



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

Ithuba lokukhuluma nesilo / A chance to talk to the king 2007

- SFX: Imbongi, "Wena weNdlovu"
The praise singer sings "You of the Elephant"
- Promise: Isilo esihloniphekile samabandla onke sisithanda sonke esizweni saso ikhona kumele sisihloniphe nathi. Sanibona igama lami nginguPromise ngingokwaMasuku.

Bekunomkhosi womhlanga eNgwavuma ngomhlaka 29 September 2007 nathi singabaqophi besikhona sabanenhlanhla-ke sathola ithuba lokhukhuluma nesilo samabandla lprogramme yethu iphethe ulwazi mayelana nesiko lomhlanga.

The Honourable King [of the Zulu nation] loves all of us in his nation; that is why we should respect him. Hello, my name is Promise Masuku.

The Reed Dance ceremony took place in Ingwavuma on the 29th of September 2007. We, the Abaqophi Strong Recorders were there and we were lucky to get a chance to talk to the king. Our programme is about the tradition of the Reed Dance.
- King: Isiko lomhlanga phela ilona engicabanga kuthi lisize intsha eningi lapha kulesisifundazwe emveni kokulivuselela.

Njengoba namhlanjena ngililethe lapha nje eNgwavuma yikuba ngithole imibiko eminingi ukuthi ingane ezikoleni eyiningi ziyakhulelwa. Ngakho ngithe ake ngililethe lelisiko la ngizobuyisa ukuzigqaja nokuzazisa komuntu wesifazane ukuthi kubaluleke kangakanani.

Kumnandi kakhulu kimi ngoba sekunginikeza ithuba lokuthi nina njengentsha yalapha eNgwavuma uNkulunkulu unginikeze imvume yokuba ngizonenzela lomkhosi ngomhlaka 29 mhla zingamashumi amabili nesishagalolunye kuMandulo ngonyaka weyinkulungwane eyimbili kanye neminyaka eyisikhombisa, ngibe nani lapha eNgwavuma.

The revival of the tradition of the Reed Dance is something that I think can be a huge help to many of our youth in this province.

I have brought it here to Ingwavuma because I got a lot of messages from schools that many teenagers are getting pregnant. I decided to bring this Reed Dance ceremony here so as to restore pride and dignity to young women and show how important this is.

It is wonderful for me that God has allowed me to bring you, the youth of Ingwavuma, the Reed Dance here on the 29th of September 2007, and to be with you here at Ingwavuma.

SFX: Song

Nobuhle: Bayethe Hlangalomhlabathi bengisacela ukubuza ukuthi kungani isiko lokuhlolwa labafana ligabibikho?

Hail to the King of the Soil [Your Majesty]. I would like to ask: why is there no culture of virginity testing for boys?

King: Isiko labafana kungekude ndodakazi. Bakhona abafundiswayo njengamanje ukuthi abafana kufanele babahlole kanjani ukuze bakwazi ukuba nabo bafinyelele esigabeni sokuba bafundiswe ukuyiphatha.

Kepha abafana njengamanje nabo kukhona umkhosi osuvusiwe osuneminyaka engaphezulu kweshumi njengomkhosi wokweshwama kubizwa ngokuthi First Fruit ceremony lapho okusuke khona kuwumkhosi owenzeka ngenyanga kaDecember

Insizwa zakwaZulu zazana ngoba ziza enkosini kodwa maningezi enkosini ngeke nazane ngakho ngiyathemba ukuthi usuyobatshela nawe abangaphekwa ukuthi nizwile yini ingonyama ikhuluma emsakazweni ithi icela ukuthi sonke thinantsha e,asambeni siye eNyokeni ngesikhathi sikaDecember masekumenyazelwa nje ukuthi umkhosi wokweshwama unini.

The custom for virginity testing of boys is not far off, my daughter. There are people being trained currently on how to test boys so that they are also taught how to behave themselves.

For the boys right now there is a ceremony which was revived more than ten years ago and which is called the First Fruit ceremony and which takes place in December.

The young men of the Zulu clan get to know one another as they come to the king. But if they do not come they will never get to know one another. I hope you are going to tell those who are older than you that you heard the king talking over the radio saying he wants all of us youth to go to Nyokeni Royal Palace in December when the dates for the First Fruit ceremony have been announced.

King: Awuthandi wena ukuba ubekhona?

Wouldn't you like to be there?

Lindo: Ngiyathanda.

I would.

King: Awubonike!

That is good!

SFX: Iculo "Washintsha amasheke"

Song "You cash the cheque"

King: Ma ngilethe umhlanga eNgwavuma ngihlale phansi ngajula ngoba ngibuka inqinamba neyinkinga isizwe sami esibhekene nazo kulenxenywe yaseNgwavuma kuxubana noMkhanyakude ngoba ngiyazi ukuthi ukuhlukumezeka kweyingane zami eyincane emakhaya kuyayithinta inhliziyoyami. Ngakho-ke ngizwile ziningi izinto ezinye ezitholakele uma sekukhona lesisigaba sokuba nihlolwe ningamantombazane abaningi benu batholakale ubuntombi babo ezibayeni zoyise bungasekho.

