



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

Ukukuluma kakhulu, ukuzwa kancane/ Speaking loudly, hearing little ***Nkululeko, 12 years old, 2007***

- Nkululeko: Igama lami nginguNkululeko. Ngama-weekend ngisiza umama lapho athi angimsize khona. Uma kuwukuthi sengiqedile ukumsiza ngiyacela ukuthi sicela ukuyodlala, uma kuwukuthi uyanqaba ngintshontshe ngihambe ngiyodlala e-grawundini.
- My name is Nkululeko. On weekends I help my mother wherever she needs help. When I have finished I ask for permission to go and play. If she doesn't allow me to, I go secretly anyway and play at the soccer field.*
- SFX: umsindo wokungqongqoza – *knocking on a door*
- Nkululeko: Angazi noma ukhona yini!
I don't know whether she's here!
- SFX: umsindo wokuvuleka kwesicabha – *door opening*
- Nkululeko: Ngiyambona-ke manje umama sowugeza ikhanda.
I see mother now. She's washing her hair.
- SFX: umsindo wamanzi – *sound of water pouring*
- Nkululeko: Sawubona! Sawubona!
Hello! Hello!
- Mama: Yebo.
Hello.
- Nkululeko: Unjani?
How are you?
- Mama: Ngiyaphila.
I am fine.
- Nkululeko: Ngoba ngikhuluma nomama inkinga yakhe ukuthi akezwa yikho ngikhuluma kakhulu.

I am speaking very loudly to my mother as she has a problem: she can't hear properly.

Nkululeko: Lapha ekhaya ngihlala nomama noSandiso sibathathu. Indlu iyodwa lena esilala kuyo nekhishi lilodwa esibasela kulo ne toilet likhona kanye nesihlabathi esisegcekeni nezitini nezimbali kutshaliwe kanye nengadi nenhlaba namabhece atshaliwe ayikho into engatshalwanga layikhaya nendlu esakhiwayo layikhaya.

Here at home I live with my mother and Sandiso: just the three of us. Our house is only one room – this is where we sleep. There is also [an outside] kitchen where we cook, and a toilet. There is [building] sand in the yard and there are bricks and planted flowers. There's also a garden with an aloe in it and marrows. There are so many different types of vegetables planted here at home. And there's also another room that is being built.

Nkululeko: Into yangiphatha kabi ngisemncane ukuthi ubaba washona engingambonanga, saya ePhongola safica ubaba egula kwafika Ambulance izomulanda, waya eNgwelezane, Kwathi ngokusasa sezwa ukuthi ubaba ushonile, kwathi ngakusasa wakhona kwaba wumulindelo, kwasa futhi kwaba nomngcwabo. Into engimkhumbula ngayo ukuthi wangithengela izimpahla enginakekela.

What upsets me is that when I was very young my father died and I [didn't go to his funeral]. We went to Phongola where we found father sick and then the ambulance came to fetch him and he went to Ngwelezane [hospital]. The next day we heard that father had died, and the day after that there was a night vigil and then the following morning was the funeral. What I remember about him is that he used to buy clothes for me; he bought clothes for me and he took care of me.

Mama: Ngazizwa ngiphatheke kabi ngokushona kukababa wakho. Ngoba ngathola ukuthi angisezukukwazi ukuthola amandla okukukhulisa, futhi ukukhula ungenabo abazali abanele ngakubona kungasekuhle kimi. Ubaba wakho wayebukeka ewumuntu onothando nawe futhi ubaba wakho wayekuthanda.

I was very upset when your father died. Because I realised that I wasn't going to have the means to raise you, and I felt that it would not be good for you to grow up without both parents. Your father seemed like a loving man and he loved you.

Nkululeko: Kanjani?

In what way?

Mama: Wayekunakekela isikhathi esiningi njengoba wayengathandi ukukubona usesimeni esibi.

He took responsibility for caring for you most of the time as he didn't want to see you in a bad situation.

Nkululeko: Kunjani ukungikhulisa ngaphandle kukababa.

How does it feel to raise me without father?

Mama: Ngiyabubona ubunzima, buningi ubunzima engibhekene nabo njengesimo sokondla kanjena, ngibonga yena uhulumeni owangisiza ukuthi angondlise nina, nami-ke ngenxa yokukhubazeka sengithola imali ethe xaxa yokuthi ngikwazi ukuthi ngenze nezidingo zalapha ekhaya.

It's difficult, there's a lot of difficulty that I am facing - like buying food. I am grateful to the government for helping me support you: because of my disability I get a little more money to meet the needs of this home.

Nkululeko: Wena uyathanda yini ukuhlala ungezwa ezindlebeni?

Do you like living with a hearing impairment?

Mama: Angikuthandi nami ukuhlala ngingezwa ngoba kunginika inkinga enkulu ngoba ngihlala ngedwa nje angikwazi ngisho ukwenzani, kwakuhamba nje ngibe phakathi kwabantu into engingayithandi ngathi ngingazihlalela layikhaya nje ngoba angikwazi ukukhuluma nomuntu uma abantu bekhuluma ungathi bakhuluma ngami kunginika usizi lokho kimi lokho ngoba ngiye ngizwe sengifikelwa usizi, ngenxa yokuthi uma ngifika esikoleni kube sengathi zonke ingane zihleka mina ukuthi mina angizwa, othisha uma ngabe befundisa angizwa ukuthi kukhulunywa ngani manje umoya wami ngizwa uphatheka kabi ngakho angikuthandi ngempela lokhu engiyingikhona.

I don't like it. It gives me a lot of difficulty because [it's as if] I live alone and I feel a bit helpless. I don't like being among people, I prefer to be alone at home because [when I am with other people] I feel as if they are talking about me and that makes me feel sad and think thoughts that I should not be thinking; I really do not like that. When I get to school I feel as if all the children are laughing at me because I can't hear, and when the teachers are teaching I don't hear what they say, and it makes me depressed. I really don't like what I am.

Nkululeko: Ukuhlala nomuntu ongezwa ezindlebeni kubuye kuxakane kwesinye isikhathi uma uthi ukhuluma naye mhlawumbe noma kusebusuku angezwa.

Living with someone whose hearing is impaired is hard because sometimes when you talk to her like at night [when she can't see your mouth moving] she can't hear.

Nkululeko: Ngoba umama engezwa ezindlebeni, nami ngiyakwazi ukumbekezelela uma ngikhuluma naye ngoba nginyusa izwi uma uma kungukuthi ngikhuluma naye ngibhekana naye angilokhu ngimkhulumisa kabi.

Because my mother's hearing is impaired, I am patient with her, when I talk to her I raise my voice and face her directly. I do not talk to her badly.

Nkululeko: Kunjani ukuhlala nami?

What is it like living with me?

Mama: Cha sengizwa kumnandi manje ngobangoba eqale lendlela yokuqopha ngimbona esengihlonipha kakhulu useyalazi ikhaya kanti ngesikhathi esiphambili bekade sixabana njalo engathandi ukuhlala ekhaya kodwa manje useyingane impela.

No, I feel that it's nice now. Since you've been one of the Abaqophi you respect me a lot now, and you feel now that this is your home. Before we always used to fight and you didn't like staying at home. But now you have matured.



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