PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA'S PRAISE POEM

"Stand aside, I have arrived!"

The bull that they once gored in parliament

The people rose up and said,

"Horns away from our beloved bull!

Our dear bull from Mpindamshaye!"

He's for MaYengwayo, he's a child of MaMzobe

If you gore him once more, you'll be spraying him with a fragrance

He shall be an intoxicating perfume to the people.

You have gored Ramaphosa and Winnie with your cunning

Gored Buthelezi with a vote

Gored even Billy Masetla, stirring the hornet's nest

You can gore all the gorables

O real men and women of my country,

Would you hunt me the betrayers of Chris Hani?

The only bull that disappeared from the kraal of Mpindamshaye

He disappeared to Robben Island,

He disappeared to exile,

He disappeared for the struggle,

The calf that once bleated at Zondeleni

The Shange's and the Nxamalala's have seen it

It was seen bleating at Mgontswaneni

And heard bleating up Mabengela

It came down Mabengela until it crossed the Nsuze

It was seen journeying across the grassy plains,

They saw it climbing mountains,

Until finally, it entered Swaziland

The Swazis investigated

They discovered that this was the son of Gcinamazwi

They said, "Yenabakitsi, wentani lomuntfu agila tiga!"

(What is this miraculous surprise doing here?)

Others said, "Ngumfan' eNkosi lona mphatseni kahle!"

(Protect him as he is the son of a king)

The calf was heard bleating at Nomahasha

Until it reached Mozambique

And there they said, "Mokomana wa nwina!" (This is our son in law)

It was heard bleating at Lusaka

They said, "Ke monna wa lefatshwe!" (He is the man of the hour)

This is the big story of the South

The massive tidings I fear to rumour

This is the news that was spoken about at the OAU and UN

The hide that surmounted even the skin-flayers

It defeated the apartheid regime in South Africa
Vanquished Verwoerd from the oppressive minority
Conquered Vorster from the suppressive grouping
Surpassed P.W. Botha's repressive rule
Triumphed over De Klerk and the divisive system
It mesmerized the notorious bench of judges at Pretoria,
It transcended everyone
Hear our cry Nxamalala!
Do not eat on the rocks like a honey-bird
That sips alone from the golden flower
Poverty still walks all over us, the poor
We, who stood in winding lines,
With our hopes for a better life,

We are still crying in need of development Hunger swirls in our empty bowels like a dancer We, who held night vigils fighting with passion, Watch with saliva dripping from our mouths As tenders evolve around the chosen few Crime and corruption give us sleepless nights Assemble your strategies and gather all the men in blue Help us reclaim the nights from the depraved ones Let streets be free for women and children Help us reclaim our identity, our ubuntu, our essence! The crafty one that out-did the other crafters The fox that sneaked past the hounding dogs The pathfinder that showed the way for South Africa Opening the gates of reconciliation It was heard bleating at Ulundi It bleated searching for iMbabazan' emahaga, (Mr. Buthelezi's praise line)

The colourful butterfly of Gcinamazwi
The bull that was heard bellowing at his ancestral KwaNxamalala

to lead him to uBhejan' ephum' esiqiwini! (King Goodwill praise-line)

The people of his name said,

Congratulation, great Thukela River!

Congratulation, great Ntunjambili Mountain! Congratulation, dark forests of Nkandla!

Congratulations, fountain of fighters!

He who gave courage to the martyrs,

The Young Lions and uMkhonto weSizwe

Your name dances upon the tongues of analysts

The world and the nations clicked their tongues in disbelief,

Baffled by your innate political wisdom Mother MEDUNSA honoured you with a mantle of intelligence You, the heroic warrior of Maphumephethe (Zuma's clan name)

The humble recipient of accolades and crowns

The humble giver of salutations, the son of Mdlovu (Variant of the clan name)

The calf that saluted people at sunrise

The disciplined calf that saluted at noon

And still saluted at the setting of the searing sun

He who won at eGoli (Jozi/Johannesburg) and saluted

He who won at Mphithi (Pietermaritzburg), and saluted

The Golden Horse ambled, and he saluted

But mind the hand that 'giveth'!

