



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

Inkanyamba nomalsivumuvumu? Indaba yedamu laseJozini / Snakes or tornadoes? The story of Jozini dam 2008

- Sfx: Abaqophi song
- Sibongu: Sanibonani balaleli e Abaqophi basOkhayeni banilethele ulwazi mayelana nedamu laseJozini e sisi ngabe wazini mayelana nedamu laseJozini?
Hello listeners eh, the Abaqophi basOkhayeni are bringing you information about Jozini dam. Eh, sister, what do you know about Jozini Dam?
- Zekhethelo: Abanye bathi kunenyoka abanye bathi kunenkanyamba nami angazi ukuthi ikuphi okuyikho.
Some people they say there is a snake in it. Some say it is a seven-headed snake; I don't even know if there is such a thing.
- Sibongu: Balaleli ingakho sinilethele lolu hlelo sifuna ukuthi sazi kabanzi mayelana nedamu laseJozini mina igama lami nginguSibongukwanda ngingowakaMhlongo.
Listeners, that's why we are bringing you this programme: we want to know more about the Jozini Dam. I am Sibongukwanda Mhlongo.
- Zekhe: Igama lami nginguZekhethelo ngiwaka Khoza.
My name is Zekhethelo Khoza.
- Sfx: Umsindo wamanzi
Water gushing through gate in dam wall
- Gogo: Awu! Ingakanani imbadlambadla inamakhanda awuseveni iyahamba iduke lapha imibani elapha siyasaba ntombi.
Awu! It's so big, it's enormous: it has seven heads, [it causes] lightening here; we are afraid, girl.
- Person 1: Uma kuna imvula ngiyangibone kusuka ifu laphana oPongolo kunyakaze ne bridge into eyinjengalezo ngibone ngoba vele ngake ngezwa kuthiwa ikhona laphana inyoka.
When it's raining there is a cloud that comes from Pongolo [River] and then the bridge across the dam wall trembles - things like that. I have actually seen that. I have only heard about the snake though.
- Sbongu: Uyesaba wena uma uhamba khona lapha udlula ngenyawo?
Are you afraid when you are walk over [this bridge]?

- Person 1: Angesabi. Sengajwayela ukuhamba khona ngoba uma ngiya esikoleni ngidlula khona ingakho ngingesabi.
I am used to walking here because I pass by here on my way to school – that's why I am not afraid.
- Dam manager: No kudipender ukuthi inkanyamba uyi understander kanjani ngokwazi kwami mina inkanyamba umoya, inkanyamba is called tornado is twisted wind yonke indawo ukhona umoya phezu kwamanzi. Mina angikholelwa ukuthi inkanyamba inyoka asinayo la edamini.
No, this depends on your understanding of the snake; from what I know inkanyamba means wind, inkanyamba is called tornado, a twisted wind above the water. I don't believe that it's a snake. We do not have a snake here in the dam.
- SFX: Umsindo wamanzi
Water gushing through gate in dam wall
- Lucky: Lapha siseJozini ilanga lishisa kakhulu likhipha umkhovu etsheni.
Here we are at Jozini , the sun is very hot.
Size lapha ngokuzo recoda u mkhulu uMadlopha nogogo uMathenjwa basichazele kabanzi ngokuthi obani abalakra ngoba babekhona ngenkathi lakhiwa.
We came here to record Mkhulu Madlopha and Gogo Mathenjwa while they tell us more about who built the dam because they were here when it was being built.
- Mkhulu: Mina ngaba ishop keeper esitolo eMakhathini ngo 1959 isitolo sasisinye sokuqala ngasebenza 16 years bathenga kimi.
I was a shopkeeper at a store in Makhathini in 1959. I worked at the same store for 16 years. [Those who built the dam] came and bought things from me.
- Gogo: Injongo yokwakiwa kwalelidamu linesikhathi eside kabi ngangiseyngane nami uma ngangibheka kwathiwa uma kwakiwa lelidamu kuzawulinywa ngala umasekugaywa indawo yaseBethal ngo 1959, bakha –ke la.
The reason the dam was built - it was a long time ago when I was still a child - the reason the dam was built was to cultivate this land. They looked at another area in Bethal but in 1959 but they built the dam here.
- Mbali: Obani abakha lelidamu?
Who built this dam?
- Gogo: Abelungu ababelakha kwaku Felence uPongola e kuNganeyilambile kunguSkibhase umsuthu kade kungu Isaka akade banaye.
The white people who built it were Felence from Pongola, and then there was someone called "Hungry child" and another Sotho man named Skibhase who built it with Isaac.
- Mbali: Abantu ababehlala lapha bashonaphi?
Where did the people who used to live here go?
- Mkhulu: Abantu ababakhe la, Nkosi yami basekhona imithonselana kodwa iningi labo lisekhaya lokugcina bakhona ababili abathathu Engisamazikahle ukuthi

usekhona emhlabeni uBhejamini Mbhamali ulapha e 16 ikubo laliphakathi edolobheni wuyena ongakwazi futhi ukusuka nokuhlala.

