



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

Impilo i-right / Life is fine

Noxolo, 9 years old, 2007

- SFX: Umsindo wevuvuzela – *Vuvuzela* (plastic horn) trumpeting
- Baba: Mina ngingu Patrick wakaMkhabela imina urefly ozonisiza kulomdlalo ngingabasizi bami la ababili uSfiso Biyela noSenzo Ngwenya ibona abantu engicabanga ukuthi bazosiphathela umdlalo ngoba ngiyazi ukuthi e.....
I am Patrick Mkhabela and I will be refereeing this match, with my two assistants Sfiso Biyela and Senzo Ngwenya. These are the people who will officiate the match because I know that, er.....
- SFX: Umsindo wempempe - whistle blows
- Noxolo: Ubaba uyalidlala ibhola kodwa kwesinye isikhathi akalidlali uya-refela. I-Team yakhe yi-Local Stars. Iyalidlala ibhola.
My father plays soccer but sometimes he doesn't play, he referees. His team is Local Stars. They play soccer.
- Noxolo: Sanibonani. Mina igama lami ngiwuNoxolo, ngineminyaka ewu-9 ngiphethe owaka-10. Mina ngebala ngiyakhanya. Ngimfishane. Ngiyi-slender kancane. Into engiyithandayo ukupheka, nokusiza umama.
Hello, my name is Noxolo, I am 9 years old - nearly 10. I am light in complexion, I am short, and a little slender. I like cooking and helping my mother.
- Noxolo: Mina into eyayingiphatha kabi enhlizweni yami ukuthi ubaba wayephuza aphinde ahlukumeze nomama.
What made my heart sad is that my father used to drink and abuse my mother.
- Noxolo: Manje siya ekhaya. Ekhaya kunezindlu eziwu-4. Siyahamba. Sibona umama lapha ulele. Ugqoke u-polo neck omhlophe neduku elimnyama nephinifa elibomvu. Sibona ubaba uyangena, ugqoke ikepisi, eli-yellow.
Now we are on our way home. At home there are 4 rooms, we are going to see my mother over there where she's lying down. She's wearing a white polo-neck shirt, a black head scarf and a red apron. We see my father coming in, he's wearing a cap – its yellow.
- SFX: Umsindo weradio – radio broadcasting

- Noxolo: I-radio iyakhala kuvulwe isiteshi soKhozi. Ngizorekhoda umama nobaba.
The radio is playing Ukhozi FM. I have come to record my mother and my father.
- Noxolo: Sawubona, mama.
Hello mama.
- Mama: Yebo.
Hello.
- Noxolo: Mama kukhona imibuzo engifuna ukukubuza yona mayelana nokuyeka kukababa ukuphuza amanzi amponjwana, noma impilo yalapha ekhaya yayinjani ngenkathi ubaba ephuza?
Mama, there are questions I would like to ask you about how my father stopped drinking alcohol and how life was here at home when he was drinking.
- Mama: Ey, yayingemnandi impela yayinzima ngoba ubaba, ubaba wakho izinto ezibalulekile wayezikhohlwa.
Oh it was really not good; it was difficult because your father used to forget important things.
- Noxolo: UBaba uma ngabe adakiwe ngangisaba nje ukuthi uma engake abhokwe yilolulaka lwakhe angasithethisa nje asithethisele into esingayazi.
When my father was drunk I was afraid of him, I was afraid that he might be overwhelmed by his anger and scold us, just shout at us for something we hadn't even done.
- Mama: Ngaphatheka kabi mntanami ngoba ngangibona ukuthi ikusasa lenu, leyingane zami aliqhakazile ophuzweni lwakhe. Athathe imali okufanele ngabe unenzela izinto ezinhle ngayo athenge ngayo utshwala.
I felt bad my child because I could see that your future, the future of my children was not bright because of his drinking. He would take money that he was supposed to use to do good things for you, and spend it on alcohol.
- Noxolo: Ngolunye usuku, ubaba wahlukumeza umama. Ngaphatheka kabi enhlizweni yami ngoba ukube umama washona ukube manje sengiyintandane engenamama kodwa enaye ubaba.
One day my father abused my mother, I was so upset because if my mother had died I would have been an orphan without a mother even though I still had my father...
- Noxolo: Impilo isi-right ngoba ubaba akasaphuzi. Ukuphuza akuyeke 2006.
Life is good now because my father no longer drinks. He stopped drinking in 2006.
- Baba: Kusho ukuthi ngize ngiyeke ukuphuza kwaba khona izimo ezithile. Ngatholakala sengiwumuntu ogulayo, ngathi ngiyo-checka ngathola ukuthi ngine-TB. So kwathiwa angidle i-treatment ye-TB that's why ngiyekile ukuphuza.
The reason I stopped drinking was due to certain circumstances. I became sick, and when I went for a check-up I found that I had TB, so I had to take TB treatment. That's why I stopped drinking.