It's full of cramps and secret agendas

Never slip into dreamland, son of Mdlovu

The world is full of Judas Iscariots

The champion of brawny Mnyakanya (Zuma's grandfather's name)

Even guns opted to be coy at your sight

They turned coy at the violent Thokoza (Alberton township)

Mandela can't beat about the bush

They turned coy at brutal DRC

Mbeki too, could not turn a blind eye

Once upon a time somewhere in the South

A spiritual prophet showered praises,

In his spirited visit to the land of the departed

He proclaimed,

"The spirit in me says, never hate Nebuchadnezar, (biblical king)

For God will show His power through him,

He will do it for you, Maphumephethe!"

Arise and anoint him!

Arise, for he is a true warrior!

He won under the Mphafa tree

He conquered under the Zingawe trees

Again, he championed under the Zisasane trees

Even the bulls outside the kraal of ANC know the story It was seen by Yekethisa Sithole of Vimbimbobo

He bellowed, "This is politics! They are playing games on Zuma!"

Seen by Mthetheleli Zindela of Hlelo

It was seen by Ntshebezishoyo Sibisi of Mvumangoma

He hoofed the earth and bellowed,

"I, I, I, sm...smell conspiracy! It is, is, is, s, directed against him!"

Seen by Zihogo zikaSathane Mlambo of Vimbimbobo

It was seen by Ngaga Langa of eNgabeni

Not to mention Nhlahla Mtshali of Thandweni at Mhlathuze

For he foamed at the mouth and pawed the earth

The eagle that beat its wings, falling walls

Cavort to your best Msholozi!

Cavort for your accolades from Fort Hare University

This is the black bull that brushed aside the white one

It bellowed, "You can't crown that one!"

Cavort to your best Msholozi!

Cavort with your accolades from University of KwaZulu-Natal

Congratulations, father of orphans

You brothered even International leaders

Under dark skies you gave them comfort

You made them smoke the pipe of reconciliation

Cavort with your colourful shield

Because of you, enemies dance together

Negotiations give birth to unity

And in different languages they begin to speak

Burying the hate of yesterday

Bridging their divide, today

Like Mntungwa's (traditional ancestors) of the Khumalo clan

Who does something while pretending not to

And I say, "MaKhumalo you married him,

and made him look like the Khumalos!"

You fought Mbeki's tactics with a smile

Anointing Bulelani in the name of Mlambo-Ngcuka

I like the way you beat their malice

Having woven the conspiracy in Dubai

Topping it with a loose damsel

I like the way you beat Kasrils's scheming

Brushing him aside with his damsel

I like the way you beat their hypocrisy

You beat it together with the union of the world's informers

You beat it.

Judge Willem van der Merwe concurred

Beyond facades sits a reality within a man

There are two bulls in the kraal!

Zavolo (Zuma's father) who milkcows for my children The other one for Mzizi (Mbeki's clan name

No one knows whose horn would break

Our maize is braaied (BBQ) on the dunes

Unlike that of Matanzima, prepared at the hearth

It is sooty and clumsy to eat

It constipated my stomach

And I farted excessively

The trap is set for you, my manhood!

Help me fight the temptations of this world

One move, and my father's name will be gone

The snake-beater that never spared its head

The buck-hunter who polished it off together with its skin

The massive story that broke!

It was heard at Johannesburg High Court

Judge Willen van der Merwe ruled

Ubumnandi mabuphindane! (Let the enjoyment continued)

The guzzler of chunky meat before the eyes of the foes

They who were left sucking their thumbs

Makhilimba (Zuma's nickname from youth), who ate black and white perverts

NPA went to and fro

Like the short-pants of the loose one

He devoured them like his MaYengwayo's pumpkin-porridge

Beans have been spilled in the presidency!

For they have been spilled by Rev. Chikane

Hooking on a tooth like a muscle-meat

Saying the humble man has an iron-fist

Like Hitler from Germany

Throwing tantrums like a spoiled brat

Having a chinwag on 8 days in September

The removal of his idol

Arise, President of South Africa

The insects smashed on your wind-screen

Even the clever Lekota smashed against you

While dreaming of stirring you like gravy

And a reticent bishop smashed against you

Forgetting the main prayer,

"Forgive our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us"

Taking steps backward

Does not mean cowardice to the ram

But a greater leap ahead

The woman that chose Seme (once ANC president), and never quit him

When besought, she never quit

Even when they pressed her to love the one from KwaPhindangene (IFP leader's home)

She disagreed

The flower that once fell,

The patriots watered back to life

It fell, and they watered it, Mageba!

