

# Women on the right track

**Athletics is becoming increasingly popular in South Africa. But men steal most of the limelight while women remain in the shadows. Cheryl Roberts looks at why so few black women take part in athletics**



Photo: Julian Drew

**Blanche Moila, one of the pioneers**

**T**he African continent has produced many outstanding women athletes who have gone on to become world Olympics champions. There's Ethiopia's Derartu Tulu, Hassiba Boulmerka of Algeria and Maria Moutula of Mozambique. But it hasn't always been like this.

For decades, only African men competed in international sports events. Many people believed that African women do not play sport at all.

In the 1990s, African women's participation in sport began to increase. At the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games, Derartu Tulu and Hassiba Boulmerka won gold medals and South Africa's Elana Meyer won a silver medal.

Athletics is one of South Africa's biggest sports. Road running is very popular among black men, and they dominate championship victories.

Today, more and more black women are taking part in athletics, particularly road running, and are also coming up as champions.

Lydia Mofula of Sebokeng became the first black woman to win national colours when she represented South Africa in a road relay in Japan last year. Mofula said the woman who gave her inspiration was well-known Durban athlete Blanche Moila.

"I used to see Blanche Moila on TV and in magazines. I thought, if she can do it then so can I," she said.

But Mofula, like many other black women athletes, had to battle to get companies to sponsor her.

"Many athletes who I beat regularly get free shoes, and even though I've been running well for many years, no one offered to help me," she said.

For years Blanche Moila

was the only black woman runner in the country. Her participation, with successful results, has served as an inspiration to many women. She told SPEAK how she became a runner. "I was never into athletics. While doing my nursing training, a doctor friend asked me to take part in race. I really enjoyed the race and didn't do too badly. I started running competitively and, in 1982, was awarded Natal cross country colours," said Moila.

**S**he went on to win junior Springbok colours in 1983 and, in 1984, was awarded full Springbok colours. For many years, Moila held all the long distance titles in Natal. She has also represented South Africa in other countries.

Moila hasn't given up her love for running. "I'm always keen to see how long I can go



**Louisa Leballo winning the women's race at the Soweto 10 km Fun Run – January 1993**

and to improve my time. It motivates me.”

She said women do not take part in sport because of customs and traditions. “Men do not want women to run because they believe women



**Lydia Mofula running for South Africa at the 1993 World Cross Country Championships in Spain**

have to be in the kitchen. Some people even believe that you will not be able to have children if you exercise a lot. This is not true,” added Moila.

How can such ideas be challenged? “We should begin at school. Children must be told it is okay for girls to take part in sport. We also need to hold seminars about women in sport so women can gain the confidence to go out there and take part in any sport they want to.”

**W**inning has never been the most important thing for Moila: “Anybody can be a runner. You don’t have to win to be a winner, it’s achieving your goal that is important.”

Louisa Leballo is still at school. She is already a junior international and has participated in events in Spain and Germany. She is considered as one of South Africa’s best hopes for international honours in the year 2000 and beyond.

For the several black women who are competitive athletes it has not been easy. Three main factors affect women’s participation:

- Cultural traditions,
- The apartheid system, which provided no facilities in the townships and rural areas, and
- Patriarchy, which means women have to face the double burden of working and taking care of their families. Because of this, women have no time for sport and leisure.

Leaders of sport agree that black women face much discrimination. If black sportswomen are to realise their potential, they will need assistance on all levels. It is important that they alone don’t bear the brunt of domestic responsibilities. Sponsors, too, must realise that by deliberately ignoring black women’s participation in sport they are actively contributing to the gender and racial imbalance.

Because of apartheid and very little or no opportunities, black women are yet to make their mark in international sport.

South Africa has a pool of talent among black women, but much assistance and co-operation is needed to release this talent and make South Africa a proud sporting nation. ★

# Our Time To Choose

A Comic Story about Voting

## Chapter 1

**O**ur Time to Choose is a 6-part story about voting in South Africa's first democratic election. In this election, all South Africans, 18 years and older, will be able to vote. Your vote will help to shape the future of our country. But, in order to make informed choices, we need to understand what this election is about, and how the voting process works.

Our Time to Choose is about a rural community that decides to find out more about the election and sends two delegates, Thembi and Tshepo, to a voter education workshop in a nearby city. The knowledge they gain is then shared with the whole community.

The story explores common issues that face many South Africans who will be voting for the first time. The story offers you, the reader, a chance to share in the election process as our characters question, discuss and learn more about democracy and voting.

**I**n this first chapter of our story, we join the rural village community as they discuss the forthcoming election. They realise that they need more information about the election. Our main characters, Thembi and Tshepo, approach Father Amos from the local church for help.

We hope that you enjoy the story.



**Matla Trust**

Our Time to Choose was commissioned by Matla Trust on behalf of the Independent Forum for Electoral Education (IFEE). IFEE represents a wide range of independent non-governmental and non-partisan organisations whose main aim is to educate us about this election.

