

MISS EAST LONDON

2022

FEATURING:

SESETHU
KLASS

LOMSO
KAVE

SOLAKHA
MPHATHULO

BY LUYANDA MBALANA

SESETHU KLASS



**"A RESILIENT
JOURNEY OF
EMPOWERMENT
AND TRIUMPH"**

Miss Sesethu Klaas is a 23-year-old beauty queen at heart who was born and raised in the dusty streets of Stutterheim, in the

Eastern Cape province, on November 24, 1999. Her father passed away when she was only 8 months old, so she was raised by a single mother with the help of her sisters. She started her elementary school journey at Sikhulule Primary School, then attended Amatolaville Junior Secondary School. She later went to Siyakhula Public School for her secondary school years and eventually enrolled at Lovedale TVET College, where she studied Financial Management. Currently, she is working as an intern at the Head Office of the Department of Health.

Miss Klaas is an aspiring Chartered Accountant who is also venturing into different business fields. She has interests in design, hairdressing, and event decoration. At the moment, she wishes to keep her own organization out of the public eye. Throughout her journey, she has experienced the highs and lows of life as a model. She has encountered moments of depression and anxiety, often finding herself in tears and questioning whether she made the right choices. There were times when she even wondered how different things would be if her father were still alive

In the midst of these battles, she has maintained a positive outlook on life's circumstances, appreciating her surroundings, and staying focused on her goals. She acknowledges that life is not always easy, and there are challenges to be faced. Academics have also presented their own challenges, but she has found warmth and support in the embrace of her mother and family.

In addition to her family, the Miss East London Organization has been a tremendous source of motivation for Miss Klaas. Knowing that there are children who look up to her and consider her a role model encourages her to keep pushing forward and strive to be a better version of herself.

During her reign as Miss East London 2022, she confronted her insecurities, such as shyness and fear of public speaking. However, she realized the importance of stepping up and using her voice. Thankfully, the director of the organization was approachable, making it easier for her to carry out her duties. Understanding that her mere presence empowers others and being aware of the encouragement she provides by being true to herself keeps her resilient and determined.

Miss Klaas attests to the success of Miss Lilitha Pato's event, which exceeded expectations despite being the first annual event. Being crowned Miss East London Queen not only opened doors to numerous opportunities but also reinforced her belief in her capabilities. Participating in certain events can be transformative, shaping us for the better. Miss Klaas had her first pageant experience at the age of 6, considering it more of a hobby than belonging to a major pageant organization. However, she is grateful for that initial step, as it set the ball rolling. Pageantry also provides a perspective on personal well-being. As contestants present their best selves, they can still support and assist other competitors without affecting their own outcomes.



During her leisure time, Miss Klaas enjoys singing, drawing, and watching movies. She urges young women to stay true to themselves, remain positive and strong and remember that their intelligence can empower them to conquer the world. The desire to succeed should be their starting point, guiding them in the right direction. Miss Klaas is a living testament to these words. She won Miss East London because she knew her goals, understood what she wanted, and worked tirelessly to achieve them. The love and dedication from her family and friends have given her the strength to overcome obstacles she couldn't have faced alone.

Everyone brings something unique to the table. Miss Klaas chooses to be seen as she is, rather than through others' projected versions of her. When entering competitions, her focus isn't solely on winning; instead, she aims to set a different tone and face adversity head-on. She has learned that being a queen entails representing the brand with respect and carrying oneself with pride. Pageantry requires significant time and energy, and a queen must possess a humble and compassionate heart. In challenging situations, her commitment remains her top priority.

"BE YOUR OWN PROTECTOR & DECISION-MAKER. IN EVERYTHING YOU DO, REMEMBER TO KEEP GOD FIRST & EVERYTHING WILL COME FULL CIRCLE." YOU ARE YOUNG AND CAPABLE.