It fell, and they watered it, Nondaba!

It fell, and they watered it, Nxamalala!

The fire that surpassed grass and papers

It became bonfire

Even during Thechard and Mauritius

Stubborn flames were burning, still

The pumpkin-mother that stretched out to nations

Even today they still eat the pumpkins you produced

Pumpkin creeper that coiled around people's hearts While others coiled around tree-branches

The warrior whose arrow is carried by the unkempt J.K. Kemp

While his bow hangs on the shoulder of Michael Hulley The hauler of hippos and buffallos

He who weathers scheming academics and sly hyenas

The heavenly-anointed hero

While others are anointed at universities,

Some even in dark corners

The conqueror that breaks frontiers

The beating of drums from his counterparts

Trying to snatch away what is his

Putting him on the platform of the nation

Raining him with myriad lucks

The sycamore they cut, and it grows again

They cried, "What's your aroma, son of Mnyakanya?"

For they threw snakes at him, but the slithering ones turned on them

The Ngcuka's can testify to this

For they set dogs on you,

And the bloody mongrels turned against them

The day they turned on Pikoli

He danced in a paraffin pool

Leave that bee-hive Pikoli,

It is nested by a snake!

The ancestral snake of luck, the undescribable one

They tried to coil it but it uncoils itself

The patriots warned again and again

Saying, "Leave that one Makhosini Nkosi,

You've got no authorization from Mdlovu!"

Leave it, so that we cannot take our shields

For us not to blow our war-trampet

For us not to sing our war-cry

The song that gives goose-bumps to weaklings

Leave the son of Nkandla alone!

The hellish fart made out of water and sugar

It desceneded on the weakling, and he ran

May you isolate him at Olumanzabomvu (Pongola's nickname)

He has shot at his own nest

When it descends on you, Panyaza

You will have plagues

For you never ate amagonsi (wild fruit)

What madness possessed you, Panyaza?

Marching on the warpath to Mpindamshiye?

Hear our cry Msholozi!

Do not cavort on the rocks like a honey-bird

This intractable poverty feels lik

e a second skin

We, who stood in long queues, Banking on the hope for a better life,

We are still crying in need for the right to land

Hunger moves in our empty bowels like a raging animal

We, who shouted slogans for freedom,

Watch with our hearts hurting

As life becomes a small heaven for the chosen few

Crime and corruption pull the country back

Assemble your cabinet and call the ministers

Help this country grow economically

Fill all the people of this land with patriotism

Help us bury our divisions and embrace unity!

The puzzlement caused by Hillary Squires

Seen by Volovolo, the columnist of Isolezwe

It was written about by Fraizer Mtshali of UmAfrika

It vexed Zapiro, the catoonist

It confused Qap's and, he drew nothing

It mystified Mbeki

Why did Squires never give this clarification earlier?

For some in the media misdirected me to Tarshish,

Turning the Nzimande's, the Mbalula's and the Vavi's against me

One by one workers'unions striked

By so doing pushing Mhlanganyelwa (Zuma's other name) up to the sky

The slippery one that cannot be caught

The spear that wounds the sorcerers

Where are the likes of Simon Mpanza?

Where have the other men disappeared to?

The warrior who fights wearing a smile

While others are clad in hides of hate

Walk with your eyes wide open, Msholozi

Many plans have been drawn

Watch out for Ntoyom'ntu ndeyami! (Sly and hypocritical people)

Zombies are scarce at Mahlamba-Ndlopfu (Union Building)

S'gananda Shezi's death is following me

Samora Machel's death follows me

Chris Thembisile Hani's death is following me

Please come back, my aunt from KwaShezi! (Zuma aunt's in-laws)

Please come back Ninongatshelwa! (Zuma's aunt)

Come and intercede for me with the ancestors

The great great fathers have turned their backs on me

How wise are you, agile stick-fighter

For you've accepted the sacred holy cross, Strengthening it with your warriorship

The versatile destroyer of apartheid

The clever one sharpened by the great lion of Maritzburg

The no-nonsensical Harry Gwala

The bull that knows no reverse gear

The wise one from our kraal cannot be trapped

They caught him with his horn, it slicked

They caught another horn, it slicked again

The silence of Mandela is deafening

They roared to him but he bellowed them into bushes

The Shangaan said, "Do you know Zuma, the one who will teach you a lesson?"

