



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

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### ***Ngisukaphi? / Where do I come from?***

***Mbali, 13 years old, 2006***

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[sound of car driving]

**MBALI:** Manje sisemotweni sesidlulile o-Phongolo, sesidlulile eSkhemelele  
sesidlulile ebhodini elithi Ndumo,

**TRANSLATION:** We are in the car, passing by Phongolo to Skhemelele.

**MBALI:** NanguKhethiwe uphuza ijuice yami!

**TRANSLATION:** Here is Khethiwe drinking my juice!

**MBALI:** Igama lami ngingu Mbali, ngizofisa ukuzethula. Mina ngifunda uGrade  
5, ngifunda Okhayeni Primary School. Ngihlala eMathayini. Ngithanda  
ukucula, ukudlala ibhola, ngiphinde ngithande ukuya enkunini.  
Ngineminyaka eyu-13. Mina ngimkhulu nje kodwa hayi kakhulu.  
Ngiphakathi nendawo, angimude kakhulu. Ngiphaphile, nginamehlo  
amakhulu futhi. Nginenyawo enkulu. amazinyo ami kunesicala phakathi  
nendawo. Ubuso bami nje mina ngifana noBaba.

**TRANSLATION:** My name is Mbali. I want to introduce myself: I go to school at  
Okhayeni, I'm doing Grade 5. I live at Mathayini. I love singing. I like  
playing netball, I also like to fetch firewood. I am 13 years old. I am big  
but not too big. I am middle-sized, not too tall. I am a show off. I have  
big eyes and big feet. My teeth have a gap in the front. My face is like  
my father's.

**MBALI:** UMama angimazi, umama washona ngisemncane, kodwa umuntu  
engimaziyo uBaba kuphela. UBaba ke yena ngimazi kancane nje. ubaba  
Washona ngo 1999.

**TRANSLATION:** I didn't know my mother: she died when I was still small but the person I  
knew was my father. I knew him just a little bit. My dad died in 1999.

**MBALI:** Manje sengingakwa-Baba omncane kunenhlabathi, ngibona izihlahla  
zamabunga, , ngibona inhlabathi.

**TRANSLATION:** We are at my father's younger brother's place, it is sandy. I see  
*Amabunga* trees, I see sand.

**MBALI:** Sawubona Baba Omncane

**TRANSLATION:** Hello Uncle.

**UNCLE:** Yebo.

**TRANSLATION:** Hello.

**MBALI:** Bengisacela ungitshela ngomlando wami.

**TRANSLATION:** Would you please tell me about my background?

- UNCLE:** Umlando wakho mina angiwazi kahle, kodwa umuntu owayewazi kahle ngicabanga ukuthi usisi owashonayo nomunye mhlawumbe angazi asisize usisi omdala lo oseMakhanisi.
- TRANSLATION:** I don't know your background well, but the person who I think knew it is my sister who died and another perhaps... I don't know if my older sister who lives at Makhanisi could help.
- MBALI:** Noma ungangitshela nanoma yini.
- TRANSLATION:** You could just tell me anything you know.
- UNCLE:** Eh, mina engiyikhumbulayo ngawe, ngikhumbula ukuthi eh nifika lapha nomama wakho omncane, umama wakho angizange ngize ngimbone so ke kunzima ukuthi ngasho ukuthi ukuthi umama wakho ubani, wayenjani, angizange ngize ngimbone ngagcina nje ngimbona kuma-photo.
- TRANSLATION:** The only thing that I remember is the time you came here with your father's girlfriend. I never saw your mother, so it's difficult for me to say who she was or what she was like. I last saw her in photographs.
- MBALI:** Maphi ama-photo?
- TRANSLATION:** Where are the photos?
- UNCLE:** Ama-photo agcina akuyena u-anti wakho lo engisho yena angithi yena wayemazi umama wakho, manje angisawakhumbuli nami njengomuntu ongahlali lapha ekhaya.
- TRANSLATION:** Okunye futhi, okuningi ngicabanga ukuthi usisi okwaziyo udadewethu loyo ose-Makhanisi nguyena angakhona ongachaza kancono ngawe, mina vele okuningi bengingahlali lapha kunzima bengingachaza. The photos were last with your aunt, the one I said who knew your mother. I don't remember well as I don't stay at home. Another thing, my sister who stays at Makhanisi knows a lot about you and she would be able to explain better about [you background]. It's difficult for me to explain as I wasn't living here.
- [Birds and other rural sounds]*
- MBALI:** Sawubona Anti.
- TRANSLATION:** Hello Auntie.
- AUNT:** Yebo.
- TRANSLATION:** Hello.
- MBALI:** Unjani?
- TRANSLATION:** How are you?
- AUNT:** Ngyaphila.
- TRANSLATION:** I'm fine.
- MBALI:** Ngicela ukubuza ukuthi izithombe zikaMama, nezikaBaba zikhona yini?
- TRANSLATION:** I want to ask if you have any photos of my mother or my father?
- AUNT:** Hayi, ezikaMama wakho angizazi, ngazi ezikaBaba.
- TRANSLATION:** No, I don't know about any photos of your mother, I only know about your father's.
- MBALI:** UMama, uMama wayenjani-nje?
- TRANSLATION:** What was my mother like?
- AUNT:** Kade enjenani? Nje kade enjena, wayenamehlo angathi makhudlwana,

