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Let the future be known

Excellence is a choice



1. Please tell us a bit about yourself, your background and qualifications

I am Qhamu Mazibuko, mothered by kaMagwaza Fletcher and fathered by Bheki Mazibuko whom I never got to see because heavens couldn't wait for him, but his legacy lives on through me. The name Qhamukile carries so much weight, strength and power because it means time, rules, belief systems and stereotypes became fluid for me to exist.

I matriculated at Ntongande High School, received my Teacher's Diploma at Esikhawini College of Education. From there, I never looked back. My other qualifications are as follows:

- ACE in School Management - Tshwane University of Technology,
- ACE in Mathematical Literacy - University of KwaZulu- Natal,
- ACE in Mathematics Education - UNISA,
- ACE in Mathematical Sciences – University of Stellenbosch
- Bed. Hon. in Mathematics Education – North-West University.
- MBA – MANCOSA



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I am currently registered for Masters in Education Management, Leadership and Policy through the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

2. What is your vision for Mandeni Campus?

My vision is to improve student academic achievement through focusing on teaching and learning processes and the conditions that support it and to create conducive learning environment for students. Such will establish a culture that would ensure that college academic targets which are to increase certification rate, retention rate and throughput rate are met. This is a collaborative effort; hence everybody will need to come onboard. That will require me to tap into my distributed leadership skill because the new ideology of leadership means management that empowers people.

I plan to exhaust skills and talents within the campus by also focusing on talent management and information and knowledge management, allowing the flow of knowledge, skills and information within the campus through in-house training and development and also borrow skills from neighboring campuses as well.

3. What does it take to be a woman in leadership? What are the challenges and how do you overcome them?

Leadership remains male-dominated, but we can shift this narrative by meeting challenges head-on and resisting the urge to see ourselves as perpetually disadvantaged. Challenges are merely stepping stones to greater achievements. As women, we have a responsibility to set a positive example for future female leaders. Many fears are unfounded; our thoughts can often be our biggest obstacles. Acknowledging that challenges come with leadership, we must embrace our unique strengths as women. Once you use the phrase "*just because I am women*", just know that you have given your power away, and therefore become prone to manipulation.

4. In your view, are there enough opportunities for women in the public sector?

Yes, there are ample opportunities for women in the public sector. Women only need to reach out.



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5. How should women better equip themselves in order to stay winning?

Women in leadership are designed to continually prove themselves. It is crucial to pursue further education, maintain professionalism, stay relevant, and consistently update one's skills. Embracing unique skills that distinguish you in your field is essential for standing out and achieving success.

6. Who is your role model?

Anyone who has been burnt before but came out of fire being more humane, wiser and with increased emotional intelligence. Anyone who has gone beyond the ego struggle, and have developed a sense of purpose and has understood who s/he is and fallen in love with his or her imperfections. Somebody who does not hide in numbers but is vulnerable enough to stand for his/her truth. This person enjoys the journey and reincarnate every day and constructs his or her new truth every day. So, a bit of you and them is my role-model, as I learn from their strength and weakness and use both to better myself.

6. What is your favourite read?

My favourite book is "*Who Moved My Cheese?*" by Spencer Johnson. It serves as a reminder that in a rapidly changing world, stagnation leads to obsolescence. If I resist change, I risk becoming irrelevant, which jeopardizes both my personal growth and the success of the organization. I strive to continually seek new opportunities and adapt to changes.

7. Your message to students and staff

Excellence is a choice, you choose to be an impactful staff member, a willing and teachable student and the choice you make influences the outcome.

***"We are the ones we've been waiting for." By Alice Walker, and
"There is no more neutrality in the world. You either have to be part of the solution, or you are going to be part of the problem." By Eldridge Cleaver
"I am now giving you the choice between life and death, between God's blessing and God's curse, and I call heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life so that you and your descendants might live" Deuteronomy 30:19.***



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The phrases above remind me of my purpose in life. I hope they will help you understand that excellence is a choice.