LOMSO KAVE



**"EMBRACING
IMPERFECTIONS:
MY INSPIRING PATH TO
SELF-ACCEPTANCE AND
PERSONAL GROWTH"**

Lomso Kave, popularly known as 'Piece,' is the reigning Teen Queen of Miss East London 2022 at the age of 16. She was born and raised by her grandmother, Masibalikhulu, in the small village of Centane Tutura, located in Emthonjeni in the Eastern Cape province. She attended Little Angels Primary School before moving to Mpumalanga to live with her parents. There, she enrolled at Robert Carruthers Primary School from Grade 4 to 7. Later, her family moved to East London in the Eastern Cape, where she started high school at St Christopher's Private School KB from Grade 8 to 10. Currently, she is in Grade 11 at East London Science College, studying Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Business Studies.

From a young age, Miss Kave has aspired to become a doctor, drawing inspiration from her grandmother, who is a nurse, and seeing it as a way to give back to the community. However, she has been experiencing doubts about her career choice, influenced by the immense pressure teenagers face in high school, which can become overwhelming at times. The heavy workload and difficulty in keeping up have led to an increase in suicidal cases, emphasizing the importance of mental health in her life. As a result, she has decided to pursue the study of Psychology at the tertiary level, hoping for a positive outcome in helping others.

Currently, Miss Kave is working towards establishing her own foundation, a long-held desire she lacked the strength to pursue earlier in life. She feels a strong connection with underprivileged children, stemming from her own upbringing in a rural area. Having experienced moments of self-doubt and feeling undervalued, she aims to motivate disadvantaged children, emphasizing that transformation starts from being "nothing" to becoming "something."

The successful completion of her matriculation exams with good results would open doors for her to achieve this goal.

Pageantry often faces criticism in society, with people viewing it as a superficial endeavor that exposes teenagers to potential dangers. However, Miss Kave believes pageantry goes beyond appearances and plays a significant role in boosting inner self-confidence, speaking from personal experience. Living with a skin disease called Eczema, which has caused her to face hatred, she always believed her life revolved around doctor appointments. Feeling different from other kids and aware that hiding herself would not benefit anyone, she took a bold step to participate in Miss East London, recognizing the immense personal growth it could bring. Despite the challenges she faced, she never gave up, reminding herself of the sacrifices she made to reach that point.

Her journey as a pageant queen has been an emotional rollercoaster, as she never expected to inspire and empower young girls. She now understands that her spots do not define her, but rather tell her unique story. Each scar symbolizes her strength, teaching her the importance of self-acceptance and finding beauty in everything. She has learned humility and the true meaning of life, embracing surprises and understanding that patience is a powerful virtue. Miss Kave believes her most potent weapons in life are her smile, her skin, and her voice. She has learned that it's never too late to pursue one's dreams and that personal determination determines one's success or failure.

Aside from her academic pursuits and modeling, Miss Kave is also a singer and finds solace in music, particularly when performing at church. She is a devout Christian and a firm believer in God. Additionally, she enjoys reading, as it allows her to immerse herself in her imagination.

Miss Kave acknowledges that the journey of life is never easy, realizing that one's family's achievements do not guarantee personal success. One of the most impactful experiences was losing a cheerleader who taught her the power of the Lord's Prayer. Although initially skeptical, she now understands its significance. This loss temporarily halted her life, and she contemplated giving up. However, she realized that pursuing her dreams would honor the memory of her cheerleader. From that moment, she recognized the value of making every second count, as life is unpredictable. Miss Kave cherishes the continuous love and support from her family and community, as their faith in her has been instrumental in overcoming challenging situations. Understanding the African proverb "it takes a village to raise a child," she recognizes that she represents not only herself but also her family. Through her accomplishments, she showcases their upbringing, emphasizing the importance of respect as a key to a brighter future.

Miss Kave's unique personality and positive attitude set her apart from others. She is a dream chaser who understands the significance of patience and perseverance. Failure does not discourage her; instead, it fuels her determination to work harder. She firmly believes that delayed dreams are not denied dreams.

