



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

Ngabek' itshe / A stone for my father ***Sibusiso, 16 years old, 2007***

- SFX Umsindo wokuduma kwemoto – sounds of a car driving
- Sibu: Wemama ngisacela ukubuza ukuthi uzizwa kanjani?
Mum, how do you feel?
- Mama: Ngizizwa ngijabule.
I feel happy.
- Sibu: Oh. Ngani?
Oh. Why?
- Mama: Ngiyobona ubaba.
I am going to see your father.
- Sibu: Manje ngihlale ngiphupha, ngiphupha kabi. Isigcino ngingaze ngikhubazeke ngokuphupha. Alukho usuku engingakaze ngiphuphe ngalo selokhu ngaqala nje ngiyaphupha.
I always have dreams, nightmares. I might end up being [mentally] disturbed by these dreams. Since these dreams started, there has not been a single night when I didn't have them.
- Sibu: Ubaba washona ngineminyaka ewu-13.
My father died when I was thirteen.
- Sibu: Igama lami nguSibusiso isibongo ngingowakaNyawo kodwa engidume ngalo nginguMlaba. Ngihlala eMathayini. Ngicabanga ukuthi yikho ngize ngiphupha angiyanga ukuyobona ukuthi ulele kanjani, ulele kuphi.
My name is Sibusiso. My surname is Nyawo but I am well kown as Mlaba. I live at Mathayini. I think I am having these dreams because I did not go to see him being buried and I have not seen where he is buried.
- Sibu: Uma ngingakhuluma ngingamtshela ukuthi sengifikile eduze kwakhe njengoba kade ehlale engifuna. Ngingamtshela ukuthi sengifikile akayeke ukuthi engibize sengifikile kuye. Ngizothanda ukumvalelisa.
If I could talk [to him] I would say that I am here next to him just as he [his spirit] has been wanting . I would tell him that here I am and that he can now stop calling me as I have come to him. I would like say good bye to him.

- Sibusiso: Ngisacela uchaze umsebenzi wakho mama.
Please tell us about your work, Mama?
- Mama: Mina ngiyasebenza la emgwaqeni. Nginomsebenzi wokuthi umsebenzi wakaZimbabwe ukuthi uma singenabo abantu abasiphetheyo wasinikeza uhulumeni lomsebenzi. Siphilisa ngawo abantwana.Siye sisebenze-ke siqoqe amatshe kwesinye isikhathi siheshe-ke.
I work here on the road. I do the Zimbabwe [‘do it yourself’] work [public works programme] – for those of us who do not have husbands, the government gave us this work. We support our children through this work. We collect stones and sometimes cut the grass and shrubs [on the side of the road].
- Sibu: Wazizwa unjani ngenkathi ngikhala kushone ubaba?
How did you feel when I cried about my father’s death?
- Mama: Ngezwa ubuhlungu ngoba phela kwakufanele umbone ngesikhathi ehambile. Ngangicabanga ukuthi sengifana nomuntu ongazuthi mina angikaze ngashada nobaba wakho ngoba bengasazanga ukuzongitshela. Uma sengizwa ubuhlungu bokuthi uyaphupha wena manje angisazi ukuthi ngizokuhambisa kanjani.
I felt bad because you should have seen him when he was buried. I felt like someone who had never been married to your father because his family never came to tell me. It is painful now hearing about your nightmares. I don’t know how I’ll be able [afford] to take you there...
- Sibusiso: Selufikile lolosuku lokuya ekhaya kwaNyawo le eMhlekazi. Sesingenela idamu laseJozini. Amanzi aphuma engathi intuthu.Sesiya eMaputaland siyoboleka i-camera ibattery ka-anti yecamera isiphelile. Ekhaya besizohamba sishutha izindawo sishuthe nasekhaya manje ibattery ka-anti isiphelile.Manje eMaputaland sizosizakala. Ngizizwa ngijabulile ngoba angikaze ngibone eMaputaland. Mhlambe ngizofica kusakaza uBK umathangetshitshi umathanga esigqebhezana, zasha!
The day has come for us to go to [my father’s] homestead at Mhlekezi. We are about to cross the Jozini Dam wall. The water coming out looks just like smoke. We are now going to Maputaland [Community Radio] to borrow a camera because aunt’s camera has run out of battery. We were going to take photos of different places and of my [father’s] home. Maybe we’ll get help from Maputaland. I feel very happy because I have never been to Maputaland. Maybe we’ll find BK on air “the thighs of a virgin, the thighs of a mini-skirt dresser are hot!”
- SFX: Umsindo wokusakaza – studio broadcast sounds.
- Sibu: EMaputaland ngibona umuntu usewindini ngibona uBK nangaphandle ngishilo ngathi sizofica kukhuluma uBK.
Here at Maputaland I can see someone through the [studio] window ... I can see BK ... outside I even said we’ll find BK on air!
- SFX: Umsindo wokushaywa kwezandla nokujabula – excited hand clapping .
- Sibu: Uma ngingena eMaputaland ngizizwe ngijabulile. Sengibone noBK ngabona noMr Varv!
When I got to Maputaland I was so excited. I have seen BK and Mr Varv!
- Abanye: [Mr] Vibe!
- Others: [Mr] Vibe!

