



## **Abaqophi BakwaZisize Abakhanyayo Children's Radio project**

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### **Izinkomo zikababa / My father's cattle**

**Siyabonga, 13 years old, 2009**

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SFX: Siyabonga mimicking a dove's call

Siyabonga: Ijuba... endaweni yaseNgwavuma. Kumnandi kuyo ngoba sidla amakhinati kudla okunempilo.

Kumnandi ukuhlala eNgwavuma. Yini eyenza kube mnandi ukuhlala eNgwavuma? Ukuthi masesifuna kuyozikhulula siyazihambela emahlathini, siyazidla nezithelo esiseduze lapha emahlathini. Kumnandi ke la eNgwavuma.

Igama lami nginguSiyabonga. Mina ngebala ngidakhi nginekhanda elikhulu nekhala engathi likhulu nomlomo ongathi mkhulu, namehlo amakhulu. Ngobude ngimude. Mina ngazalwa ngo 1996, ngina 13. Uma sengikhulile ngifuna ukuba iSocial worker: ngifuna ukusiza abantu abahluphekile, noma abantu abaraphiwe. Ekhaya ngihlala nabosisi abawu three nobhuti oyedwa noMama.

Ngizothanda ukunioxela ngesikhumbuzo sikaBaba. UBaba ngimkhumbula ngokuthi sasihambe ngiye enkomeni. Sihambe naye. Afike yena uma ngila esikolweni ayithathe iyinkomo ayibeke lekude bese uyaziyeka siye kuNjinjikazi. Sithi masisuka lapho athi asambe siye eNjinjikazi. Ahambe ngendlela ekude.

Manje kuthi sengibuya sicinge sicinge uma singatholanga ngi hambehambe ngihlale phansi, ngithi sengikhathele ngifuna angiqoqoshe. Angibuze ukuthi ene kanti uma izinkhomo zikhona usuku ... uyayihambela mazingekho azihambeli kwenziwa yini lokho avele ngathi mine ngisuke ngiphapha umangilusi inkomo kodwa uma ngingayilusi ngiyashesha ukukhathala ngoba kade siyicinga angi qoqoshe.

UBaba washona ngo 2007 mina ngangi neminyaka ewu 11. Manje ngiphatheka kabi bayithatha. Babesefuthi ngoba angaseko uBaba bayithatha bayihambisa. Ngingafuni kuthi bayithathe bahambise ngithanda ukuyilusa.

*A dove...the area of Ingwavuma is good because we eat peanuts and healthy food...*

*It is good to live in Ingwavuma, what makes life in Ingwavuma good? It's because when we want to relax we just take ourselves into the bush; we also help ourselves to fruit close by here in the forest. It's nice here in Ingwavuma.*

Name is Siyabonga. I am dark in complexion, I have a big head. My nose, lips and eyes are also big. I am tall. I was born in 1996: I am 13 years old. When I grow up I would like to be a social worker: I want to help people who have problems and those who have been raped. At home I stay with my three sisters, my brother and my mother.

I would like to tell you about memories of my dad. My memory of my dad is going with him to herd cattle. When I was at school he would take the cattle out to the grazing land far away. Then we would go to Njinjikazi. It was a long way away.

One day when we came back [from Njinjikazi] we looked and looked for them without success. I eventually sat down and said that I was tired just so that he would carry me on his shoulders. He asked me why it was that I managed to walk when the cattle were there and when we were herding them, but when there were no cows I got tired too easily? It meant that when we were herding cattle I felt energized and excited, but when there were none to herd I would need to be carried. He then ended up carrying me on his shoulders.

My father died in 2007 when I was 11 years old. I feel so sad that they took the cattle. They took the cattle because Dad had died. I didn't want them to take the herd away; I wanted to continue looking after them.

Siya: Igama lami elithi Siyabonga uthandelani ukungetha?

*Why did you call me Siyabonga?*

Mama: Oh, uSiyabonga ingane yami eyokuqala engathi, uSiyabonga ngoba ngangiqala ukuthola umfana.

