



Growing up in a time of AIDS: Abaqophi baKwaZisize Abakhanyayo Children's Radio project

Ilobolo liyathuthuka yini? / Is ilobolo still alive and well? 2008

- SFX: Ilobolo song "Ziphi 'zinkomo?"
Traditional Ilobolo song "Where are the cows?"
- Mthoko: Sanibonani balaleli emakhaya namhlanje sizokhuluma ngelobolo besibuza imibuzo yethu emibili ethi: ilobolo lamanje liyathuthuka noma liyafa? Ilobolo lasemandulo lenziwa kanjani? Igama lami ngimguMthokozisi isibongo ngiwakaGumede akesilalele abantu basemphakathini ukuthi bathini ngelobolo lamanje.
Hello listeners at home today we are going to talk about "ilobolo". We focus on two questions: Is ilobolo dying out or is it alive and well? How was ilobolo done in the olden days?
- Woman 1: Alithuthuki ilobolo yilo lona lelo nje lezinkomo kodwa izibizo ziyathuthuka.
Ilobolo is not thriving as the number of cows is still the same only the izibizo (giving of gifts from the bride's family to the groom's family) is on the increase.
- Young woman 1: Liyafa manje esikhathini samanje ilobolo ngoba abantu abanengi sebahhlala nabantu bengabalobolile.
iLobolo is dying out now because many people live with their partner now without going through the custom of ilobolo.
- Young woman 2: Kuya ngokuthi lowomzali lowo yini ayifisayo ngengane yakhe.
It depends on what the parent wishes for his/her child.
- Woman 2: Liyathuthuka uma wena mzali uqinisa ukuthi ngiyalifuna ilobolo liyafika.
It is something that is still thriving if you as a parent insist that ilobolo is paid.
- Mthoko: Sizwile –ke ukuthi abantu banemibono ehlukehlukehene ngendaba yelobolo lamanje. Umkhulu kaLindo wasichazela ngomgcagco ezinsukwini zakhe.
We have heard that people have different opinions about the issue of ilobolo these days. Lindo's grandfather described to us what a traditional Zulu wedding was like when he was young.
- Grandfather Zikhali: Umuntu nxa ephuma ekhaya akaphumi engalotsholiwe. Uzomkhipha ngani inkomo zingekho?

Ilobolo phela inkomo ezilobola intombazane ulotshiliwe intombazane, kazingekho izingubo imithwalo le imivuvunga konke nemibhede nomatafula nani yonke into kwakungenalutho.

Kwakuba amacansi nje kuphela esintu. Uyogqaqa-ke esigcawini-ke. Babuze bathi, "Ugqagqa uyamthanda yini na?" "Yebo ngiyamthanda uma ezongiphatha kahle". Wena ndoda, "Impela umkami ngiyamthanda".

A person never left home without first having ilobolo paid for her. How could she be taken away from home without cows first being brought for her?

Lobola is the name given to the cows that are paid for a girl. There were no blankets and baggage and all the stuff like beds and tables [in our day].

There used to be grass mats [given as gifts] only. A traditional wedding would take place in an open space and they would ask [the bride] "Do you love him?"... "Yes, I do if he will treat me well"... And you, man,?"... "Yes, I do love my wife."

SFX: Iculo: "Abakwami"
Song: "My in-laws"

SFX: Umsindo wegovu
The sound of someone pounding peanuts

Mthoko: Ugogo kaNosambulo samthola eganda amakinati ekhaya wasitshela ukuthi ngesikhathi esemncane akekho umuntu ayogana engalotsholiwe.
We found Nosambulo's grandmother pounding peanuts and she told us that when she was young no one went to live with her partner without ilobolo being paid first.

Grandmother: Bonke abantu thina sisebasha kade babalobola bonke akubangakhona ukuthi kubekhona abangamloboli kodwa izinkomo kade zincane seziningi manj
Kwaqala ngokuthi baze bazocela ekhaya bathi sicela intombi kabani, sizocela amanzi bese bazisa umbongandaba.
Bese bazisa izinkomo ishumi lezinkomo nezinkomo ezimbili ezihamba nezingubo imbathisana, Bathi bayabambathisa kodwa manje lokho kusekho sekukhaza mkhazi.
Lokho engisho khona ukuthi kusho ukuthi abantu bakhona abahlangani ukuthi kube yinhlanhla yabo ukuthi balobole. Bakhaza mkhazi.
When we were still young everyone paid ilobolo: nobody lived together without doing this first. But the number of cows was fewer then. iLobolo demands many cows now.
It would start with the [in-laws] coming to ask for the daughter of so-and-so's hand in marriage. They would ask for water to drink and then bring a thank-you present for the girl.
After that they would bring twelve cows, together with blankets. They would give the blankets [to the in-laws] but now this does not happen.
What I am saying is that the couple did not sleep together until the ilobolo process had taken place. This doesn't happen anymore.

