



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

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### **Ukukhumbula umama / Missing Mum**

**Slindile, 10 years old, 2009**

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Slindile:: Mina sengizovula ibhokisi lami lesikhumbuzo. Ibhokisi lami lakhiwe ngeplango ngalibhala ukuthi Memory box linokhiya wakhona nengidi yakhona. Lezinto ezihlala lapha ezabantu abangasaphili. Kuhlala ipasi neyitifiketi zabo neyithombe nokunye ababekuthanda kakhulu.

Mina igama lami nginguSlindile:. Mina ngineminyaka ewu10. Mina into engithandayo ekhaya ngithanda imbuzi. Imbuzi yami ingijabulisa ngokuthi ngokuthi mangifike ngabeka ibhodwe mangivilapha ukuligeza iyaqhamuka ifike iliwashe ilihwaye, ilihwaye bese ngiyaqhamuka mina ngiyaliwasha.

Umama washonela eMthunzini angimazi ukuthi washona nini. Emgchwabeni ngaya ngefike khona enye intombazana. Angiyazi ukuthi yakuphi eyayingiphethe. Bathi bakha umhlabathi ngefosholo bathi asikhe ngezandla nami ngakha sihambe sithi emgodini kanje kwathi sebazolanda ibhokisi endlini bathi abangimikise endlini: babengafuni ukuthi ngibone ngoba ngangisemuncane. Emva kwemngcwabo angazi kuthi kwakungulesingaki umkhulu wayehleli ngaphansi kwesihlahla semdoni. Mina ngidlala phansi emgodini lakutshalwe khona ubhanana. Ngambuza: "Mkhulu" ngathi mina "Kanti ukuphi uMama?" Wathi yena umkhulu umama yena akamazi. Ngathi mina "Mkhulu ngaba uMama ulaphana nje". Wahleka. Wahleka nje.

*Now I am opening my Memory Box. My box is made out of wood and I wrote Memory Box on it. It has its own key and lock. The things inside it belonged to people who have passed away: their ID documents and birth certificates and photos and other things that they loved a lot...*

*My name is Slindile. I am 10 years old. At home I really love my goat. My goat makes me so happy when I am feeling lazy about doing the washing up; I put the dirty pot on the ground and it comes and licks and licks the pot, scouring it out with its tongue. After that I go and wash the pot properly.*

*My mom died at Mthunzini. I don't know when she died. I went to the funeral and I was carried around by a girl – I didn't know who she was. When it came to the part where they fetch the coffin and scoop up sand with a spade and say that everyone should take some [to throw into the grave] and I was about to do this, they told the girl to take me into the house; they didn't want me to see [the coffin] because I was still so young. After the funeral – I don't remember the exact day – Grandfather was sitting under the mndoni tree. I was playing under some banana trees. I asked him: "Grandfather" I said, "Where is my mum?" He said that he didn't know where she was. I said [pointing to the grave] "Mum is just over there." [My grandfather] laughed. He just laughed.*

- SFX: Hammering - the sound of her grandfather working
- Slindile: Sawubona Mkhulu. Ngicela Mkhulu uhlale eduze nami ukhululeke ungasabi nje.  
*Hello Mkhulu. Please Mkhulu sit close to me and just relax. Don't be afraid.*
- Mkhulu: Ayi! Asazi phela mina ngihleze ngibhizi nje bantwana beNkosi.  
*Ayi! I don't know about this. I am so busy, my children of God.*
- Slindile: Mkhulu ngicela ukubuza ukuthi uMama washona kanjani?  
*Mkhulu, please tell me how my mother died?*
- Mkhulu: Eh...Umawakho wayehambe elande ipasi lakhe eMthunzini ephila enganalutho.  
Kushuthi ngoJuly ngafona mina mhlaka 25 ngo July. Wathi uyagula uphethwe ngumkhuhlane ngathi mina buya wathi yena kulungile Baba ngizobuya ngisabambe amatoho.  
Emva kwaloko July wathola ukuthi Ma wakho seshonile. Iqiniso lakhona angimazi ukhuthi washona kanjani Ma wakho... (uyakhala)...angiyithandi lento ingibangela usizi. Uyabona uma ngikhumbula lengane angiphili kahle ngoba ngiyikhukise kabuhlungu, iyincane lengane ishiywe unina ineminyaka emithathu.  
Kwavele kwavusa isilonda sika Gogo wakho ngebenamanje asipheli kwasa yena ugogo wakho angazi ukhuthi wahamba kanjani. Esibhedlela bayisa Ethekwini eKing Edwedwe lisho kwangaqamuki wagcina naye ashonile.  
Ngenhlanhla ngathola umuntu okakufanele ngihlalisane naye njengoba enekinga eyithile wabona ukuthi athuthe ngizohlala naye la. Kwathi lengimtholayo noma izinkinga zikhona,naye enabantwana bakhe wabona kungcono kusondela eduze kwami.  
*Eh... your mother went to fetch her ID book at Mthunzini. When she left here she was fine.*  
*And then in July I phoned – on the 25th of July. She told me that she had flu, and I said “Come home”. She said “OK Dad, I will come home but I still have a temporary job”.*  
*After that July your mum died. I don't know the truth about how she died, your mum... (weeping)...I don't like talking about this, it upsets me. You see if I remember this child I feel sick, it upsets me terribly to think how [Slindile] lost her mother when she was only three years old.*  
*It opens up the old wound of when I lost her grandmother [my first wife], even now this wound is not healed. I still don't know what caused her death. They took her to Durban – to King Edward [Hospital] and before she even got there she died.*  
*Luckily I found another [wife] – a person who understood the problems I was facing; she decided to move in with us here. Even though she has her own problems and her own children she saw that it was better that she came to live with me.*
- SFX: Sound of papers being rustled in Memory Box
- Slindile: Lesithombe lesi lona uMama umkhulu wayezitshala izimbali. Umama wasefuna ukushutha emthunzini nayi indlu laphana iyavela wathi safun'ukushutha wavesana wahlala phezu kwembali. Umkhulu wanyanya ukuthi umama ahlale phezu kwembali yakhe lena ayithandayo. Lezi izibuko

