



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

UBaba omusha / A new father Zekhethelo, 10 years old, 2006

ZEKHETHELO: Igama lami uZekhethelo, ngihlala eBhambanana. Ibukeka iyinhle indawo yalana eBhambanana kodwa kunesomiso. Yomile futhi imvula nje ayini Inekwezinye indawo kuqhamuka umoya obandayo alithandi nje ukuna. Ngineminyaka ewu10 kodwa ngoSeptember ngiyobe ngineminyaka ewu11

Ngizokhuluma indaba yami istory esikhuluma ngobaba omusha. Ekuhleleni ngangihlala nogogo wayenganginaki ubaba wami kwathi ngisemncane nganginalithandi ibele umama wayeka eskoleni wahamba wayosebenza eNdumo esitolo abuya angithengele ubisi.

Waphinda sengimdala wabuyela eskoleni umama wasuke lapho wakhana athola ubaba omusha. Kwathi ngo2000 umama wathutha eManyiseni wazokwakha la eBhambanana. UMama wangibiza wathi angiyendlini, ngafika endlini. Wathi umama angishanele egcekeni, ngashanela egcekeni wathi angigeze izitsha ngazigeza.

Wasuka lapho wangibizela endlini ngazibonela nje omunye ubaba kanti ubaba wami omusha. Angisakhumbuli ukuthi wayegqokeni ngaphansi kodwa i shirt lakhe lali yellow ngaphezulu. Ngajabula kakhulu kubona ubaba omusha azokwazi kuninakekela.

Eh, wafika wangibingelela wayejabulile nami futhi ngangijabulile ngavuma wangibuza ukuthi nginjani ngathi ngiyaphila ngamtshela ukuthi ngiyathokoza ukumazi wathi naye uyajabula.

Kwathi ngo 2002 sasuka, sasuka ebusuku ngoba umkhulu engangihlala naye wayegqilaza ugogo.

TRANSLATION: My name is Zekhethelo I live at Bhambanana. This place is so beautiful but there is drought also its dry there is no rain and in some areas there comes a cold wind, but it doesn't like to rain. I'm 10 years old; I will be 11 in September.

My story is about getting a new father. I was staying at Ekuhleleni with my grandmother because my real father didn't take care of me. When I was young I didn't like breast milk so my mother dropped out of school and went to work in a shop at Ndumo so she could buy milk for me.

After some time, she went back to school – there she found a new father for me. By year 2000 my mother moved from Manyiseni to Bhambanana where she built a new house. One day she called me to come to her house. I went to the house and she said I must sweep the yard, and I did so. She

said I must wash the dishes and I washed them.

Then she called me into the house and I saw for myself another man - he was my new father. I can't remember what he was wearing on his bottom half, but he was wearing a yellow shirt on his top half. I was so excited to get a new father who would know how to take care of me.

He greeted me and was so happy and I was happy too. He asked me how I am and I told him that I was so happy to meet him and he said the same.

In 2002 we ran away at night because we [my grandmother and I] were staying with my abusive grandfather.

[At home, with chickens]

ZEKHETHELO: Sawubona Gogo.
TRANSLATION: Hello Gogo.

GOGO: Yebo, mntanomntanami
TRANSLATION: Hello, child of my child.

ZEKHETHELO: Unjani?
TRANSLATION: How are you?

GOGO: Ngiyaphila mntanomntanami
TRANSLATION: I'm fine, child of my child.

ZEKHETHELO: Bengisacela uchaze gogo ngokuthi losuku lokubaleka kuwe lalunjani?
TRANSLATION: Gogo, would you please explain what it was like on that day that we ran away?

GOGO: Lwalulubi kakhulu gogo ngoba umkhulu wakho abe sithethisa wena waze walala ngenkathi ngithola ukuthi ngibaleke. Ngangijabulanga ngangikhubekile ngoba abesithethisa asihlukumeza kungasaqali futhi.
TRANSLATION: It was bad because your grandfather was shouting at us. You were sleeping at the time I decided to run away. I wasn't happy. I was so angry because he was shouting at us and abusing us and it was not his first time doing this.

ZEKETHELO: Emini wafika umkhulu wasuka laphoke kwathi ntambama waphakela ukudla ugogo sahlala ekhishini umkhulu alokhu athethisa ugogo alokhu amthethisa ugogo ngagcina mina ngalala wahamba umkhulu wavula iTV mina sengilele ngangigula ngalesosikhathi ugogo wangivusa sageza wahamba ugogo wanyonyoba kahle enzela ukuthi angavuki umkhulu bese eseyasibona ukuthi sifuna ukubaleka.

Wasuka laphoke wahamba ugogo wafika wathatha ingubo wangimbathisa. Khona isihlahla esasisikhulu kwakuthiwa kuseMgungundlovu wathutha izimpahla ugogo wayozibeka khona. Sahamba ebusuku sahamba kwakukhona omunye umuzi ugogo wayejwayelene nawo safika laphoke salala kwathi ebusuku ngabo 1 savuka sahamba sadlula kukhona umgwaqo okuthiwa kuseMqokolweni sahamba ngawo...