He who grew in the hearts of maskandi artists

Thokozani Langa, son of MaShabalala, approved of him

Bhekumuzi Luthuli, son of MaMhlongo, chanted of him

Mgqumeni Khumalo, son of MaMseleku, approved of him

IKhansela, son of MaNzimande sang of him

Even Tsunami, the struggle band, celebrated him

No need to talk of Izingane Zoma, the children of MaSibiya

He who naturally danced with a woman

Invoking a tirade of condemnation from Parliament What tied itself will until itself Mlazana at Budodeni

The thunder of Gcinamazwi escorted by lightning

This deadly thunder is formed at Ntunjambili

Overflowing Nsuze and uThukela

Felling even the strongest trees they touch

The cow that releases its milk even to its enemies

When they want it by force it submits

I yearn for that day when it kicks back

Gallop, you white-horse of Shomvu

Gallop, inviting ululations celebrating the beginning of new life

Gallop for the growth and prosperity of our country

Ululates MaNcwadi Mavundla, the mother of Nobhekisisa

Ululate, the three women of Mnyakanya from KwaZondi

Ululates the respecting MaSaphula Chamane of Mnyakanya

Ululates the beautiful MaNgubane of Mnyakanya

Ululates the cute MaXulu of Mnyakanya

Ululates MaBhengu of Mnyakanya

He who beat blindness with wisdom Ululates MaYengwayo of Gcinamazwi at Mpindamshaye Ululates MaMzobe of Gcinamazwi at KwaDakwadunuse How bitter and tasteless this scorpion is, even when braai-ed Lend an ear to a voice from afar Calling; "Msholozi! Msholozi!" The land keeps prints of the feet that scratch it Let truth be bared, it's a sin for people to wallow in ignorance! The firewood that caused boils to officials We thought it was boils, but these wounds were Making them walk in a weird manner The artistic-kisser to those he loves

The meeting that gave bith to a court case The case that made him the apple of the peoples' eyes The grave that cannot be pointed at, for your hand shall shrink It shrank for the man from Dutywa, and so he cried I am being devoured by the matters of my heart, The doctors can't diagnose it, Mistakening it for HIV The soft-breezed sunny weather

If it can change its colour maybe it could cause deaths The power-clinging one, who fought the Nxamalala's For he was scared of Gaddafi

Be careful of the words you roll out from your mouth

They can put you in the corner

If you despise him that much

Just knock on his brow, and say, "You're a boy, my son!"

All I can tell you

You eat from the sty

While I eat from my father's wooden-plate

"Shomvu who ate the tree of strength

The healer of the sick cows

He who milks cows for my children

The beauty of KwaZulu is no more

People are crammed in a pig sty at Machubeni

The centipede that twirls, twirls and twirls"*

The spitting cobra of Nokubhekisisa That makes people see things in another way The president of the Shaka's and the Mshoeshoe's

^{*(}Jacob Zuma's father's praise phrase)

The Sekhukhuni's and the Sobhuza's

The Matiwane's, the Hinsa's and the Mzilikazi's

The man with sturdy thighs

The lap that holds the whole of South Africa

His Majesty King Shaka never had it

The one we swear to, like the Mighty King Cetshwayo

In joy we touch the Zuma ancestor

"I swear to Gedleyihlekisa at kwaDunusa!"

In pain we touch the Zulu ancestor

"I swear to Gedleyihlekisa at Nkandla!"

Grow with the alacrity of speed!

There comes the abomination of the uncultured

The uneducated intellectual

He who was beaten like nothing on earth

And received thousands of transient handshakes

From the living and the departed

The igwalagwala bird of Ntembeni (Name of Zuma's place) is like Bhejane

The one that blankets the whole of South Africa with charm

He who receives fame even from far-away mountains

Is like a woman with a long breasts

Breastfeeding the child from across the river

But he comes not from the Shange clan

He who beats a person to where he comes from

He who snatches somebodie's belonging.