The people who had built their houses here, my God, there are still a few people but most of them are dead. There are two or three remaining. The person I know of who is still alive is Benjamin Mbhamali who is here at no. 16. His home was in the centre of town, he is the one who could explain to you.

Sbongu: Umkhulu Madlopha wathi kukhona abangasixoxela kabanzi mayelana nokususwa, sahamba saya e 16 kuMkhulu uMbhamali nobabuMahlinza.

Mr Madlopha said there are some people who could tell us more about the forced removal of people. We went to the area we call number 16 to Mr Mbhamali and Mr Mahlinza.

SFX: Umsindo wezimoto edolobheni

The sound of cars driving in town

Mahlinza: Mine engikwazikho iJozini ifike ngo 1959 la kwakuyihlathi kungamahlathonke kungekhomizi imizieyayikhona yayimingaki kwakukwaMbhamali, Mboshe kwaMngomezulu uMadubela ya. kwakunommbila la emasimini silima lapha sidla yonkinhlobo kunemikhiwane ubanana silime umoba sasilima yonke into.

Bafika bathi abelungu nina ekade nilima la enakhe la sinikhalisa nganali igogogo lempuphu nisuke nihambe ngoba amanzi azofika la nicwile kwaba ukuphela akukho okunye futhi esaphinde sakuthola abasakhela izindlu sayisukela sahamba siyifunela indawo kuze kube manje.

All I know is that Jozini [Dam] was started in 1959. Here it was just a forest, there were no houses, the houses that were here were the families of Mbhamali, Mboshe, Mngomezulu and Mr Myeni and Madubela. There was maize in the fields, we used to plant all sorts of things: there were figs, bananas and sugarcane – everything.

The white people came here and said, those of you who have been cultivating here will be compensated with this drum of maize meal. You must get out of here or else you will drown. And that was the end of it, we did not get anything else, they didn't rebuild our homes; we moved ourselves and found other places and that's how it came to be like this.

Mbhamali: Iqiniso lelo alishoyo uMahlinza inotice ayizange ibekhona sanikwa lelogogogwana lempuphu saxoshwa hambani la, lokho ikona okusinika iqiniso lokuthi basibiza ngeyimfene siyazike imfene vele uyayikhwiphiza uma ufuna ukuthi isuke eceleni kwensimu yakho.

Yes what Mahlinza is saying is true, we were not given any notice. We were given that drum of maize meal and chased away, told to get out of here. They made us feel like baboons – we know that you shoo a baboon away when you want it out of your field.

Sbongakonke: Ngicela ukubuza ukuthi bakhona yini abanye enasusa kanye nabo?

Were there others also forcibly removed with you?

Mbhamali: Bangingi kakhulu uma singavula ibhuku lapha njengoba sihleli lapha ningasangana nani ligcwele ibhuku nanti la.

There were so many. If we were to open a book while we are sitting here, it would be full; here it is.