Mthoko: Induna yethu yasichazela kanjengoba kade esho ugogo kaNosambulo ukuthi ezinsukwini zakhe bonke abantu balobola uma indoda yayingenazo izinkomo yahamba yoboleka.
Like Nosambulo's grandmother, our local induna [chief] explained to us that in his day everyone paid ilobolo and if a man did not own any cows he would go and borrow them from someone else.

Induna: Mina ngiwuGumede ngiwuTotoz' umatoto umboni wenyoka ifak' ikapisi.

Abantu bakuqala babelobolana. Bekuyilona gugu leli lokulobolana. Bekuthi uma uqonywe intombi uqale uyilobole busuyithatha-ke sulobolile.

Kwakuwusiko nje lwethu lwakwaZulu akufanele ukuthi uganwe kuqala bekungafanele ukuthi uganwe intombi eseyike yazala ubuthatha nje intombi nto eseyincane uyishele, ikuthande uyilobole ungakayithathi.

Kuyothi uma sewenza umshado-ke wenu umthimba kube sekuyikhathi-ke uyithatha-ke intombazana sewuyilobole, ungaqali ngokuyizalisa kuqala bese ugcina ngokuyilobola. Uqala ngokulobola.

Uma zingekho izinkomo bakhona bona ebebethathana kodwa umuntu aboleka nasemzini. Kakusabolekwana izinkomo uboleke emzini izinkomo kothi uma uzale ingane yentombazana izinkomo lezi zibuyele futhi e, lapho owaziboleka khona.

I am Mr Gumede Totoz' umatoto, the one who saw a snake wearing a cap. People in the olden days used to pay ilobolo. It was seen as something precious to pay ilobolo. If you were in love with a woman you had to pay ilobolo first before taking her home.

It was our Zulu culture that you would not live together before marriage. It was important that a man married a young virgin who had not yet had a child. He would propose and pay ilobolo before getting married.

After getting married you would take your wife home. You would not first get her pregnant and then pay ilobolo later. You started with ilobolo.

If [a man] had no cows he would go and borrow cows from another family's homestead. People used to lend one another the cows and after a daughter was born to the person who had borrowed cows, the ilobolo paid for the grown-up daughter would be used to pay back the cows that had been borrowed.

Mkhulu: Ngokutshela ukuthi elobolweni lamanje akuseyilobolo kahle hle hle. Ube lithuthuke liyafa. Ilobolo seyilabomatalasi nemibhede nezitulo ilona lobolo lelo.

Kulimala wena mzali wengane futhi uthengela lengane ukuthi ihambe iye emshadweni. Ngiyakhala nami ngihleli nje abakangiloboleli abantwabami ilobolo angikalitholi.

Kanti akusalotsholwa ngani ngoba phela iyonanto ekhipha umgomo ekhaya umakoti ingane ihambe ihlale emzini ngokuthi ilotsholiwe.

I can say that today's ilobolo is not as good as before. Instead of being on the increase it is dying. iLobolo is now just all about mattresses and beds and chairs: that is ilobolo.

The parent of the girl is the one who loses out because now you have to buy things for the bride [to give as gifts to her in-laws] when she goes to get married. I am also upset because my girls have not followed the custom of ilobolo; I haven't had any ilobolo paid to me for them yet.

I do not know why ilobolo is not still done because it gives the bride a sense of dignity while living with the in-laws.

Mthoko: Nansi induna yethu isiyala ngendaba yelobolo lanamhlanje.

Here is our induna giving advice about ilobolo of today.

Induna: Eh, umlayezo engingawudlulisa kubantu ukuthi ngesikhathi samanje ingane ungayitsheli ngendaba zokuganana ngoba isikhathi samanje singesemfundo. Kufanele ukuthi ingane nayiphi nayiphi wena uyikhulise ngendaba yemfundo.

Bonke abantu behlise lomthwalo kobakhwenyana abehlise lemali yezibizo, hhayi ilobolo, ilobolo lilungile kodwa izibizo lezi eyizona ezingazinhle kubantu.

Eh, the message I would like to pass on to people is that these days you must not encourage your child to get married young because we are living in the time where children need to be educated. You must raise each child to pursue an education.

Everyone should spend less on izibizo gifts, not ilobolo. The ilobolo [giving of cows] is fine but the cost of presents is the thing that is not good for people.

Mthoko:

Abanye bathi ilobolo bayalikhokha abanye bathi izibizo zibaqeda amandla. Balaleli emakhaya nicabanga ukuthi ilobolo liyaqhubeka noma cha?

Nicabangani ngabazukulu bethu uma nicabanga nicabanga ukuthi bazolotsholwa yini noma cha?

Some say they will pay ilobolo and others say that the cost of izibizo demotivates them. Listeners at home do you think ilobolo is alive and well or not?

What do you think about your grandchildren? Do you think that when they are grown up they will still practice the custom of ilobolo or not?

SFX:

Iculo: "Ilanga liyashona"

Song: "The sun is setting"



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