

Black Liberations Movement Mosaic
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Black Liberations Movement Mosaic
Oral History Interview
with
Mr. Bantu Magabela and Miss. Siphokazi Sindaphi,
By Melikhaya Potwana
Zinyoka, South Africa
August 12, 2008

Interview with Mr. Bantu Magabela and Miss. Siphokazi Sindaphi

Interviewed on August 12, 2008

Location: BJT Tyamzashe School, Zinyoka Location, Eastern Cape, South Africa

Interviewer: Melikhaya Potwana

Transcriber: Ryan Koons

Translator: Melikhaya Potwana

Language: Xhosa

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Melikhaya Potwana: Tell us a bit about yourselves, where you are from, and which [school] grade [you are in].

Bantu Magabela: My name is Bantu Magabela. I was born here in is in Zinyoka [Location] and raised; I am in grade 11 here at Bkat [BJT Tyamzashe] School.

Siphokazi Sindaphi: My name is Siphokazi Sindaphi; I'm doing grade 12. I was born here.

Melikhaya Potwana: When did you arrive in the school?

Siphokazi Sindaphi: I started in grade 8.

Bantu Magabela: I started this year—grade 11.

Melikhaya Potwana: Ah. When you started in this, were you impressed with the teaching?

Bantu Magabela: Yes, I really like the teaching because it is done in an interesting way. Before I came here, I used to hear rumors that in the school there was poor teaching, but I came and discovered it [is] all lies.

Melikhaya Potwana: What developmental programs would you like to see here at school, like in sport and so on?

Siphokazi Sindaphi: Sporting codes [i.e. different types of sports] are available, and students do play them, but they do not progress because their talent is not recognized.

Melikhaya Potwana: What kinds of challenges [do] you encounter here at school in your learning?

Bantu Magabela: For now, there's none.

Melikhaya Potwana: So are you satisfied with your resources like tables, chairs, and textbooks?

Siphokazi Sindaphi: No, we have [a] shortage of textbooks, so we have to buy them out of pocket; and desks are broken, tiles on the floor are gone. Some classes have holes on the floor with no cement.

Melikhaya Potwana: What would you wish to see developing in general here at school?

Siphokazi Sindaphi: Oh, there are so many things.

Bantu Magabela: There's lots of them.

Siphokazi Sindaphi: A fence around the school for protection, and we need more classrooms for learning. If these classrooms would be built—some of the Zinyoka children went to other schools because they couldn't be admitted to the school because there is no space for them, so to build more classes would help them.

Bantu Magabela: My wish is building this bigger and have all the equipment the school needs, and have all the material for sporting codes, even the choral music: I wish there were more platforms to sing.

Melikhaya Potwana: As we arrived here at school, we saw a statue of a man. Who is he?

Siphokazi Sindaphi: To be honest with you, I don't know much about him. We were told he was a songwriter. Like the song that was sung, "Bisho khaya lam" was written by him; that's about it.

Melikhaya Potwana: All right... What else? Are you in the choir?

Bantu Magabela: Yes, my brother.

Melikhaya Potwana: Bro, why are you singing choral music?

Bantu Magabela: I like singing from my heart and soul.

Melikhaya Potwana: When did you start singing this music?

Bantu Magabela: I started in primary [school], studying grade 3.

Melikhaya Potwana: What fascinates you about it?

Bantu Magabela: What fascinates [me] is that I can sing it anywhere and something inside makes me just want to sing. I love singing in general.

Melikhaya Potwana: Which part do you sing?

Bantu Magabela: I sing tenor.

Melikhaya Potwana: When you sing, what feeling do you get?

Bantu Magabela: When I sing, I feel free, even if I was sad: that goes away.

Melikhaya Potwana: Do you think singing this music has a good impact under studies?

Bantu Magabela: Yes, it has instilled discipline in me; also, it has made me a dreamer because now I'm looking forward to doing something like a career in choral music.

Melikhaya Potwana: Going to our local areas, are you involved [in community development]?

Bantu Magabela: No... not really.

Melikhaya Potwana: If you were, what would you like to see happening to this specifically?

Siphokazi Sindaphi: There is a group called SPW here for the youth, but no one has the interest to participate in it.

Melikhaya Potwana: What do they do in the SPW?

Siphokazi Sindaphi: It encourages the youth to be hands on in the community and stay away from abuse of drugs and not to sleep around—they must 'condomise' [i.e. use condoms]... be faithful... what's the word again...? not to sleep around....

Melikhaya Potwana: Do you think the youth is following those things they are taught?

Siphokazi Sindaphi: No... not really? Maybe not yet, because the group is still new here. It started this year.

Melikhaya Potwana: How would you advise it to get attention?

Siphokazi Sindaphi: Advice? Ah... they tried to revive the netball team but they were not successful.

Melikhaya Potwana: Let me ask you, the liberation struggle: as the youth, what do you do to honor the heroes?

Siphokazi Sindaphi: ...To be honest, there are none, especially by the youth.

Melikhaya Potwana: Who you know? Just a name.

Siphokazi Sindaphi: Who fought or who is fighting [now]?

Melikhaya Potwana: Those who fought for freedom.

Siphokazi Sindaphi: It's Steve Biko.

Bantu Magabela: ...[Nelson] Mandela and Walter Sisulu.

[End of Tape]