

The Smashers of Ceilings

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WOMEN IN SCIENCE



In honour of National Women's Day, *PREMIER* spoke to three inspiring women who are breaking ground in the fields of space exploration and science.

▲ Lumka Msibi - Aeronautical Engineer

Internationally award-winning aeronautical engineer, global speaker, and entrepreneur, Lumka Msibi, works for NASA in the heart of the Silicon Valley in San Francisco as an Aerospace Systems Engineer; "Also known as a trailblazing rocket scientist," says Msibi.

"I am working on a satellite to be launched on the first flight of NASA's Space Launch System, America's new

powerful and advanced launch vehicle. I am also working on an astronaut-assisting robot for use aboard the International Space Station, the world-class lab orbiting 400 km above the Earth."

It doesn't stop there for this trailblazer: "I have travelled to all seven continents representing South Africa as an aeronautical engineer and global speaker."

In lieu of National Women's Day, Msibi offers the following advice to South African women: "Find your passion, and have a vision and dream big. I went from township

girl in Soweto to an internationally award-winning and trailblazing rocket scientist working for NASA."

She adds, "Set goals. Achieve them. Set new goals. Keep moving forward. Have intellectual curiosity. Ask the questions: Why? What? Where? How? That's where innovation comes from - curiosity and finding the solutions to the questions. Women have shown that they are more than capable of succeeding. Smash the glass ceiling."