



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

Imidlalo kaNunu / Nunu's games

S'bongakonke, 9 years old, 2006

- S'BONGAKONKE:** Mina nguS'bongakonke igama lami. Ngihlala eMaranatha. Mina ngibukeka kanje sengathi ngibampofu kodwa angidimpofu ngidimnyama. Ngingumfana nje ohlukile kwabanye abantu ngoba ngiyaphapha nje. Ngimfishane kodwa hhayi kakhulu. Mina ngina 9 iminyaka. Okhayeni ngifundiswa uMam Gumede. UMam Gumede nje akazwani nenduku futhi akazwani nje nje nenduku.
- TRANSLATION:** My name is S'bongakonke. I live at Maranatha. I look like I could be light skinned but I am not, I am dark in complexion. I am different to other people because I show off. I am short but not too short. I am 9 years old. My teacher is Mrs Gumede. Mrs Gumede doesn't like using a stick, she doesn't like a stick.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Mina ngithanda ukudlala imidlalo nje; imoto uma ngiyakha imoto ngiyidlala kwamatini. Ekhaya ngihlala noMama noBaba, nobasisi bami abathathu nabobhuti bami obabili. Omunye washona. Ngabe ngimthanda kakhulu ngoba yena abe mhlampe sihamba siyodlala naye izimoto ngalemoto yakhe abamnika yona esbhedlela adlala ngayo naye. Uma saqedile sivesane sihambe siye echibini labe besidlala khona.
- TRANSLATION:** I love playing; if I have made a car, I play amongst the cement bricks. I live with my father, mother, three sisters and two brothers at home. One [brother] died. I loved him very much because we would sometimes go and play cars together – with his car that they gave him when he was in hospital – I played with this car and with him. When we were finished playing [cars] we would go to the little pool and play together there.
- SFX:** *Chickens*
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Siya ekhaya sesizofika nasegeyithini. Kunezihlahla kubiyelwe ngamahlaha kuvikelwe izimbuzi. Kunezingubo esibayeni sezimbuzi
- TRANSLATION:** We are arriving at the gate to my home. There are trees - [the homestead] is fenced with trees to keep the goats out. There are clothes hanging on the goat enclosure...
- SFX:** *gate opening*
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Nezimbuzi zilele noBaba uhlezi nosisi, noMama. UMama uluka icansi uhlezi kodwa akakaqedi ukuluka sewuyekile. Uluka neminzi kunentambo namabattery nembongolo.
- TRANSLATION:** and the goats are lying down. My father is sitting with my sister and mother. My mother is weaving a grass mat. She is sitting but she has stopped weaving even though she hasn't finished. She uses string and

batteries and a wooden frame to weave with.

- S'BONGAKONKE:** Usisi wami lona bengisacela uyichaza ukuthi ungubani?
TRANSLATION: Here is my sister. Please introduce yourself, who are you?
- SISTER:** Igama lami nginguPhiwile.La ngikhona kuseceleni kwasekhaya yindawo kuseMaranatha.
TRANSLATION: My name is Phiwile. We are standing next to our homestead in the area of Maranatha.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Wabe ukuphi?
TRANSLATION: Where have you been?
- SISTER:** Ngangisepopini.
TRANSLATION: At the water tap.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Ngixoxa ngendaba yalo bhuti wami owashonayo sabe sidlala naye. Kwakuphatha kanjani wena ukuthi ashone?
TRANSLATION: I am talking about my brother who died, we used to play with him. How did you feel about him dying?
- SISTER:** Kwangiphatha kabi njengokuthi washesha washona esemncane engakakhuli singakaboni ukuthi uzokhula enzeni.
TRANSLATION: I felt very upset because he died so young. He hadn't yet grown so we couldn't see what he would be when he grew up.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Ngicela ukubuza ukuthi uNunu lobhuti wami owashonayo igama lakhe walithola kanjani?
TRANSLATION: I want to ask how this brother of mine who died - uNunu – how did he get his name?
- SISTER:** Bathi uNunu ngoba ngesikhathi asemncane wayengemuhle wayemubi.
TRANSLATION: They called him Nunu – insect – because when he was still little he wasn't beautiful, he was ugly.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Oh! Kukhona yini ofuna ukukusho mayelana nalobhuti owashonayo?
TRANSLATION: Oh! Is there anything else you want to say about him?
- SISTER:** Yebo...shuthi wayemuhle futhi wayesafunda esikoleni efunda kahle ekhombisa ukuthi uyazimisela ezifundweni zakhe ayezifunda okwabo ukuthi waphoqeleka wahlathswa ukugula wagcina eseshonele engakabonakali ukuthi kulonyaka uyaphumelela noma akaphumeleli.
TRANSLATION: Yes, that he was beautiful and also that he was doing well at school, showing that he was really trying in his studies. It was so disappointing that he was cut down by sickness so that he died before it was known whether he has passed the year or not.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Osisi bami ababili uSabatha noZandile. USabatha mncane, uZandile mkhulu. Sisasendleleni ebheke echibini...umoya namuhla awukho. Kunezihlahla. Ilanga libalele. Nangu usisi wami ongiphelezela echibini lapho sasidlala nobhuti wami lona sowashonayo.
TRANSLATION: My two sisters are Sabatha and Zandile. Sabatha is small and Zandile is big. We are on the way to the small pool...there is no wind today. There are trees. The sun is hot. Here is my sister who is accompanying me to the pool where we used to play with my brother who died.
- ZANDILE:** Sasidlala la nobhuti wethu. Sasivalela amanzi uma eseba maningi bese siyawavulela. Manje amanzi awakabikhona ngoba kusasebusika. Lana kunameva. Kunamatshe. Ubumba sasikhanda ngalo inkomo besesiphula nameva sifake sithi sifaka emakhanda sithi izimpondo