Our Time to Choose was researched and developed by The Storyteller Group

The research phase involved the participation of individuals and organisations throughout rural and urban South Africa: community-based and development organisations, civics, churches, educational and other organisations involved in democracy and voter education.

Copies of this story are available to organisations in 9 languages. For more info contact IFEE on (011) 836 8061.

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## CAST OF CHARACTERS



**Thembi**  
Leader of Unity  
sewing co-operative



**Tshepo**  
A student in Standard 9  
at the local school



**Father Amos**  
A minister of  
the local church



**Ma Thabo**  
The head of  
Progress stokvel  
and an influential  
community member



**Karl, Chris & Bongl**  
Voter education workshop facilitators.

CHAPTER  
1

One afternoon in a village somewhere in South Africa.

Oh, my back is killing me. I hope the rains come this year. If they don't, our children will go hungry.

I believe the rains will come, ma.

We also got hope but it's not the rains I'm waiting for. They say there is going to be an election.

Don't tell me about elections, my boy. They're just dirty tricks!

He introduced us to a somebody and said "Vote for this man and your lives will improve."

Oh! The only thing that changed was the chief got a big car.

I remember when our chief first called us to a voter meeting.

We were so hopeful. Everybody voted for that man.

And now we call the chief "Chief Promises." And no one bothers to vote anymore.

Except the pensioners. They are afraid they won't get their pensions.

The election I am talking about will really make a difference. It is not just another homeland election.

This election is for everyone in South Africa.

You are dreaming, mfana!

No, ma, this is the new South Africa!

New South Africa? It looks like the same old South Africa to me.

No, baba, things are changing. Today you can be a member of the ANC or the PAC and they won't put you in jail.

I was very hopeful when the mouths of those organisations were opened. But nothing has changed - the whites are still in power.

And look what happened after they unbanned those political organisations. You youth started turning against your elders and boycotting your schools.

Now we are all fighting each other.

I don't want anything to do with an election - it will just cause more trouble.

I don't think the vote will change anything.

I can't believe you people are saying these things! We have been suffering for so long under the white Government.

At least we have won the chance to vote for our own government. Do you want to throw that chance away?



We need jobs, water and better education.

We have dreamed of a better life for so long. Everyone must vote in this election!

Tshepo is right! We need to vote for leaders who know how we have suffered. Leaders who will listen to our cries.



Ngwanaka, tell me more about this election. When is it going to take place?

Will we be voting at the Tribal Authorities?

Must I be a card-carrying member of a political organisation to take part in the election?

I don't know...



You are asking a boy who has never voted before about an election!

Mkhulu, I have voted before! In my school we voted for the SRC by putting up our hands.

Do you mean that all people in South Africa are going to put up their hands?

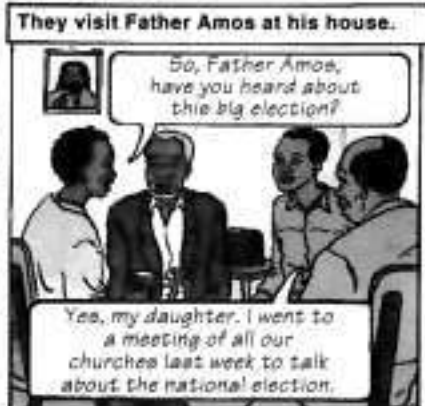
What about those people who don't have hands?



Listen, Tshepo, we must invite someone to come and tell us about this election.

Who will come here? Our leaders never bother to come and speak to us.

We in the rural areas are always left in the dark.



LATER.

They're right! Nobody cares about us in the rural areas.

Hey! Let's go and see Father Amos. Maybe he can help us.

They visit Father Amos at his house.

So, Father Amos, have you heard about this big election?

Yes, my daughter. I went to a meeting of all our churches last week to talk about the national election.



I am going to talk about the election on Sunday. Our church is calling on everyone to vote.

The church does not support political parties. We only speak against those who oppress people and cause human suffering.

But, mfundisi, the church should stay out of politics!

We believe an election will end apartheid and bring justice to our land.



Father, people in the community need to learn how to vote. Can you teach them?

My daughter, I have never voted before.

But I will try to find out more information about voting for you.

# Our Time To Choose

## A Comic Story about Voting

### Chapter 2

This is the second episode of Our Time to Choose, a 6-part story about ordinary people preparing themselves to vote in South Africa's first democratic election.

In the story so far, we joined the community of a rural village as they discussed the forthcoming election. The main characters in our story, Thembi and Tshepo, came to realise that their community needed more information about the election. They approached Father Amos from the local church for help. Father Amos agreed to find out more information for them. Our Time to Choose aims to

provide first-time voters, of 18 years and older, with information about the voting process. The story explores the common issues that many South Africans are facing as we approach the election. It offers you, the reader, a chance to share in the election process with our characters as they question, discuss and learn more about democracy and voting.

In this chapter of the story, we follow Thembi and Tsepo as they make preparations, with the help of the community, to go to a voter education workshop in a nearby city.

