



Abaqophi BakwaZisize Abakhanyayo Children's Radio project

Ukuphila ngokuluka abantu / Braids for a living

Bonginkosi, 12 years old, 2009

Bonginkosi: Lapha sisebrijini eduze okukhenikhwa khona izimoto.

Igama lami nginguBonginkosi. Igama lami lasukela ngokuthi ubaba washona mina ngekhathi ngisemncane wangishiya esiswini umama wathe igama lami ngizengibe ngiwuBonginkosi ngoba babonga Inkosi ukuthi angcine aze athole umntwana, womfana futhi wayengalindele.

Mina iminyaka yami ngina 12 ngazalwa ngo 1997 mhlaka 2 July. Mina ekhaya ngihlala nomama nomamkhulu, umamkhulu njalonje uhlale ehla eya e salon afike eyozama amacustomer uma ezile ukuzoluka ubuya nemali asithengele ukudla kwesinye isikhathi.

Manje sesilapha esalon sizorecorder umama nomamkhulu sesingena phakhathi esalon.

I am here at the bridge close to where they fix cars.

My name is Bonginkosi. My father died while I was still in my mother's womb, so they called me Bonginkosi (thanks to God). They were thanking God for the fact that she delivered me safely in the end, and that she got a boy child: she wasn't expecting this.

I am 12 years old, I was born in 1997 on the 2nd of July. At home I live with my mother and my aunt. My aunt goes to the hair salon everyday to try to get customers to come and have their hair done. She sometimes comes back with money and buys us food.

Now we are at the salon. I will be interviewing my mom and aunt, we are going in there now.

SFX: Gospel music playing in the salon

Bongi: Sawubona mamkhulu.

Hello Aunty.

Mamkhulu: Yebo mfana wami.

Hello my boy.

Bongi: Unjani?

How are you?

Mamkhulu: Ngiyaphila unjani wena?

I am fine and you?

- Bongi: Ngiyaphila, lapha mamkhulu wenzani?
I'm fine. What are you doing here Aunty?
- Mamkhulu: Ngiluka umama wakho.
I am braiding your mom's hair.
- Bongi: Ngicela ukubuza mama ukuthi yini lena umamkhulu akuluka yona?
Mom, what hairstyle is Aunty doing on you?
- Mama: Ungiluka impithi mfana wamii
It's Impithi [twisted braids], my boy.
- Bongi: Ngicela uzichaze mayelana nebusiness lakho.
Please tell us about your business.
- Mamkhulu: I business lasikhona khona elami ilaphe ngizama khona nami ukuphilisa izingane zami ngoba angisebenzi futhi azinaye nobaba nami ngizama laukuze zilale sidlile zikwazi ukufunda naseskoloni.
This business is mine and it's where I try to get money to take care of my children because I don't have a job. Also my children don't have a father. I try to make sure that my kids don't go to sleep on an empty stomach and that they continue to go to school.
- Bongi: Uzizwa unjani mayelana nebusinessi lakho?
How do you feel about your business?
- Mamkhulu: Ngizizwa ngijabula kodwa hhayi kahle ngoba akusebenzeke kukekuphele inyanga ngingenayo ngisho imali yokuthi ngithenge ukudla noma ngirenteke.
I am happy but not completely happy because sometimes business is so bad that some months I don't make enough money to buy food or pay rent.
- Bongi: Kulula yini ukula lezizinto?
Is this thing easy to do?
- Mamkhulu: Akulula mtanami nami yingoba ngizama impilo ngoba noma ngabe kulukhuni uma ngabe ngizothola imali.
It is difficult my child, but I am doing it to survive; even though it's hard I do get some money.
- Bongi: Kukhona okunye othanda ukungitshela khona?
Do you have anything else you would like to tell to me?
- Mamkhulu: Eh mfanawami uyabona njengoba ungibona ngisebenza kanje ngicela ukuthi nawe uwazi umsebenzi wezandla ozokuphilisa kungoba yiwolo engiwezayo ngoba awukhethanga wenziwa nangabafana wenziwe ngangamantombazane. Kungagcini kuba ukuthi yimina engenza lomsebenzi kuphela uma ngifala kube wukuthi anazi lutho nawe ngicela ukufunde nawe. Uyezwa?
Eh, as you can see my boy, I am not formally employed – you can see I am working like this so I ask you to make sure that you learn a skill with your hands so that it will help you like it's helping me now. This business its not for girls only, even boys can do it. It doesn't mean that I should be the only one doing this kind of thing. I dont want to die without you knowing how to do anything. Please learn, do you hear me?

Bongi: Yebo.

Yes.

SFX: Gospel music in salon



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