- TRANSLATION:* ensundu, wabempofu.  
What was she like? She was like this: she had biggish eyes, she was light skinned.
- MBALI:* Kade esebenza noma kade ebengasebenzi?  
*TRANSLATION:* Was she working or not?
- AUNT:* Hayi ngambona engasebenzi, weza nawe omncane nje usebomvu  
*TRANSLATION:* bomvu unamasonto amabili.  
She wasn't working, she came with you [to where your father was working] when you were still tiny, just two weeks old.
- MBALI:* Washona nini uMama?  
*TRANSLATION:* When did my mother die?
- AUNT:* Eh, iminyaka angisayazi.  
*TRANSLATION:* I don't remember what year she died.
- MBALI:* Awazi nokuthi wayenangaki?  
*TRANSLATION:* Did you know how old she was?
- AUNT:* Angikwazi lutho nje ngoba ngambona ngelinye ilanga enkopolo.  
Mhlawumbe ngithe mina mhlawumbe ngo- 30 kade sanawo u-30 ngoba ngokumbheka kade angaphezulu mawumbheka kade wawumuntu oqinile  
*TRANSLATION:* I don't know because I only met her once when she came to your father's workplace. I think she was about 30 years old because she looked strong.
- MBALI:* Anti, uBaba wayengithanda yini?  
*TRANSLATION:* Auntie, did my father love me?
- AUNT:* Yebo kade bekuthanda kakhulu.  
*TRANSLATION:* Yes, he loved you very much.
- MBALI:* Kanjani?  
*TRANSLATION:* In what way?
- AUNT:* Kwakukhombisa ukuthi kade bengafuni bekushaye, nokuthi ke phela akuthengele nje izinto ezinhle, kubonakala ukuthi uyakuthanda.  
*TRANSLATION:* Because he didn't want you to be beaten and he bought you lovely things.it showed that he loved you
- MBALI:* Anti ngicela ukubuza ukuthi uBaba ubukeka kanjani?  
*TRANSLATION:* Auntie, please tell me what he looked like?
- AUNT:* Bebukeka kahle, nasi isithombe sakhe ufake ibaret emhlophe, kade ekhanya ngebala.  
Umlando uyafuneka vele ukuthi ingane ikwazi ukuthi umama wayo noma ubaba wayo washona kanjani kwaba kanjani, kwathandeka kanjani ngoba ezinye vele izingane bashona abazali zingathandeki.  
*TRANSLATION:* He looked nice: here is his photo, he is wearing a white beret, he was bright in complexion.  
A child needs to know her background about how her mum died and what happened, how her dad died, because some children die without being loved.
- MBALI:* Anti usale kahle, sesiyahamba.  
*TRANSLATION:* Thank you stay well, we are going.

**AUNT:** Bye bye.

*[car sounds]*

**MBALI:** Mina ngizizwa ngijabulile ngoba ngisitholile isithombe sikaBaba. Manje sesiyamuka sesibheke ekhaya.

**TRANSLATION:** I feel happy because I have found a photo of my father. Now I am going home.



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