To all the young women out there, Miss Kave's message is powerful. She reminds them that they are enough and possess great power within themselves. Their voices have deeper meaning than they realize. Although the journey won't be easy, it is through challenges and failures that they learn and grow. Giving up may be tempting, but they must reflect on the sacrifices made to become the individuals they are today. It all starts with self-belief and the conviction that they can conquer anything in life. They have control over their destinies and have the opportunity to tell their unique stories, making them worth reading.

Society should not dictate their paths; they must be the catalysts for change. Breaking gender stereotypes and societal norms, they can pursue their dreams fearlessly. Miss Kave urges them not to wait for tomorrow but to seize the opportunity now. Hard work pays off, and they are capable of achieving anything they set their minds to. It's time to believe in themselves, set realistic goals, and chase their dreams before it's too late.



SOLAKHA MPHATHULO



**"EMBRACING
UNIQUENESS AND
INSPIRING OTHERS"**

At just 13 years old, Solakha Mphothulo has already embarked on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment.

This remarkable young individual, currently in Grade 6 at Tom Phanyana Primary School in Mdantsane, is leaving a positive impact on those around her through her involvement in the world of pageantry. With a supportive family by her side, Solakha is determined to conquer any challenges that come her way and inspire others to do the same.

The crowning moment for Solakha came during the Miss East London 2022 pageant. It was a victory not only for her but also for society as a whole. The event saw an outpouring of support from the youth who chose to rally behind the contestants, rather than engaging in activities that may be detrimental to their future. This demonstration of solidarity serves as a testament to the power of positive role models in shaping the aspirations of young people.

During the grand finale, Solakha's exceptional talent and charisma shone brightly as she secured three titles: Queen, Public Choice, and Entrepreneur. The presence of father figures in the audience was a pleasant surprise, breaking stereotypes about male involvement in pageants. It highlighted the importance of having a diverse support system that believes in one's dreams and is willing to make sacrifices to see them come true.

Participating in pageantry has instilled in Solakha a profound sense of respect for all individuals, regardless of their social or economic status. Engaging in charity work as part of her pageant duties has allowed her to witness firsthand the transformative power of helping those in need within her community. These experiences have deepened her empathy and reinforced her commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others.

Solakha's aspirations extend beyond the world of pageantry. With an entrepreneurial spirit, she envisions opening her own lip gloss business in the near future. The wheels are already in motion to bring her vision to life. Additionally, she plans to establish her own foundation, creating a safe space where everyone feels welcome and providing meals for those in need. Solakha's determination to make a difference is a testament to her compassionate and forward-thinking nature.

Life's challenges have served as valuable lessons for Solakha. Overcoming a language barrier in her early education led her to repeat Grade 1, a decision that initially presented difficulties. However, she found solace in her mother's guidance, who reassured her that academic achievement has nothing to do with age. This valuable lesson in perseverance and self-acceptance allowed Solakha to embrace her unique journey, even if it meant being in the same grade as her younger brother.

Solakha draws immense inspiration from her family. Her grandmother, in particular, sees the good in everything she does, providing unwavering support and encouragement. Her brother, an accomplished student, motivates her to excel academically, pushing her to reach her full potential.

Modeling holds a special place in Solakha's heart. She dedicates her Saturdays to modeling classes, where she hones her skills and cultivates her passion for the industry. Additionally, she has achieved an orange belt in Karate, showcasing her dedication to personal growth and self-defense. In her leisure time, she enjoys watching her favorite cartoons, finding joy and inspiration in the imaginative worlds they create.

To the young generation, Solakha imparts words of encouragement and wisdom. She reminds them that it is never too late to embark on a new journey or pursue their dreams. Each individual possesses a unique set of qualities and talents, and trying to be someone else is an unnecessary hindrance to their personal growth. Embracing one's roots, being proud of one's heritage, and accepting oneself are key ingredients to achieving success and making a positive impact on the world.

Solakha Mphothulo is a shining example of determination, resilience, and the power of embracing one's individuality. At such a young age, she is already making a difference in her community and inspiring others to follow their dreams. As Solakha continues her remarkable journey, the future holds great promise for this aspiring young model, entrepreneur, and role model for generations to come.

YOU ARE YOUNG & CAPABLE