Ukuhlala ngaphandle uBaba angekho kunzima khona ngoba ngesinye isikhathi nezinto uyahluleka kuzenza uwedwa. Kukubangele ngisho isistress ngoba ngesinye isikhathi kufike izinto odinga phendule yena khona ungasakhoni ukuphendula.

*Oh, I called you Siyabonga because you were the first son born to me.*

*Life without your father is difficult because sometimes it is difficult to do things on your own. This stresses me sometimes because some questions in life only he can answer, but he is no longer here to answer them.*

Siya: Awungitshela ngokuthi iyinkomo babesebayithathelani lapha ekhaya?

*Please tell me why they took our cattle away from home?*

Mama: Bayithatha ngoba umnikazi wazo akasekho.

*They took them because their owner was no longer alive.*

Siya: Likhona iculo likababa elihle?

*Is there a nice song that my father used to like?*

Mama: Yebo.

Yes.

SFX: Siya and Mum singing

Siya: Angikwazi ukuyicula mina!

*I don't know how to sing!*

Siya : Sisi kwenzekani ngoBaba?

*Sister, what happened to Dad?*

- Sisi: UBaba waqala ukugula ngo2000 ngifunda ustandard 2 agule abengcono, agule abengcono. Kwathi 2006 wasishiya noMama. uMama wacabanga kuthi imali esashiyelwa uBaba akhe ngayo indlu.
- Ngesizathu sokuthi babengazwani bomndeni ayiphelanga. Lezizinto ubaba washiya abayithathako ngabunezela kuzona kodwa manje uyasokola ahambe afuna amatoho kuze asikhulise ayizange futhi UBaba washiya ezinye izingane ziseyincane kusenami.
- Our father got sick in 2000 when I was in Standard 2. He got sick and then better, sick and then better again. Then in 2006 he died and we were left alone with Mom. Mom decided to build a house using the money that Dad had left us.*
- Once Dad had died, our family and his were no longer on good terms. [Dad's family] took the things that he had left us that would have helped us. Now it's difficult because our mother has to look for temporary jobs so as to raise us. He died when some of our siblings were still so young.*
- Siya: Hho! Iyinkomo babeyithathelani lapha ekhaya?
- Hho! Why did they take the cattle from us?*
- Sisi: Kuthe emveni ashiyile lezinkomo kwabonakala ukuthi zihlangene nezabo. Umndeni walayikhaya kungcono siyihlukanise, sizibeke komunye umuzi. Kwathi noma sezi kuwo lomuzi basithathela zona, basiphuca bathi ezabo ngoba vele zavele zihlangene kusenoBaba. UMama akanamandla okukhuluma nabo.
- Wena uzizwa unjani?
- After Dad died, our cattle got mixed up with the cattle of his family. Our family wanted Dad's cattle to be separated and kept in another homestead. When we went to fetch them from this homestead, Dad's family just took them from us saying the cattle were all theirs even though they were a mixture of their cattle and Dad's. Mom didn't have the strength to question them about this.*
- How do you feel about this?*
- Siya: Mina ngizizwa nginyanyile ngoba basiphuca izinkomo zakithi zikaBaba ngoba bambona ukuthi akasekho.
- I am angry because they took our dad's cattle [knowing that we could do nothing about it] because he was dead.*
- Siya: Mina mangikhumbula uBaba ngikhumbula ukuthi njalo mlaka15 wayehamba nami uma ayohola, ahambe nami eNgwavuma noma eJozini noma eMkhuze.
- Umehluko ukuthi yena akasekho uBaba ngoba njalo uma ehamba wayehamba nami manje njalo ngiyanyanya mhlaka 15 ngicabanga nje ukuthi ngabe sengiseJozini noma ngiseNgwavuma noma eMkhuze.
- I miss my father: I remember every 15th day of the month he would take me to get his salary. We would go to Ingwavuma or Jozini or even Mkuze.*
- The difference is that he is not around. He would always take me with him when he went anywhere. Now I hate the 15th of the month. I always think I could be with him at Jozini or Ingwavuma or Mkuze.*



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