But he comes not from the Langa clan

The political-coloured isakabuli bird

He who can fart to hearts of the villain

He who threatens like ominous dark clouds

He threatens nobody blameless, only enemies

The muthi that was made by two persons

The black rivulet that was not drunk by animals

But by traditional doctors and prophets

Mbangiswa who is not a king

The confusion is even there in Zuma's kingship

He is high for he was at Robben Island

The sweetest caliber of old Shomvu

A woman murmured under her breath

"Come, let me give you a kiss of appreciation!"

The traditional incisions that looks like water dripping

The joke-cracker that is creasing out stomachs

"My son has grown into a man of the world,

I shall have calabashes and grass-mats in numbers

My neck shall be full of laces!"

The walking stick that walks the nation

You got the walking stick from the Khumalo's

You married and it became strong

You got the walking stick from the Dlamini's

You got married and it became strong, then it cracked

You got the walking stick from the Makhunga's

You married and it became strong, then it got rotten

You got the walking stick from the Ntuli's

You got married and it became strong,

You got the walking stick from the Madiba's

You married and it became strong

Even the Mhlongo's lady respects the kraal of Matomela

You got the walking stick from the Ngema's

You married and it became strong

All the Nxamalala's are interconnected

The Mkhathini's love brought lots of noise

Agitating the sleeping great great fathers

Assemble your children from the mountains

Let them grow at your kraal and receive blessings

Msholozi cannot love secretly

Truly, the child will be there

Failing ways that are not natural

He who gives brotherly-love can never be touched

Disapproving the separation of houses

You grew like a love-potion

You cavorted raising particles of dust in the air

NPA stop prosecuting him!

Nkandla forest is blanketing its son

It blanketed you in cold-weathers of Johannesburg

It blanketed you in searing suns of Mphithi

The fleet of buses never stopped ululating

Never did they cease whistling

From the dark forest they had come

The forest that wore the skins of tiger and lion

It wore the hide of buffalo and elephant

It wore python's and the black mamba's

It wore the scorpions

Van der Merwe knows the story

For he witnessed the battle of Mpikayihlulwa and Qhingasikhundleni

Shake your hands and bury the story of your battles

Hear our cry Mhlanganyelwa!

Do not eat on the rocks like a bird of prey

Poverty still stalks us like a starved lion

We who cast our votes at the end of the line Pinning on you our hopes for a better life, We are waiting for the long cold night to end We, who held night vigils fighting ferociously,

Watch with saliva dripping from our mouths As tenders evolve around the chosen few Crime and corruption give us sleepless nights Assemble your strategies and call all men in blue Help us reclaim the nights from the depraved ones Let streets be free for women and children Help us reclaim our identity, our ubuntu, our essence! The mushroom that was found by Madonela of the Zuma family Hambisa (Zuma's brother) brought it to Tambo as his name The athletic enforcer who doesn't mind the tall grass He solved the teething troubles in the ANC While others are fallen by the small grasses In childish tantrums changing political organisations You stole the hearts of provinces You stole the hearts of the women's league For they called your "sty" their kingdom And the green shirt blew Angie Motsega, led the way for them The resilient bull that wears scars of humiliation Has blunted the horns of adversaries The robust leader of the Impikayihlulwa He fought with Vavi of the expansive COSATU He fought with Nzimande of the expressive SACP Who fought with Mbalula of the outspoken ANCYL Having roped in the rebellious Malema He fought with Manamela of the sociable YCL He fought with Motsega of the companionable ANCWL He fought with Kebby Mapatswe of the up-front MKMVA

The delegates' hearts warmed at the name of Msholozi The delegates' hearts selected Motlanthe over Dlamini-Zuma