- Noxolo: Wathi ubaba wayeka ukuphuza impilo yalayikhaya isishintshile ayisafani nakuqala ngajabula mina, angazi-ke noma umama ujabulile yini ngoba ukuyeka kukababa ukuphuza ngithemba ukuthi naye ujabulile.
- When my father stopped drinking, life changed: it was no longer like before and that made me so happy. I don't know whether my mother is happy or not about this, but I expect she is glad.*
- Mama: Sekuhle nje nawe mntanami uyazibonela impilo layikhaya isishintshile, sekumnandi, ubaba usekwazi ukusiphathela idrink hhayi lento yakhe ekade eyidla siyajabula kumnandi.
- It's good now my child, you can see for yourself that life here at home has changed. It's nice, he even brings us sodas, instead of the alcohol he used to drink. We are happy and it's nice.*
- Noxolo: Yebo, sengikhululekile angisamsabi ngoba sengikwazi nokuhlala naye ngimxoxele.
- Yes, I am free, I'm no longer afraid of him, I can sit with him and talk to him.*
- Mama: Ey, isimnandi kakhulu, mntanami nawe uyayibona. Asisahlali nje sixabana sihlale nje sixoxa kahle kumnandi nje kunjeya. Akasangihluphi ngalutho manje. Impilo nje isikahle layikhaya ngokuyeka kwakhe ukuphuza.
- Ey, it's very nice my child. You can also see that we are not always fighting anymore, we just sit and talk properly, and that's good. He no longer gives me any problems; life is just good here at home since he stopped drinking.*
- Noxolo: Isikhathi sokuphuza usidlulisa kanjani?
- What do you do with your time now that you are no longer drinking?*
- Baba: Nginayo indlela yokusidlulisa ngenxa yokuthi kwase kuba khona umqondo ofikayo wokuthi angisize abantwana abakhona endaweni ngikwazi ukubaqoqa ngenze for i-team ekwazi ukuthi basizakale nami ngikhone ukujabula the time bese-grawundini, nami ngiphinde futhi ngibe umdlali ngibe u-coach, ngibe yi-team manager.
- I-soccer ngiyayithanda kakhulu. UMkhanyakude uze wabona ukuthi net ngi-right ukuthi ngingaba u-referee, wakhona ukuthi uhambe uyongiqeqesha kwaGqikazi, ngabuya ngazokhona ukuthi ngi-rafele. Ngi-rafele kusukela kuyi-Castle, Super League nakuyi-Domestic. So ngizizwa manje ngi-right. Ngiyifisela nje sengathi impilo ingaqhubeka ibenhle kunasekuqaleni.
- I had the idea of using my time to help the children in the area through forming a [soccer] team. I am also happy when I am with them at the [soccer] field. I am a player and also a coach and the team manager.*
- I love soccer very much. Mkhanyakude (District Municipality) decided to send me for training as a referee at Gqikazi area and I came back knowing how to ref. I have refereed for Castle, Super League and for Domestic. So I feel good, and I hope that life continues to be better than it was before.*
- Noxolo: Uyawuthanda yini umsebenzi wakho woku-rafele?
- Do you like your job as a referee?*
- Baba: Yebo ngiyawuthanda umsebenzi wokurafela but ngoba the time ngirafela kukhona okuthile engikuzuzayo, emva kwalokho ngithole lamasentshana amancane ngikwazi ukuthi ngihambe nginikeze abantabami ngibuye ngiphethe isinkwa or ngiphethe ushukela or ngiphethe okusanyama or i-drink kanjalo ngoba ngikhona ukuthi abantabami bajabule the time ngifika kanti last time bekungenzeki lokho-ke.

Yes, I love refereeing because when I referee I get something out of it financially: I get a few cents for my children. I come back with bread or sugar or meat or sodas for them and they are happy when I come back. Before that, this didn't happen.

Noxolo: Uyathanda yini ukubuyela?

Would you like to go back to [drinking]?

Baba: Angithandi ukubuyela because angisiboni isidingo sokuthi ngingaphuza ngoba vele akungibuyiseli lutho ukuphuza, bengiphuza ngoba kuthi ngi-enjoyer nama-friends ami.

I don't want to go back because I don't see the need to drink anymore; drinking doesn't give me anything back: I only drank because I enjoyed doing it with my friends.

Noxolo: Umlayezo wami ngiwubhekisa kubantu abadala nakubantwana abancane. Laba abaphuzayo ngibafisela inhlanhla sengathi bangayeka ukuphuza. Kubantwana uma ngabe bahlala nomzali ophuzayo ngithi bamhloniphe futhi bangakopeli lokhu akwenzayo umzali wabo, ukuthi babe nekusasa elihle.

Bamgququzele futhi nokuthi ayeke ukuphuza kodwa uma bemesaba bayeke ngoba bazoyithola sebesenkingeni.

My message to adults and to small children; to those who are drinking I wish them the good fortune to stop drinking. To the children who live with a drinking parent they should respect him but not imitate what he does, so that they can have a good future.

They should also encourage him to stop drinking, but if they are afraid of him they should leave it because they will find themselves in trouble.



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