



WOMAN TO WATCH WRITTEN BY S'THEMBISO HLONGWANE



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but I decided to pursue legal studies instead. I graduated with an LLB from the University of Fort Hare in 2003 and an LLM from the University of Pretoria in 2010. Now that I work in a scientific environment, I appreciate my decision to do law. I can make a meaningful contribution to science and still feel that I have managed to be involved in both fields of interest.

SA has launched three Earth observation systems into outer space. All these satellites were built locally, with students and young professionals involved in the development. The first satellite, Sunsat, was launched in 1999. The second, SumbandilaSat, was launched in 2008 and TshepisoSAT was sent into space two years ago.

I've faced a lot of challenges in the science field. Over the years, I've realised the importance of working hard. I've organised training and capacity-building platforms for students and young professionals. I am involved in forums that provide opportunities for young people to get involved in outer space issues.

Mentorship is important. I make an effort to stay in touch with the people who supported and encouraged me in my career and life in general. There is no better source of wisdom than someone who has walked the path before you.

MAKING SPACE

Advocate Lulu Makapela, the Project & Contract Manager for the Aerospace and Composites Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, was recently awarded the Young Space Leader award at the 66th International Astronautical Congress in Israel

This award inspires me. It's recognition of the contribution that I'm making through my professional activities. I'm the African Co-ordinator of the Manfred Lachs Space Law Moot Court Competition of the International Institute of Space Law, Co-chair of the Africa Leadership on Space Science and Technology Youth Forum and the co-organiser of the International Astronautical Federation's Youth Forum.

I was born in Jubisa village, near King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape. I passed matric at St Matthew's Girls' High School in Keiskammahoek, having studied physical science and maths. My initial thoughts were to do a BSc,

PHOTOGRAPHER: MICHELLE WASTIE MAKE UP: KATHRYN HARNWICK