Lokho kungijabhise kakhulu ngabona ukuthi kufanele ukwenza lomcimbi lapha mntanami ukuze lento le ebingeke ize ivele yaziwe ngisho nangabadala ukuthi kukhona abantu abahlukumeza ingane emakhaya.

When I brought the Reed Dance to Ingwavuma I sat down and thought deeply about the problems my nation is facing in this part of the country - Ingwavuma including Umkhanyakude - because the abuse of my young children in their homes touches my heart deeply; I have heard that there have been many cases [of sexual abuse] discovered during virginity testing where young girls are no longer virgins.

That made me very unhappy - to such an extent that I decided to have this ceremony here my child so that this thing which has been hidden could come out – that there are adults at home who abuse children.

SFX: Iculo

Song

Lindo: Bayethe ngicela ukubuza ukuthi iziphi izindlela ongasiza ngazo abantwana abancane abadlwengulwa kodwa bathanda ukuba emhlangeni?

Your Majesty, in what ways could you help the children who have been abused while they are still young so that they would still be able to participate in the Reed Dance ceremony?

King: Eh abantwana kufanele ukuvikeleka kwabo kube ukuthi uma kukhona abantu ababahlukumezayo bababikele abadala ukuthi usibanibani uyangihlukumeza noma usibanibani ufuna ukungihlukumeza bese labo abadala uma bengakuthathi lokho bakuse emaphoyiseni.

Nina nikuthathe lokho nikudlulisele emaphoyiseni niyovikeleka. Futhi e kumele nihlele ngayo yonke indlela yokuthi umuntu angazihambeli yedwa akahambe nomunye ukuze makukhona ozama ukuhlukumeza e ingane ozama ukunihlukumeza agijime masinyane ayobikela abantu abaseduzane.

Kanti futhi nangaphandle kwalokho uma kuwukuthi kunezinto ezenzekayo emakhaya mtshela uthisha uma kuwukuthi kulukhuni ukuthi ukukhulume ekhaya ukuthi nginenkinga enjengale ehe! ukuze leyonkinga ingakufasrathi noma ingakudaleli ukuba ucabange kakhulu eclassin ngayo kanti kufanele lapho esikoleni uconcentrathe ezifundweni zakho. Ngakho-ke ukuhlukunyezwa ngokocansi akuyona into okufanele nina niyifihle.

Eh, if there is someone abusing them they must report this to adults – that so and so is abusing me or so and so wants to abuse me - and those adults should take this [information] to the police.

If you report to the police you will be protected. Again you must try by all means not to walk alone so that if anyone tries to abuse you, the other person can run and call for help nearby.

Apart from that if there are things that are happening at home tell your teacher - if you cannot talk to anyone at home - so that the problem does not frustrate you and distract you in class because you need to be able to concentrate on your studies. So sexual abuse should not be kept hidden.

SFX: Iculo

Song

Nobuhle: Bayethe Hlangalomhlabathi bengisacela ukubuza ukuthi uphatheka kanjani uma ethi uhulumeni ufuna ukuvala isiko lomhlanga?

Your Majesty, King of the Soil, how do you feel when the government says it is going to ban the Reed Dance ceremony?

Isilo: Eh, kukhona izinto uhulumeni angeke aze akwazi ukufinyelela ekuyivaleni ngoba isiko lomhlanga noma isiko nje alifikanga nohulumeni banamhlanje lafika namakhosi eMandulo isizwe nesizwe sinamasiko aso sinemikhuba yaso.

Futhi thina lapha kwaZulu asikafelwa nangeyodwa ingane sisazoqhubeka nokuyihlola ingane siye phambili ngoba futhi ziyazizela nabazali futhi bayayikhuthaza ukuthi ziye ngeke isiko eh, lomhlanga laqedwa ukuba ungagidwa manje ngisekhona nobukhosi busekhona nani mantombazana nisekhona.

Eh, there are things that the government cannot ban because culture was not brought about by the government of the day but by the kings of the olden days so each and every nation has its own traditions and customs.

Also, we here in KwaZulu have not experienced a single child dying (due to virginity testing) so we are going to continue with it because the children choose for themselves to come and their parents encourage them to come, so this ceremony and the dancing will not come to an end as long as I am alive. As long as there are young girls like you we will not stop celebrating the tradition of the Reed Dance.

SFX: Iculo Wena wendlovu

Song "You of the Elephant"

SFX: Abaqophi song

Strong Recorders' song

Promise: Siyabonga, siyethemba ukuthi niluthokozele uhlelo lwethu siyakhuthaza kakhulu ukuthi abafana baphumelele emkhosini wokweshwama esigodlweni senkosi eNyokeni emva kokumenyezela emsakazweni ukuthi unini. Mina nginguPromise wakwaMasuku ngithi salani kahle.

Thank you, we hope that you enjoyed our programme and we encourage the boys to go to the First Fruit ceremony at the king's palace at Nyokeni after the date has been announced on the radio.

I am Promise Masuku. Goodbye.

SFX: Abaqophi theme song.



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