



Growing up in a time of AIDS: Abaqophi basOkhayeni Abaqinile Children's Radio project

'Phezulu ngobutshitshi phezulu!' / 'Long live virginity, long live!' 2007

- Sfx: Iculo lasemhlangeni
Voices singing the Reed Dance song
- Sne: Sanibonani balaleli emakhaya sabanenhlanhla ukuthi kubenomhlanga eNgwavuma, thina njengabaqophi saya khona sayothola ulwazi mayelana nokuhlolwa kwamatshitshi.
Balaleli hlalani nami igama lami nginguSnenhlanhla isibongo ngingowakaGumede.
Hello listeners at home. We were fortunate that the Reed Dance took place in Ingwavuma. We the Abaqophi reporters went there to find out about virginity testing.
Listeners stay with me; I am Sinenhlanhla Gumede.
- Virginity tester: Ngumama uHilda Nomzamo Zikhali eMbazwana, ngumama ohlodayo abantwana.
I am Hilda Nomzamo Zikhali from Mbazwana area. I do virginity testing for girls.
- Noxolo: Ngicela ukubuza wakhethwa ubani ukwenza lomsebenzi?
Who chose you to do this job?
- Virginity tester: Angikhethwanga muntu indlela nami engakhuliswa ngayo ngiseyintombazane ngaze ngafinyelela emshadweni ngashada. Ngasengiyabona ukuthi indlela encono yokuphatha kahle umntwana yokumkhulisa indlela yokumhlola.
No one chose me, it was just because of the way I was brought up when I was still a girl. I was a virgin when I got married. And then I realised that a good way to raise a child is through participating in virginity testing.
- Noxolo: Ngabe kuyenzeka yini ukuthi uma nihlola izingane o 5years 7 years nithole ukuthi akusesiwo amatshitshi?
Does it ever happen that when you test children between the ages of 5 to 7 years you find that they are no longer virgins?
- Virginity tester: Yebo kuyenzeka siyazithola ingane ezincane sithi siyazihlola sithole ukuthi azisewona amatshitshi ngalendlela yokuthi ithi incane iye ibanjwe

umalume ekhaya noma ubaba noma ubhuti noma umakhelwane uma isele yodwa ekhaya.

Yes it does happen that we get children who are still young and we find out that they are no longer virgins. Some little girls have been raped by an uncle or father or brother or the neighbour when they are alone at home.

Noxolo: Yenziwa njani intombazane uma ngabe itholwa ukuthi ayisesilo itshitshi?

What happens to a child if it is found that she is no longer a virgin?

Virginity tester: Uma ngihlola ngithola ukuthi ayiselona itshitshi ngixhumana nomzali wayo ngimazise ukuthi umntanakhe ngimthole angesalona itshitshi umama wayo athathe inyathelo aqhubeke aye phambili nazo.

When I do the testing and find out that a girl is no longer a virgin I meet with her parent and let her know that her child is no longer a virgin and the mother will take further steps.

SFX: Iculo

Voices singing

Khethiwe: Kubaluleke ngani ukuza la emhlangeni ngalesisikhathi samanje?

Why is it important to come to the Reed Dance these days?

Girl 1: UZama wakwaNyawo kubalulekile ukuza emhlangeni ngoba uyakwazi ukuyigcina uhlale uyintombi uphephile ungabi nenculaza uhlale nje uphephile ube kahle.

And futhi uzi controle wena uzazi ukuthi ubani uyicontrôle wena kukho konke okwenzayo wazi ukuthi uyintombi nto angifune lutho eceleni kwami.

I am Zama Nyawo. It is important to come to the Reed Dance because it helps you to save yourself and remain a virgin and stay well and safe from HIV/Aids.

And have self-control and know yourself and take control of your life in whatever you do and remember that you are a virgin and you do not want to be part of anything to do with sex.

Girl 2: Igama lami ngingu Nothando wakwa Mthembu ukuza emhlangeni esikhathini samanje kubaluleke ukuthi ena kumele uyigcine wazi nje futhi noma uyaphi nokuthi uma uphuma ekhaya uyaphi.

Futhi nje akumele ube uvanzi isikhathi esiningi ngoba abafana bayadlwengulana.

My name is Nothando Mthembu. Coming to the Reed Dance in these times [we live in] is important because you must look after yourself and know where you are going when you are not at home.