TRANSLATION: That night my grandfather arrived home and my grandmother dished food for him. We were all in the kitchen and my grandfather was shouting at my Gogo. He shouted for a long time because I ended up falling asleep. My grandfather went and switched on the TV. I was asleep and sick at the time. My grandmother woke me up and we washed. She tiptoed out so as not to wake Grandfather so he wouldn't see that we were running away.

She took our clothes and wrapped me up. After that we left. I woke up at the place where there is a big tree called the *Mgungundlovu* tree. She had left our clothes there. We then walked in the night until we reached a homestead where my grandmother knew the people who lived there. We got there and slept there. Then at 1am we woke up and passed the road that goes to Mqokolweni and we took it...

GOGO: Sahamba ubusuku bonke kumnyama ngimdonga. Nginaso kodwa lesibindi sokungesabi sathi uma sithi siyahamba kwenye indawo kwabakhona into ethi *fuhlu* sangabaleka savele nje sahamba saqhubeka kwaze kwasa saze safika estation le eMqokolweni sahlala lapho sibalekela ukuthi singabonwa umuntu wangale ngoba kwenzeka nalo uyasifuna ngale.

TRANSLATION: We walked the whole night. Everywhere was dark. I pulled her (by the hand). I was brave because in some places we heard scary noises but we didn't run away. We went to Mqokolweni and rested there, but kept on going so that people wouldn't see us because it could have happened that [my husband] thought to look for us there.

ZEKETHELO: Sathi uma sifika eMqokolweni sahlala sahlala kwathi ntambama ngabo 4 sathola enye imoto safika sangena komunye umuzi eMbadleni. Safika salala ekuseni kumakhaza sagibela enye iKZN safika eBhambanana. Sabona khona umama enye imoto wayethi uma siyibona siyimise iyakwazi lapho kwakhe khona umama.

TRANSLATION: When we reached Mqokolweni we rested there. At 4 in the afternoon we got a car and went to another homestead at Embadleni, where we slept. In the morning it was cold and we got into a KZN car and arrived at Bhambanana. We saw a car that my mother had said we should look out for because [the driver] would know where her house is.

GOGO: Ngenhlanhla ngase ngiyambona lobaba okuthiwa uNdlovu ngaya kuye ngashiya logogwana wami ngafika ngathi ngicela ungimikise kuNonhlanhla. Wasiletha la.

TRANSLATION: I was lucky for I saw the said man called Mr Ndlovu. I left my goods and went to him to ask him to take us to Nonhlanhla. He brought us here.

ZEKHETHELO: Sangena endlini kamama kwakhala iphone kamama umkhulu asafonela umama yakhala iphone wathi umkhulu efonela umama ucela ukubuza ukuthi umama kamama akekho yini lapho ekhaya. Wathi umama akekho yena usedriving school oPhongolo. Wayengafuni ukubona lapho kuhlala khona umama. Wavala uringo sasuka lapho ke sahlala saphuza itiyi. Ngajabula kakhulu ukuthola ubaba omusha ozokwazi ukunginakekela.

TRANSLATION: When we got inside my mother's house, my mother's cell phone rang. It was my grandfather calling asking if she knows my grandmother's whereabouts. My mother said 'she is not here, she is at driving school in Pongola'. She didn't want him to know where her mother was staying. Then my mother put down the phone and we sat and drank tea. I was so happy to get a new father who would know how to look after me.

[At home with mother]

ZEKHETHELO: Sawubona mama.
TRANSLATION: Hello Mama

MAMA: Yebo mntanami.
TRANSLATION: Hello my child.

ZEKHETHELO: Unjani?
TRANSLATION: How are you?

MAMA: Ngiyaphila.

TRANSLATION: I'm fine.

ZEKHETHELO: Ngisacela ukubuza ukuthi umthandelani ubaba wami omusha?
TRANSLATION: I want to ask why you love my new father.

MAMA: Ngimthandzela kuthi ee .. wangitshela tinto bengivele ngitifisa kusukela ngikhula akwententekanga ekuqaleni koja nyalo ngoba ngathola yena kwenteka njengendlela engangifisa kusukela ngikhula.

Ngativa ngijabulile kani nangalesikhathi nginihlanganisa utobona babe wakho lomusha awekuphathele amaswidi namadanone ngajabula nje nami ukubona umntanami ukuthi hhayi sethole babe lokahle lotomphatha ngendlela nami engifisa ngayo.

TRANSLATION: I love him because he told me things that I wanted to hear while I was young; when I was growing up I never experienced this – but now it is happening.

I was so happy especially when I brought the two of you together for you to come and meet your new father. He had sweets and yoghurt for you, and that showed me that my child had found a good father who would take care of her, the way I wished.

ZEKHETHELO: Umama ngiyamthanda kakhulu akekho umuntu engimthanda njengomama nobaba nogogo nosisi wami omncane, eh... sengiqedile.

TRANSLATION: I love my mother; there is no one I love more than my grandmother, my mother and father and little sister. Eh ... I am finished.



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