SFX: umsindo wokushaywa kwebhuku

Sound of a book being hit

- Sbongu: Nazizwa kanjani?
How did you feel?
- Mahlinza: Sezwa sikhathazeka kakhulu ngoba phela vele sasuka endaweni yethu esasiyithanda sakhathazeka kakhulu namanje sisakhathazeka.
We were devastated because we left our areas that we loved, even now we feel devastated.
- Sbongu: Ngicelukubuza uma nicabanga uhulumeni yini anganisiza ngayo?
How do you think the government could help you?
- Mbhamali: Uhulumeni angasisiza asenzele imboni asenzele imboni yalabofish; asenzele isikebhe singene sibambe labofish lapha emfuleni sifake lapha embonini senze amathini.
Ngibona ingathi kuphelile akukho okuningi njengoba ngikhuluma nje inqondo yami iyaduma nenhliziyo ibuhlungu ngoba manje kuvuka ilonda lento esenziwa yona la.
The government could help us by creating a cooperative – a fish cooperative; with a fishing boat for us to catch fish here in the [dam] which we could can [put into tins].
As far as I can see there's nothing else; even as I speak my head is exploding, and my heart is broken; the wound caused by what was done to us is reopening.
- SFX: Umsindo wamanzi.
Water gushing through gate in dam wall
- Dam manager: Lesibona njengamanje I river control room river control room imbobo yakhona yingale lezu 3 enibona zikhipha amanzi zibizwa ngokuthi ama sle
What we can see now is the river control, the opening for it is that side....
- Sbongu: E Zekhethelo ngaphambi kokuba mhlambe siye edanyini laseJozini wena wasewazi yini ukuthi mhlambe kunomhubhe laphakathi edamini laseJozini.
E Zekhethelo before we went to Jozini Dam did you know that there was a tunnel inside the dam wall?
- Zekhethelo: Ngangingakaze ngizwe kodwa mhla singena laphana emhubheni wasedamini laseJozini ngasaba ngoba abantu abaningi babethi kunenyoka ngangitshela ukuthi izosibamba.
I never knew but when we went into the tunnel under the Jozini Dam I was scared because many people say there is a big snake, and I thought it might catch us!
- Sbongu: E nami ngangingazi balaleli kesaba nenhlanhla yokuthi siyongena kuloyamhubhe sangena nomphathi wedamu laseJozini.
I also didn't know. Luckily we got a chance to go into the tunnel with the manager of the Jozini Dam.
- SFX: Umsindo wamanzi
Water gushing through gate in dam wall
- Zekhethelo: Manje sesiyahamba siyobuka ifoundation, lapha sengibona eminye imishini nje lapha engingayazi ukuthi imishini yani

Now we are going to see the foundation, here I can see machines and I don't know what they are for.

Dam manager: Lendawo sibiza ngokuthi i-river control room.

We call this place the river control room.

SFX: Umsindo wamanzi

Sound of Water

Zekhethelo: Lapha siku foundation phase...

Here we are at the foundation phase...

Dam manager: Sikubottom of the dam manje singaphansi kwamanzi lesibona la injini yedamu le ila idamu licontrolwa khona –ke la

We are at the bottom of the dam now, we are under the water. What we can see is the dam engine which controls the dam.

Zekhethelo: Sesihamba sitepisini, siyakhuphuka kude lapho siyakhona. Kukuyi ntaba nje, abantu abaningi sebakhathele.

We are walking up the steps, we are going up a long way. It's steep and a lot of people are tired.

Dam manager: Lana-ke siyavota ke lana ukuthi niyafuna yini siyohamba lapha siyobona lendawo noma sibuyela emuva sesiyophuma.

Here we will vote to see if you want to go there or we go back out.

Abaqophi: Siyathanda.

We'd like to [go out].

SFX: Umsindo wamanzi

Water dripping in river control room

Dam manager: Igama lami nginguDam manager wakwaMakhaye ngumphathi wedamu laseJozini iPongola Port ngisenior water control officer.

My name is Dam manager Makhaye. I am the dam manager in Jozini at Pongola Port Dam; I am the senior water control officer.

Umsebenzi wami engiwezayo umangase nje ngiwuhafule ngisuperviza abasebenzi bami ngibanika i instruction yomsebenzi okumele bawenze ngibanikeze umsebenzi ngibagade ngibamonite.

The job that I do, in short, is that I supervise my workers, I give them instructions about the work that they should do, I give them work and monitor them.

bese futhi ngibhekana nomasipala ngidayisele amanzi omasipala special like eJozini municipality kuno lakeView municipality maningi instruction esiwenzayo njengamanje bese kuba namafarmas amafarmas esisebenza nawo kakhulu everyday.

And then I also oversee the selling of water to the municipality, especially the Jozini Municipality, and there's Lakeview Municipality. I also conduct tours that we do like now, and then there are farms that we work a lot with every day.

Sbongu: Lishona kangakanani lelidamu?

How deep is this dam?

Dam manager: Ukushona kwedamu kungu 82.9m.

The dam is 82.9m deep.

Sbongu: Iziphi izilwane eziphakathi mhlampe kulelidamu?

What kinds of animals are found in this dam?

Dam manager: Izilwane eziphakathi kukhona njengamanje ezijwayele ukubonakala nje kunabofish ekunezi kunoxamu nezingwenya nezinye zeyinyoka-ke.

The kinds of animals that we usually see are fish and monitor lizards and crocodiles and snakes.

