



Deborah Mabiletsa

Dec/11/2/33

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1. Deborah Mabiletsa is the official leader of black women in South Africa. She is president of the Women's Federation, the controlling body of all black women's organisations. She took over this post after the banning of the first President, Fatima Meer.
2. She is Director of Women's Services for the South African Council of Churches.
3. She was formerly Director of the Entokozweni Welfare Centre in Alexandra, the first African person to hold this post and was acclaimed for her outstanding community work.
4. In 1976 she joined 'Women for Peace' and was actively involved in the organisation until she was recently forced to resign through pressure from the black community.
5. She lives in Soweto.

reference.

FAIR LADY'S WHO'S WHO OF SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN - compiled by Fair Lady Supplement to Fair Lady, November 24 1976.

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Deborah Mabiletsa

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1. One of South Africa's leading Black women famous for her outstanding community work Deborah Mabiletsa was born in 1928 and spent her youth in Alexandra township. She was educated at Inanda Seminary in Natal and went on to Alams College for teacher training. She taught for a few years until her opposition to the introduction of Bantu Education caused her to resign her post. Through UNISA she obtained a B. Soc Science and in 1961 she became the first African director of the Entokozweni Welfare Centre in Alexandra.

cartoon - Deborah teaching for in the role of director of the welfare centre.

2. In 1964 she was granted a bursary to study for a diploma in group work at the University of Philadelphia. Her academic success that year in a class of whites dispelt for ever for her the myth of white superiority. She returned to her work at the Entolozweni Welfare Centre and then a particular interest in marriage counselling led her to apply for a bursary from the World Council of Churches to study marriage counselling at Melbourne University Australia in 1974.

cartoon - studing in America or Australia.

3. After her return she took up a position as director of woman's work for the South African Council of Churches. Her work involves amongst other things programmes for domestic workers, centres of concern, and counselling the unemployed and others in need. When Fatima Meer was banned she was made president of the Black Women's Federation controlling body of all black women's organisations until it was banned last year. She has an extremely full life but has not neglected her husband and three children. She is dedicated to the cause and needs and future of her people, dynamic forthright, commanding respect but also extremely approachable and humble. She is keen on improving the status of black women has confidence in the black youth and is prepared to learn from them. She is indeed a committed and truly admirable woman.

cartoon - adressing an audience of black women or counselling domestics.