- Sibu: Sijika e-crossini ebheke eMkuze.
We are turning off at the crossroads to Mkuze.
- SFX: Umsindo wokuhutha kwemoto – car hooting
- Sibu: U-anti ushaya ihutha ushayela izinkomo. Uma sesiyiqedile-ke intaba sesizobona ekhaya. Ngiya ekhaya ngiyothepha ugogo ngiyobona nethuna likababa. Ngifike ngilahle lelotshe naleyonhlabathi.
Aunty is hooting at cattle [blocking the road]. When we have finished driving up this mountain we'll see my [father's] homestead. I am going home to record my grandmother and see my father's grave. I will put that stone and pour that soil [on the grave].
- Sibu: Siyahamba siya ethuneni likababa. Ngihamba nomamkhulu nosisi ozalwa umamncane.
We are now going to my father's grave. I am with my stepmother and my stepsister.
- Sibu: Hamba kahle baba nali itshe lakho.
Goodbye, father, here is your stone.
- SFX: Umsindo wokuxoxa nezinkukhu – chickens clucking, people chatting.
- Sibu: Sawubona gogo.
Hello, Granny.
- Gogo: Yebo, gogo.
Hello, Grandson.
- Sibu: Ninjani gogo?
How are you, Granny?
- Gogo: Siyaphila, gogo.
We are fine, Grandson.
- Sibu: Gogo, ngicela ukubuza ukuthi ngenxa yokufa kukababa wazizwa unjani wena?
Granny, how did you feel about the death of my father?
- Gogo: Mina ngazizwa nje ngasangana ukuthi njengoba phela base bafa bobabili nomfowabo kwase kuyaphela kwangasabikho osalayo.
I felt as if I was going mad because they both died (he and his brother) and that was it, there was no one left behind.
- Sibu: Waphatheka kanjani ngalengkathi ubona mina ngingekho emngcwabeni kababa?
How did you feel about my absence at the funeral?
- Gogo: Kwangiphatha kabi mina loko ngoba ngangingenayo indlela yokukuthola.
I felt bad because I didn't know how to get hold of you.
- Sibu: Ukuthi mhlampe indlela yokungithola ukuthi ungakwazi ukuthumela noma mhlampe ungakwazi ukuthi utshele mhlampe abakwamalume?

You did not perhaps have a way of sending a message to me or contacting my uncle's family?

- Gogo: Ukuthi angitholanga ukuthi ngingakutshela kanjani gogo ngoba izinto zazibheda khona egcekeni. Kungako-ke kungazuthi angikucinganga. Ngaphinde ngalayeza emva sekwedlulile, kwathiwa awutholakalanga ngase ngiyalinda-ke nami uma sengizwa ukuthi sengathi nizwile kancane kwase kuyema khona lapho.
- I did not have a way of contacting you because things were very bad here in the family. That is why it seems as if I did not look for you. I sent a message after the funeral but it was said it was not easy to get hold of you, then I waited and I heard that you eventually got the message and that's where things were left.*
- Sibu: Kungcono ukuthi size lapha ukuze, ngoba mina isikhathi esiningi ngiyaphupha. Ngiphuphe ngobaba. Yebo. kodwa ekhaya sesifikile sakhuluma nomamkhulu. Wangiphosisa lelotshe
- It's good that we came here because most of the time I dream. I dream about my father. Yes. But we went [to my father's] home and we talked to mamkhulu. She helped me to throw the stone [on my father's grave].*
- Gogo: Ngiyabonga nje ukuthi nifike.
- Thank you for coming.*
- Sibu: Sengizophinda mhlampe ngivakashe.
- Maybe I will come and visit again.*
- Gogo: Oh, singajabula Mlaba akunankinga. Kulungile noma ungavakasha.
- Oh, we would be so happy, Mlaba, no problem. It's fine you can come and visit.*
- Sibu: Sengizizwa ngijabulile ngoba sengibone nogogo. Ubaba uhleli kahle.
- I feel happy because I have also seen my grandmother. My father is in a good place.*



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