Sbongu: Iziphi izindlela enizama ngazo ukuze kugcine kunciphe lokho ukuthi abantu baziphonse lapha edanyini?

How do you try to prevent people from throwing themselves into the dam?

Dam manager: Indlela esizama ngayo ukuthi laphezulu la, la okungavalekile khona siyazama ukuthi sifake urazer waya. Akhona amasign ashoyo ukuthi la akujombwa uyabo, umangaba abahloniphi amasign lawo ayikho into esingayenza uyabo.

We put razor wire here on top where it's not closed, and there are signs that say that you should not jump here – you see – but if [people] do not respect these signs there is nothing we can do.

Sbongu: Nenzani ukuze udonga ledamu luhlale luqinile kahle?

How do you make sure that the dam wall stays strong?

Dam manager: Lakukhona amacraks khona siyaphesha njengoba ubona manje nje kurenovethwa umgaqo i ngesikhathi amatruck ehamba edamini enza lento what u call ivibration. Into eyenzeka edamini idamu liyakreka uyabo then-ke manje bayarepaire amaspeels ways wethu adecrekile kancane then manje bayawalungisa-ke.

Where there are cracks, we patch them; as you can see they are renovating the road: when there are trucks going over the dam wall they cause it to - what you call - vibrate. Then what happens is the dam wall cracks and so now they are repairing it. They are repairing our spill-ways which were a little cracked.

Sbongu: Esh! Abanye ledamu liyisiqalekiso kubo abanye balahlekelwa abanye basuswa E weZekhethelo akusho khonani mhlampe elusizo kubo ledamu?

Eish! To some this dam is a curse – some lost their property, some were removed [from the area]. Hey Zekhethelo do you think some might say this dam is useful?

Zekhethelo: Yebo bakhona kodwa akesisizwe laba esabathola eJozini ukuthi bona bathini.

Yes I think some might, but let's listen to what some we found at Jozini had to say...

SFX: Umsindo wamanzi

Water coming out of tap

Zekhethelo: Wajabula yini ngenkathi lakhiwa lelidamu?

Were you happy when this dam was being built?

Aunt: Awu! Kakhulu impela sajabula ngoba thina nje ngoba silapha nje edolobheni kumnandi kabi abantu abangaphandle emakhaya bayasokola ngoba amanzi awekho inkinga kungukuthi-ke amapayipi asengakafiki le eyindaweni zakubo thina sijabula kakhulu njengoba likhona.

Oh, very much indeed, we were happy because we are here in town, it's very nice, the people who are out there in the rural areas are struggling because there's no water, the problem is that the pipes do not reach their areas, we are very happy because we are here.

Person 1: Liyasisiza ukuthi lisivimbele amanzi sikwazi ukuthola amanzi bakhuphuke ngompompi backline kube kuhle.

[The dam] means we get water; they pump it and purify it and it's good.

Person 2: Yebo idamu laseJozini ngiyalithanda liwusizo ngoba kuneyivakashi ezifike zime laphayana and siyakwazi ukuthi sibone inhlobo ezahlukene zabantu nabakhuluma ulimi olahlukene.

Yes the Jozini Dam helps because there are tourists who stop over there [on the dam wall], and we get to see different kinds of people who speak different languages.

Sfx: Iculo labaqophi
Abaqophi song

Zekhethelo: Balaleli sesibongile ngokulalela kwenu uhlelo lwethu Sbhongikwanda ngabe usulutholile yini ulwazi mayelana nokwakhiwa kwedamu nenyoka?

Thank you all for listening to our show, Sbhongikwanda did you find out what you wanted to about the dam and about the snake?

Sbhongikwanda: Yebo sengitholile ulwazi mayelana nokwakhiwa kwedamu. Inkinga yinkinga yenyoka angikayi oqondisisi kahle ngoba abantu babeka imibono yabo eyahlukahlukene abanye bathi ikhona abanye bathi ayikho nami angazi.

Balaleli izinto ezimnandi ziyashesha ukuphela e okushukuthi sesifike ekugcineni kuleluhlelo lethu. Siyabonga ukuba nani bhabhayini.

Yes, I did find out about the Jozini Dam. The problem is I am not sure about the snake because people have different opinions about it; some say there is a snake and other say there is no snake. I don't know.

Listeners good things come to an end fast and we have come to the end of our programme. Thanks, it was good being with you. Bye bye.

Zekhethelo: Nisalekahle sesiyobonana ngokuzayo.

Good bye we'll see you next time.



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