

Soul City star looks onward and upward



SURVIVOR:
Florence Masebe has used adversity to become stronger.

Edward Tsumele

SEASONED actress Florence Masebe, now part of the new SABC1 cast of health drama series *Soul City*, says she is having a good time on the series.

Masebe plays Noni, one of the lead roles in *Soul City*.

Masebe has been going about her life and acting business since a horrific shooting incident 12 years ago. Now the actress has revealed for the first time that she has put that incident behind her.

Masebe the multi-lingual actress whose TV credits include those of *Generations* and *Muvhango*, told *Sowetan* that surviving the shooting, and healing thereafter, has taught her so many things in life and left her stronger.

"One thing I have learnt is not to take Florence the person too seriously. My biggest challenge is to stay positive everyday. The life-threatening incident has taught me that everything happens for a reason in life. I have learnt not to let that incident about 12 years ago to hold me back in life.

"I also hope that is a lesson for other people to learn from who might be facing similar

MASEBE PUTS PAST BEHIND HER



SKILLED: Florence Masebe during the rehearsal of a play. PHOTO: Tshepo Kekana

challenges in life. Do not give up and do not count yourself out until you are out.

"What would be the use of holding on to that incident?

The only thing I worry about now is the future of artists given the recent financial situation at the SABC which at some stage left several artists unemployed when the corporation almost faced a financial meltdown."

In 1999, Masebe was mysteriously shot at several times at her then Bramley house. She miraculously survived. No one has been arrested in connection with the incident. Since the incident, she has had a successful career both on TV and radio.

Born and raised in Tshakuma, Limpopo, Masebe was trained as an actress at the University of Cape Town's drama school and has worked in television, radio and film for over 17 years.

She hosted a variety of shows on SABC TV with early highlights including the youth entertainment programme, *Electric Workshop*, on SABC 1 and later joined *Generations*. In 1999 she joined Freek Robinson as a co-anchor on the current affairs programme *Fokus*. In 2003 she was on *Muvhango*

before leaving in 2009, joining *7nde Laan* on SABC 2.

In 2010 she starred in a health drama on Botswana Television called *Morwalela* and started working with director Ntshavheni wa Luruli on his Tshivenda film *Elelwani*. She was on the first season of *Strictly Come Dancing* alongside Kagiso Ntseane and hosted two seasons of SABC Education's *It's for Life* on SABC2.

"I am currently directing a documentary for SABC1 called *I Had it All*, which looks at the lives of South African icons, and also regularly direct corporate videos."

Soul City screens on SABC1 tonight at 6.30pm