

Poem: The land of ubuntu

From Musina to Cape Town
From Zeerust to Richards Bay
From Golela to Alexander Bay
From Lebombo mountains to Mafikeng
Minus the mountainous terrain of Lesotho
This is South Africa

Her wrinkles tell you she's seen it all
From the Cape frontier wars to the Anglo-Boer wars
From the battle of Blood river to the battle of Isandlwana
From the Sharpeville massacre to bloody June 16
But yet she still smiles gracefully
And her friendliness is known world over

This is South Africa
She belongs to all who live in it
Those pledging allegiance to her majestic flag
Those who want to see her prosper
Those who know what it means to say
Nkosi Sikelele' iAfrika

I love Mbeki when he says
I owe my being to the hills and the valleys
The mountains and the glades, the rivers, the deserts
The trees, the flowers, the seas and the ever-changing
seasons
That define the face of our native land.

I love Sobukwe when he says
We can never do enough for Africa
Nor can we love her enough
The more we do for her, the more we wish to do for her
You have a mission; we all have a mission
A nation to build we have, a God to glorify
And a contribution clear to make towards the blessing of
mankind
We must be the embodiment of our people's aspirations

I love Biko when he says
The basic tenet of black consciousness
Is that the black man must reject all value systems
That seek to make him a foreigner
In the country of his birth
And reduce his basic human dignity

I love Luthuli when he says
I am only one among millions
Who have dedicated their lives to the service of mankind
Who have given time property and life
To ensure that all men shall live in peace and happiness
And I like to here say
That there are many in my country who are doing so

I love Mandela when he says
I have fought against white domination
And I have fought against black domination
I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free
society
In which all persons live together
In harmony and with equal opportunities

I love Serote when he says
You shall remember
Because memory unlike the eye knows no sleep
That today comes from a past yesterday
The footprints of that past yesterday
Like the wind
Are everywhere now

I love Kgosisile when he says
Our memories of struggle
Refuse to be erased
Our memories of struggle
Refuse to die

I love the Freedom Charter when it says
The doors of learning and culture shall be opened
There shall be work and security
There shall be houses, security and comfort
There shall be peace and friendship
All shall enjoy equal human rights

This is my beautiful South Africa
To those trusted with her government
I say honour her flag
Remember the many who died for her
Remember the selfless sacrifices of multitudes
Think of the words of Letta Mbulu
It is not yet Uhuru

This is South Africa
To those who visit her I say
Honour her flag and respect her borders
Refrain from criminal and dishonourable behaviour
Do not take her Ubuntu for granted
Harken to the Zulu idiom that says isihlahla asinyelwa

God bless South Africa
Let greed and corruption fall
Let the racism tendencies fall
Let unemployment and poverty fall
May the dream of a free education come true
And may radical economic transformation arise
Nkosi Sikelele' iAfrika



Bheki Zungu is an experienced business executive, an author and former co-host of a small business development show at Westside FM. The books he has published include:

- *Don't Be Afraid To Fail* (Zulu edition: *Ungakwesabi Ukwehluleka*)
- *From Small Beginnings To Big Brands* (Zulu edition: *Zaqala Zincane Zadlondlobala*)
- *The Rejected Proposals - what entrepreneurs go through*
- *Why Are You Getting Married*
- *Corporate Humour*
- *The Obvious Meaning* (poetry collection)

Some of Bheki's books are made available as free e-books via WhatsApp and email, as part of the Pay-As-You-Read programme, which encourages those who are able and willing, to make a donation if they have enjoyed reading them, otherwise everyone who receives the free e-book is encouraged to pay-if-forward, by sending the book to their friends and family. Those wishing to receive the free e-books are encouraged to send their requests to sbongoz@gmail.com

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