The research phase involved the participation of individuals and organisations throughout rural and urban South Africa; community-based and development organisations, civics, churches, educational and other organisations involved in democracy and voter education.

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Who is calling this election - the Government? I think it's just another one of De Klerk's tricks!

No, mfana, the election was decided at the negotiations.

Elections ... negotiations ... these things have nothing to do with me.

Sie!, I think maybe you and I can negotiate...

Be serious, brother. This is no joke.

This election is a victory for all those who fought for democracy. It means we will have our freedom!

And we will have peace at last.

Ah, it will be a great thing to feel free and safe in our own country!

Ya, a democratic government will put an end to these senseless killings. The new government and the police will track down the killers.

Gha! But what about now? We will not even be safe to vote in these elections.

Yes, that is something I also worry about...

People are too quick to fight with each other when they disagree.

But it's the police and the army that I'm worried about!

The police and the army will be monitored by the TEC. They will have to protect everyone on election day.

What is this TEC?

TEC stands for Transitional Executive Council. It is made up of people from all the parties in negotiations.

The TEC will have the power to change government decisions before elections.

What about radio and TV? Everyone knows the SABC favours the Nationalist party.

Don't worry. There will be an Independent Media Commission to check that the SABC is fair to all parties.

Yes. And the newspaper said that S'umo will be acting in a TV programme about voting!

Hmmm. Maybe I must find out more about voting.

Things are really starting to happen.



# How to write a CV

## What is a Curriculum Vitae?

Curriculum Vitae are Latin words which mean "personal history". A CV, as it is called, should have your:

- contact details,
- personal history,
- educational background,
- work experience,
- interests and hobbies.

A CV is sent with a letter when you apply for a job or a bursary. The job advertisement will tell you if you should send a CV with your letter of application. Even if the job advertisement does not tell you to send a CV, it is a good idea to send one anyway, so that the company can see the kind of person you are.

## CV's must be neat

As with all formal documents, your CV should be neat, clear and to the point. There are a number of different ways of writing out a CV. Choose a style that is simple and easy to read.

- If you have access to a typewriter, type your CV. If not, hand write it neatly.
- CV's should be well laid out. Break it up into sections, for example, personal details, educational background, and so on.
- Skip two lines between the different sections.
- Make sure that all your details are in the CV.

In the second article on job skills, SPEAK looks at how to write a Curriculum Vitae (CV)

## When is a CV used?

A CV is usually sent with your job application form, or you can take it with you to the job

interview. Unless a CV is specifically asked for, it is usually not necessary to include it when applying for admission to a tertiary institute or for a bursary.

## An example of a CV

CURRICULUM VITAE: NOMALANGA QAMATA	
Home address	89 Cele Street Zone Five Diepkloof 1864
Telephone number	(011) 938-1456
Postal address	P O Box 2389 Diepkloof 1864
<b>PERSONAL DETAILS</b>	
First Name	Nomalanga Mary
Surname	Qamata
Date of Birth	10 July 1950
Nationality	South African
Home Language	Xhosa
Other languages	English and Zulu
<b>EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND</b>	
High School	Thaba Jabula High School Highest Standard: Standard Eight
Subjects Passed	Maths, Biology, English, Xhosa, Afrikaans, History

2

**Leadership Roles** Chairperson Student Representative Council

**EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**

**Name of Company** Fanfare Paper Company  
P O Box 1837  
Johannesburg  
2000

**Post Held** Administrator

**Main Job Function** Answering telephones, typing, handling clients, office duties

**Dates** 1970 to 1987

**Name of Company** Womens Co-operative  
P O Box 7452  
Chiawelo  
1818

**Post held** General Secretary

**Main Job Function** Organising and running the co-operative  
All administrative duties  
Ordering material  
Arranging of merchandise

**Dates** 1988 to 1993

**Reasons for leaving** The co-operative is closing down

**Hobbies and Interests** Reading poetry

**References**

1. Ms Bongzi Matthews  
Manager  
Women's Co-operative  
P O Box 7452  
Chiawelo  
1818  
Telephone: 984 1976
2. Ms Ellen Brown  
Human Resources  
Fanfare Paper Company  
P O Box 1837  
Johannesburg  
2000  
Telephone: 29 5342

**As with all formal documents, your CV should be neat, clear and to the point. Choose a style that is simple and easy to read**

**Give two references**

Ask two people if they would mind being your referees. A referee is someone who can be contacted to give information about you to the company. A referee could be someone who knows you from:

- school,
- a former workplace,
- church, or
- a social club

Make sure the people you have asked to be your referees have agreed to this. The company will contact them to ask if you are suitable for the job.

**What happens when details of your life change?**

CV's can be written and easily updated when it is necessary. *Once you have the document, it is easy to make the changes to it.*

You can make your CV look attractive, but remember that it is important to keep it simple and neat. ☺

● *In our next issue we will look at going for job interviews*