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# Refiloe Jane

*Vice-Captain of Banyana Banyana National Football Team and M Tech student at the Department of Marketing, Logistics and Sport Management, Faculty of Management Sciences.*

*Leadership is not a one-man show. It's all about teamwork; being a team player, dealing with people from different backgrounds and being a role model at all times.*

These words perfectly describe the character of Refiloe Jane, Vice-Captain and currently acting Captain of the South African National Football Team (in the absence of Captain, Janine van Wyk). She is also a member of the TUT Ladies' Football Team and enrolled M Tech student who wishes to successfully complete her studies within the next two years.

From a very early age, Refiloe joined her two brothers every day when they set-off to practice with their football teams in Kliptown, Soweto, where they grew up. Playing next to the field whilst the boys were practicing, Refiloe nominated herself as ball "boy" and instead of throwing the ball back onto the field, she preferred to kick it. Slowly, but surely, her football skills developed to a level where coaches could not ignore her inclusion in primary and high school teams.

Whilst still at high school, Refiloe joined the Mamelodi Sundowns Women's Team and, on completion of her school years, she packed her bags for the Vaal University of Technology (VUT) where she completed a National Diploma: Sport Management. However, she always wanted to be-

come part of TUT Ladies' Football and enrolled for a B Tech: Sport Management in 2017. She was soon selected for the team that she admired for its success, high performance and dedication.

Since 2012, Refiloe is part of the national team and can proudly write 85 appearances in the green and yellow jersey behind her name. As she captained almost all previous teams she played for, and gained valuable leadership experience, Refiloe knew that, when time is ready, the honour of a Banyana Banyana leadership role would be bestowed on her too. Although it is a great honour to be part of a national sport team and to act as Captain, academic responsibilities remain a priority. "I

really want to make a living from playing football, but it will not be possible to play forever. Therefore, it is important to have academic qualifications as a backup plan".

Refiloe continues to learn from her senior teammates; similar to the role model she is for junior, upcoming players. "Learning is an ongoing process, and one should never stop being inspired by others".

Her key leadership values include respect, discipline, pride and humility. "If the national team applies these values to everything it does, no one will stop it from being the best Banyana Banyana team ever." This petite woman football player is indeed a wonderful example of courage, passion and motivation.