The delegates' hearts chose Baleka Mbethe above Netshitenzhe

The delegates' hearts went for Mantashe rather than Lekota

The delegates' hearts pointed out Thandi Modise atop Didiza

The delegates' hearts decided on Phosa afore Mlambo-Ngcuka & her hubby

The unfettered celebration of Limpopo

That resounded in the whole of South Africa

They resounded causing a syndrome that went undiagnosed

At Mhlongo's house in KwaDukuza

The terror that sang Mshini Wami by force

He was not an isibhanxa (a fool) when his mouth cut

Our sick comrade who took mental dysfunction to Ntembeni

You laugh like a summer sun

Come close you men and women

The ignorer who sees everything

I like him calling home the hurt and the down-trodden

I like him calling Derrek Hanekom

I like him calling home Siphiwe Nyanda

I like him calling Mathew Phosa

I like him calling home Tony Yengeni

I like him calling Cyril Ramaphosa

I like him calling home Winnie Madikizela Mandela

I even liked him calling Madlala Routledge

And even liked him calling home Billy Masetla, the intellectual

He never forgot Yvonne Johnson and Vusi Mona, the bean-spiller

Son of Mafukuzela who preached peace after pain

The reverend that enjoys tranquility

Son of Luthuli who shone from the dark

I liked him shining with his leadership

While other leaders are

Hiding behind their thumbs

The hunter who holds the shield firmly

Jiyane and Holomisa got tired

Terror and Shilowa went weary

Roelf Meyer disappeared

Hiding behind their thumbs

Today their mouth are zipped

The Mnyezane tree with many shades

It shaded both males and females

The veteran that was supported by a struggle

While some bank on paper and pen

He can hold the guerillas like a locust swarm

For he believes in the spirit of Mabhida (struggle hero)

For he believes in the spirit of Xhamela (Walter Sisulu)

Leaving men with their mouth wide open

The good and the tidy son of MaMzobe

Ophalaze ngovelabahleke waphalaza ngovuma (Traditional herbs)

He who should receive the cake before everyone

Today Meshoe honours him

Tony Leon honours him at Argentina

Even Zille honours him

She said, Zuma opens his hands

With grace he opens our mouths

The education trust answers our needs

His generous heart hears our calls

We, the orphans created by misfortune

Nieces of Nomkelemane too, sing the same song

The hunter who wore the lion's skin from Limpopo

Wearing it together with its fats

The maize that was put in and out of water,

They then steam it to make the malt

The traditional yeast that makes a powerful brew

The powerful beer that froths of love

It was given to the whole country

To guench the thirst of the dry wintry season

I like what Zuma is hiding

For when he reveals it, it will be nation building

The nation that draws from the rivers and the streams

You have changed the overflowing Sikhwebezi from Mahlabathini

Changing it to a snaking rivulet

Its waters ran to Nsuze neighbouring Mabengela

The Reverend's collar loosened in shock

Watching Magwaza-Msibi gnawing at his fame

The Prince watched his kraal dwindle

Leave those cattle, Mntwana, they are no longer yours!

They were borrowed from Mafukuzela

This is the time to build the nation

In votes, the Greytown was ingested

While you commiserated with Nkandla, and you said

It's true, this son of Gcinamazwi is the cause of my headaches

The IFP confided after thorough cogitating

The traditional one of Shaka and Senzangakhona

The butt of laughter from the comedians and cartoonists

The uncivilized cadre with etiquette manners

Donning ibheshu (part of traditional attire) over his trousers

You summoned men of villages to your kraal

I remember that month of January

The month of cruel sun and brutal rain

The unforgiving rain that stole happiness

Msinga never danced

Next time, ask the exorcists of thunder to beseech it

Let them deal with it, opening ways to glee

He won, the caller of the shades of the Mountains

Michael's brother won

Won the brother of Ngekengithule

You who sit over Mountains

That Mountain you ride now, its grass touches the heaven

Over there, there are many scary animals

You who plant the greatest of fields

Plant that home of Mahabane

It appears from the weird tall grass

This weird grass that existed in the time of Seme

You, who honours people,

Honour the one who fired Zuma

For he made him accede to the throne

He gave him the chance to propose to the nations

He who was handsome even when unemployed

And wearing court cases

As he laughs, my stomach is filled

When he laughs, I feel satisfied

The loyal cadre who keeps the secrets

Fears the shedding of the people's blood

Mboyimboyi's bravery is the scariest one

It enters Mzwemfihlo's brother while the state was against him

Even Zulu warriors never fought with their Kings

You dance with your shield in the open

Like the Nhlambamasoka, the Mamboza (King Cetshwayo's famous regiments)

Happy are you, the creator of sandals from Mangcolosini (local shoe maker)

You will make the one for the President at Mahlath'amnyama (Nkandla)

