role players in achieving that same goal. She excelled in bringing together government departments, the private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), universities and communities on the community college project.

Her research interests were in the areas of youth employment, informality, skills development, vocational and adult education and assessment, quality assurance, information and communication technology (ICT) and skills development, the informal sector, agriculture and economic development, community education and post-school education.

She obtained a PhD in Psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA. She was a two-times Fulbright Scholar. Her research was sponsored by the Kellogg Foundation (in Salzburg, Austria), the Rockefeller Foundation (in Bellagio, Italy), the Ford Foundation (in Nigeria, Kenya, as well as in Egypt) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (in Argentina and in India).



Life lessons from my mother



Ms Kungeka Lolwana

When going to a funeral, please write down your speech so that you don't waste people's time waffling on and on with no end.

When you're a woman you have to work twice as hard to get half the recognition, but that doesn't mean you have to feel sorry for yourself.

Treat everyone you meet, from the cleaner to the CEO, with equal respect.

Always find time to laugh. Your infamous T-shirts are proof of that.

Travel whenever you can. Go out and see the world.
Don't be afraid to be unique. Being like everyone else is highly overrated.

Never underestimate the importance of a comfortable pair of shoes.

Grandchildren are way better than children because when you are done with them, you can take them back to their parents.

A penny earned is a penny saved.

Punctuality is never an option. Tardiness shows complete disrespect for the other person or people you are meeting. It's as if your time is more important than theirs.

Don't be afraid to stand on your own when you are on the right side of right.

Get yourself an education. It's easy to lose material things, but no one can take away your knowledge.

While climbing your ladder to success, don't forget to pull others up along the way.

Work hard and do what you can to stand on your own. As you would say when I would ask for help with something: "What attempts have you made to solve this situation before coming to me?"

Straight talk breaks no friendships.

Jeans, T-shirts and sneakers (later exchanged for Crocs) are perfectly acceptable for a CEO to wear to work. Your answer: "Is it my clothes or my brain that's doing the work?" is the right response when someone asks you about your dress code.

Your current circumstance don't define your future. You can always pull yourself out of poverty with hard work and education.

To the grandchildren, I wanted to let you know, specifically, that she was very proud of all of you and loved you very much. We had conversations about you and I can imagine her last words of advice to each of you going something like this:

- **Thabisa** – I'm proud of you. You and Lindani have done so well for yourselves and your children. More so because you did it on your own.
- **Bathandwa** – The one we call the dad. When I would tease her that the PhD bug seems to have stopped with her, she would respond with a smile: "Bathandwa is not done yet."

- **Bahle** – My son. You inherited her crazy work ethic and she definitely noticed. She would tell people that “uBahle usebenzela ukuzibulala.”
- **Lilitha** – My rose among the thorns. Your creative streak, especially in fashion, didn't go unnoticed. That's why she bought that sewing machine for you.
- **Zanovuyo** – My guy. You really do have the biggest brain in the family.
- **Zuko** – My baby boy. Zuko never stops running. She would say: “I think one day he'll join you in running those crazy marathons of yours.

That's if you're not too old by then. You're not getting any younger you know.”

Finally, thank you for being a kick-ass mother that made me the woman I am today. You become what you see. Whenever I would talk to people about you and the things you do or say, the first question I would hear is: “How old is your mother?” Having someone like you in my life made it so easy for me to believe that I can achieve and do anything.



AEAA EXCO satisfied with Umalusi's preparations for the 40th Conference

Ms Lebohang Mafereka

The Executive Committee (EXCO) of the Association for Educational Assessment in Africa (AEAA) has confirmed its satisfaction with the progress made by Umalusi in preparation for the 40th AEAA Annual Conference, which will be held at the Century City Conference Centre and Hotel in Cape Town from 19 to 23 August 2024.

During a media briefing held in Cape Town on 1 March 2024, AEAA President, Dr David Njengere, said: "Based on the report presented by Umalusi, the EXCO of AEAA is satisfied with the progress made in preparation for the conference. We have no doubt that we are going to have a memorable conference in Cape Town in August this year."

It is anticipated that the conference will attract over 300 delegates, comprising assessment specialists, university academics and scholars, educationists and policymakers from the African

continent, Australia, Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

Registration for the conference is open until 31 July 2024. Standard access is R9 250/US\$500, while premium access (which includes the excursion fee) is R11 100/US\$600.

Umalusi calls on all stakeholders in South Africa and abroad to support the conference by making it possible for the relevant officials to put together abstracts and papers for the consideration of the organising committee.

The abstracts should align with the conference theme: Reimagining educational assessment in the age of multiple dimensions of learning in a global society.

More information on the conference is available on the Umalusi website: <https://www.umalusi-online.org.za/UmalusiEvents/>



Mr Dan N. Odongo, East African Regional Representative; Dr Michael Chilala, Executive Secretary, AEAA; Dr David Njengere, President, AEAA. Dr Mafu Rakometsi, Vice President, AEAA; Prof Ifeoma Isiugo-Abanihe, West African Region Representative, National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB); Mr Baldeh Pa-Samba, Treasurer, AEAA.

PELIWE LOLWANA'S TIME AT UMALUSI



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