You must not wander around because a lot of boys are rapists.

Girl 3: UNozipho wakaMajola kubalulekile ukuza emhlangeni ukuze uyigcine uzazi wena ukuthi ubani futhi ufisani ngempilo yakho khona ungeke ubenalo igciwane lenculaza.

I am Nozipho Majola. It is important to come to the Reed Dance so that you can behave yourself and know who you are and what you want in life so that you do not get infected with HIV/Aids.

SFX: Iculo

Voices singing

- Nonjabulo: Igama lami nginguNonjabulo ngingowakwaMhlongo ngihlala e Maranatha.
My name is Nonjabulo Mhlongo. I live in Maranatha.
- Lucky: Ukuphi lapho khona?
Where are you?
- Nonjabulo: Ngisemhlangeni e Ngwavuma.
I am at the Reed Dance ceremony in Ingwavuma.
- Lucky: Uzokwenzani?
What have you come to do?
- Nonjabulo: Ngizobamba umhlanga khona ngizobona ukuthi ngisaphelele yini ngiseyitshitshi.
I have come to see whether I am still a virgin or not and to hold the reed [to show that I am a virgin].
- Lucky: Wena uyithole uyitshitshi noma ungesilona itshitshi?
Did you find that you are still a virgin or not?
- Nonjabulo: Ngithole ngiyitshitshi.
I found that I am still a virgin.
- Lucky: Manje uzizwa unjani?
How do you feel?
- Nonjabulo: Ngizizwa ngijabulile ngoba vele sengiyazazi ukuthi vele ngiyitshitshi angiyena umama omdala.
I feel happy because now I know that I am really a virgin and not an old woman (someone who has had sex).
- Lucky: Uzofike ubachazele uthini kini uma bakubuza?
What are you going to tell your family when they ask you?
- Nonjabulo: Ngizofike ngibachazele ngithi ngizizwe ngijabule kakhulu ngoba emhlangeni bekumnandi kakhulu.
When I get home I am going to tell them how happy I am because it was wonderful being at the Reed Dance.
- SFX: Iculo

Song
- Nobuhle: Abantu bathi umhlanga awubalulekanga uma uya emhlangeni usuke uyodlala ngesikhathi sakho mina ngithi umhlanga ubalulekile.

Igama lami nginguNobuhle wakaMthembu ngithi ukuhlolwa kwezintombi esikhathini samanje kubalulekile ngoba uyayivikela ezingeni lokuthi ugcine ukhulelwe usemncane nakwesinye isikhathi uyivikele ukuthi ungaphathwa isifo sengculaza uma uya ocansini nokuthi uma uyintombazane kufanele wazi ukuthi kufanele ubuye ngasikhathi sini ekhaya ungabuyi ngesikhathi osithandayo ngoba abantu ngaphandle banomana bangakufisela noma yini

ekutheni iyenzeke empilweni yakho ukuze kuphele ubuntombi bakho ngalokho ngithi PHEZULU NGOBUTSHITSHI PHEZULU! PHANSI NGABAFAZI BEMIZI ABASEBANCANE PHANSI!

People say that the Reed Dance is not important and if you go there you are wasting your time, but I say it is important.

My name is Nobuhle Mthembu. I say virginity testing is important nowadays because you protect yourself from teenage pregnancy and HIV/AIDS. If you are a girl you should come home on time not whenever you feel like it because people out there are jealous and they wish to destroy your life by taking your virginity so I say LONG LIVE VIRGINITY LONG LIVE! AWAY WITH TEENAGE PREGNANCY! AWAY!

SFX: SingAbaqophi song
The Strong Recorders' song.

Sne: Nisale kahle sethembukuthi maningi amantombazane azobakhona emhlangeni olandelayo niziphathe kahle. Igama lami nginguSinenhlanhla isibongo ngingowakaGumede.
Goodbye we hope there are many girls who will be at the Reed Dance next time. Look after yourselves. I am Sinenhlanhla Gumede.

SFX: Singabaqophi song
The Strong Recorders' song.



For further information contact:

Helen Meintjes
HIV/AIDS Programme, Children's Institute
helen.meintjes@uct.ac.za
+27 21 689 5404

Bridget Walters
Zisize Educational Trust
bridgetw@iafrica.com
+27 35 572 5500

Web: www.childrensradioproject.ci.org.za