Even your forefathers never made one for Botha

Four-eved Mdlovu

You who have the eyes of a debtor

Those eyes that turn the corner

Who saw blood of the people on the side of mountains

You are full of fame, you who criticizes no one in politics

Who proposes with his mindset and kindness

Until the lady says;

I will love Zuma for he criticizes no one

Even Ndosi and Mthimkhulu must emulate you

Your flooding prayers, you are unconquerable

The Zion prayed and prophesied

Shembe prayed till ancestors spoke through Tat'omkhulu

The Lutheran Church prayed and left

And the Z.C.C tried to pray and Mnyakanya's son ran

Many congregations prayed for him

MaMkhize from Mashunka Bathenjini prayed

She prayed until she was heard

From kwesikaNgoz'akakhokhobi, akanjengoMacingwane

Yen'okhokhobel'izinkomozamadoda (Msinga-the place of the number one Zuma supporter)

Cavort, daughter of Xaba,

Cavort, Phindisile with your never dying strength

Even Ellen Khuzwayo dances,

Lillian Ngoyi cavorts,

And Victoria Mxenge cavorts

Our traditional healers prayed with intelezi (traditional protective medicine)

And the weather changed to deep darkness

MaMzobe's S.A.U.C.C prayed their hearts out

I am scared of pride removed from your victory

Traditional healers proclaimed their influence

Blowing their trumpets in the name of Msholozi

Preachers claimed for their congregations

Many cooks now spoil the broth

You sold many newspapers, blowing no whistle

You sold them but were not paid

When you retire they will sell no more

You who gathered the ancestral spirit of Dlungwane

Clear the mess between KwaPhindangene and Nyokeni

And play the most loveable historical act

For son of Magogo (M.G Buthelezi's mother) to look on its braising colours

And oNgangezwelakhe to glance on it

To laugh in unity forever

Lead the country, you who hates liquor

You who hide your head like a woman and beat like a man

Women's garments that flew high in Durban hold stories

Give him a country, the one who bought cane-knives

Today you cavort with your fighting stick in the desert

You found Pitshana and made him fall

And found Downer and made him fall

You found Tlali, the impaka (a kind of badger) and made him fall

And found Mpshe and made him fall

And found George and made him fall

And found Lesufi and made him fall

And found the apologetic Nkosi

The highly secretive leader

Mdlovu does not speak for he is mouthless

Talk, Mdlovu, to hear your heart out

What happened to the intelligence in exile?

Is it the elect of Nkandla, intellectual of intellectuals?

Tell the enemies and your allies

Tell your heart out like Chris Nicholson

Even you, all MaKhumalo's,

You must always brew our indigenous beer

To drink of intelligence

While dealing with matters of country

With the legislators of Mpikayihlulwa (Zuma's "regiment")

Even the SACP twin must not be assassinated

Even the COSATU twin must not be assassinated

In the veins of those twins, the ANC blood flows

These twins are my parents

Mdlovu, I look at you shyly and steal glimpses

Shoulders that carry false stories

The disgruntled members don't complain

I look at you and cry myself out

Shoot my machine gun!

Some are at their mothers back

Who was lit and burned like fire

Who pushes his head to danger

While others push their legs

Khwezan'abafananant'izuluselifikile (be protective sticks of the thunder for it has arrived)

The thunder that struck over the home of the capitalist

And they all were shrunken

He who is protected by the ancestral man of kwaLanga (poet's family name)

He who finished the assassins

Who removes the heavy load from the people

For he saved men and women

He who beat the others after the others

While beating the others, he beat the others

Who got in Mahlamba-Ndlopfu, the field of Qhingga-

You took it with Mgabadeli and Mapholoba, the body guards

And you took Mahlamba-Ndlopfu with Goge, the body guard too

Now you sleep at Mahlamba-Ndlopfu with your knees up

Msholozi you are the talk of the town

All nations speak about you

The midnight star that shone to people's talk

In the sun and the moon

Moon became the piece, the round, be cut

And died in your talk

Jon Qwelani the journalist said a word

He agreed with you Maphumephethe

Madoda Fikeni the analyst agreed with you

Even Protas Madlala concurred with you

Saying the crown is yours at Limpompo, Mdlovu

Tsedu got frightened

The one who sacrificed his life for the people

The man that confused the journalists at Radio 702

What do you do after peeling an onion?