- TRANSLATION:** zeyinkomo. Bese sikhanda inkomo sisuke lapho sithi siyazilimisa. We played here with our brother. We closed off the water [with mud walls] and when it was full we would open it up again. At the moment there is no water because it is winter time. Here there are thorn trees and stones. We used to make cows out of clay and pick thorns and put them in the cows' heads and say they were their horns. And then we would pretend to plough with the cows.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** WeZandile wena wazizwa unjani ukuthi kushone yena lobhuti wethu asabe sidlala naye?
- TRANSLATION:** Hey Zandile, how did you feel about the death of our brother who we used to play with?
- ZANDILE:** Ngakuzwa kukabi.
- TRANSLATION:** I felt upset.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Njengani?
- TRANSLATION:** In what way?
- ZANDILE:** Njengokuthi asishiye sisle sidlale sodwa.
- TRANSLATION:** Because he left us to play alone.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Wakuzwa kumnandi uma sidlala naye?
- TRANSLATION:** Did it feel nice when we played with him?
- ZANDILE:** Yebo.
Yes.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Kakhulu njengoba phela ave siyakha nezindlu bese sifaka isheke ngaphezulu. Nabe nidlalani nina nobhuti wethu lona owashonayo?
- TRANSLATION:** Very nice like when we would build houses and put plastic as roofs. What did you play with our brother who died?
- ZANDILE:** Sasidlala izindlu sihlale nezingane, sidlale nomjika sasidlale nebhola. We played houses, children, *nomjika* and we played ball.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Lapha thina besidlala ukuthi uma aqhamuka ngapha amanzi phezulu sifike siwavalele ngalawa lawa ngamatshe amaningi lapha siwavalele ukuthi masagcwele sifike siwavulele. Izimoto zencingo uma sizihambisa bese lapho uma saphelile siphinde sivalele amanye.
- TRANSLATION:** This is where we used to play: when the water comes from up there, we would close it off where there are many rocks over here, and then we'd open it up again when it was full. We would drive our wire cars [over the place where we had closed the water off] and then when we were finished we would start damming up the water all over again.
- S'BONGAKONKE:** Uma sesiqede lapho sisuke siye ekhaya lashona ilanga safika salala. Kwasa ekuseni wangasakwazi ukuyodlala salokhu ahlalele nje ekhaya. Lashona ilanga asaphila nakusasa futhi kusasa kwasa asaphila kwasuka lapho ntambama walala kwasa ekuseni wavuka asashonile wangasakwazi ukuvuka. Wathi umama abamngcwabe khona namuhla ngoba abe ngeke vele bamnye emortuary.
- Usuku ilanga lalibalele lishisa size siye echibini nalolusuku ilanga abamcwaba ngalo lalishisa. Ngaphatheka kabi ngoba besashonile ngoba ngabedlala naye izimoto. Bengisakwazi ukuthi sengizohamba ngiyodlala nobani imoto ngoba besidlala sobabili izimoto.
- TRANSLATION:** When we were finished there we went home at sunset and we slept and the following morning our brother couldn't go and play, he just stayed at

home. At sunset he was still fine, and the following day he was fine. After that he slept in the evening and the following morning he was dead, he couldn't wake up anymore. Mama said we had to bury him that day because it was impossible to take him to the mortuary.

It was a very hot day when we went to the pool to swim and the day on which we buried him was hot too. I was very upset when he died because I used to play cars with him and I didn't know who I was going to play with. We used to play cars just the two of us.

S'BONGAKONKE: *[Singing a song by Shwi -]*
Mina ngithandana nawe, ngizokubingelela...

TRANSLATION: I loved you, I will greet you...



**Zisize
Educational Trust**
Working Towards a
Brighter Future in South Africa



For further information contact:

Helen Meintjes
HIV/AIDS Programme, Children's Institute
helen.meintjes@uct.ac.za
+27 21 689 5404

Bridget Walters
Zisize Educational Trust
bridgetw@iafrica.com
+27 35 572 5500

Web: www.ci.org.za/depts/ci/prg/radio_project/index.htm