zika Gogo wayeyithanda lona owashonayo. Leli ipasi likaMama: nangu umama lapha walenza ngo 2000.

*This is a photo of Mum; Grandfather had planted flowers and Mum wanted her picture taken in the shade next to the house amongst the flowers, so she sat on top of the flowers. Grandfather was so cross that she sat on top of his lovely flowers! Here are Granny's spectacles – she loved them (my granny who died). This is Mum's ID book: here is Mum's photo [in it]: she got it processed in 2000.*

SFX: Cars in town

Slindile: Sesiwela umgwaqo kuneyimoto amabhasi nabantu bayaphithizela. Nanguya uGogo loqoke iphinifa elibomvu.

*We are crossing the road and there are cars and buses and lots of people moving up and down. Over there is my stepgrandmother – she is the one wearing a red pinafore.*

Slindile: Uzizwa unjani ngoba washiya itafula lakho eMpangeni?

*How did you feel about leaving your market stall at Empangeni to come and live with us instead?*

Gogo: Ngizizwa kumnandi noma eMpangeni kwakudayiseka kamnandi, khona lapha lozuka engiwutholayo uyangelisa.

*I feel happy because though I made a good living selling at Empangeni, even here I manage to get enough to survive on.*

Slindile: Uzizwa uphatheke kahle uma uhlala nami?

*Do you feel happy about living with me?*

Gogo: Ngizizwa ngiphatheke kahle kakhulu akukho futhi ongihlupha ngakho.

*I am so happy about living with you, there is nothing that worries me about it.*

Slindile: Usho ngani ngoba uthanda ukuhlala nami?

*In other words, do you like living with me?*

Gogo: Ngiyathanda ukuhlala nawe ngoba ngakukhulisa ngakuthola usemncane ngeke ngikulahle.

*I love living with you because I have raised you, I have been with you since you were so small, I will never leave you.*

SFX: Rustling of papers in memory box

Slindile: Manje sengiqoqa kahle izithombe zikaMama nezami sengizifaka ebhokisini lesikhumbuzo. Lesi isithombe sikaMama angazi ukuthi washutha kuphi sihle kakhulu kunazonke. Ngisho ngoba ngibuka sibukeke wasishutha kahle siselangeni.

*Now I am gathering up all Mum's photos and mine and putting them back into my Memory Box. This is the best photo of all taken of my mother; I don't know where it was taken. I say it's the best because it is so lovely of her standing in the sun.*

SFX: Sound of box being closed and locked

Slindile:

Mina isithombe engisakhayo emqondweni wami ukuthi ngabe usekhona ngabe, ngabe uyanginakhekhela. Ngabe usala nje ekhaya ngabe usala uyapheka.

*The picture that I build in my mind is that if my mum was perhaps, perhaps still alive, she would be taking care of me. She would perhaps just be here at home, cooking.*



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**For further information contact:**

Bridget Walters  
Zisize Educational Trust  
[bridgetw@iafrica.com](mailto:bridgetw@iafrica.com)  
+27 35 572 5500

Helen Meintjes  
Children's Institute  
[helen.meintjes@uct.ac.za](mailto:helen.meintjes@uct.ac.za)  
+27 21 689 5404

**Web:** [www.childrenradioproject.ci.org.za](http://www.childrenradioproject.ci.org.za)