They all paused and asked you to sing Mshini Wami

You never sang it, for you never received either

He was scared of the bad singing of the journalists

He neither trusted Tim Modise

Shomv'oth'ukubhulwa wanjengesona

Wathi ukubhulwa wanjengesikhonyane

You spreaded like a rash

Msholozi the listener shines

Shine the surveyor of the bad people's cages

There is a lady animal hidden there

At the overseas cages, bring her back

For her to tell all the conspiracy-truth

The Mnyakanya's fire-fighter

Who doesn't get tired of the little elephants fires

Those Nkandla flames

Burn even at Luthuli House

But they burn you and kneel down to you

You are the welcome Mnyakanya for you welcomed even this one

But be careful history does not repeat itself

You who won the hearts of the taxi industry

They gave you the herd of cattle to wear

He who goes himself to the people is happy

Where others are not

A drop of Indian medicine is enough

For they heal with a left hand

You catch and break like a lion

The rhino's urine that stings and causes pain

The honey-bird of Nobhekisisa that I will follow to death

And write a history on the rock

The shaker of the unshakeable

For you shook South Africa's judiciary system

And white judges resigned

They were scared of so-called corruption

The spear-man who solved no problem but the lawyers

Selebi's solved by Mbeki

The ANC spear that stabs the honourable and the useless

The spear collected from Limpompo to people's anger

He who sat well among South African people

He sat in the palm of the hand

Like water in the centre of the calabash

The killer who killed the honourable and the useless The ill-omen that is followed by another

It followed Nzimande to his family-in-law

While staying peaceful with MaNtombela (Blade's wife) at Babanango

While he lies about Mphephethwa

He tried to swallow it but failed

He also tried to spit it out, but failed

Finally he died!

He woke to COPE like an aberrant ancestor

The uSuthu' olumabh' esh' ankone (praise name of Amazulu FC) ran

Don't kill that lightning bird!

If you kill it the thunder will strike.

The bull that slept with its knees up

While others slept like dead

Jokes about him resounding all over the country

But John Vlismas never made one about Msholozi

David Kau never told one about Msholozi

Ayanda Msweli never dared make one about Msholozi

The bull that fights like mad

We will run out of referees

Stab them by the back of the knife, Msholozi

To remove them from your chest

Don't stab them directly

You will take their eyes out!

For we want them to see you walking on the red carpet

Which they swear you won't step a foot on as president

And you ride on a donkey like Jesus

The battle of the two shepherds

Louis Harms punched to Cris Nicholson

Annoyed by Zuma's win

Hani's wound is still bleeding in my heart

Succeed in finding me the true assassin

Carry the S'lovo's view in your mind,

"The one who killed Hani is not

The one who pulled the trigger!"

You remind me of the Shona's proverb,

"Happana chisingaperee" (Nothing last forever)

The MaBhengu's charmer

Who was a charmer even after being afflicted

By the dark cloud of court cases

For he was loved by the Chinese

The Germans loved him

The Italians loved him

The Indians loved him

The Americans loved him

The Jewish business personalities

Developed trust and loved him

They loved him for they wanted

To make him their brother in-law

Gordon Brown in Britain is a witness

He wanted a photo with the son of Mnyakanya

Mhlengwa of Nobhongo wezulu eliphezulu (relative of the poet who is a father-figure)

The Langa people loved him

Lethukuthula Xulu from kwaChwezi agreed

Mdumiseni Mabizela, the mathematician from Thaleni, agreed

Nathi (Nashna) Ndebele, the scientist from Newcastle, agreed

Vusokuhle Mvungande, the poet from kwaGadediniwe, agreed

At Ntabenemnyama, all the warriors agreed

At Buswenibenkawu, all the warriors agreed

MaShange Langa of kwaSizwokwakhe,

Chose ANC for Mhlanganyelwa

Kholwa Zuma from Nyoniyezwe at Mabomvini

Cavorted to his best for Zuma

All the poets cried their throats out

Themba Zwane from Zuka at Mnambithi praised the man

Bhekani Ndwandwe of Mpangeni shouted praises Young Philani Buthelezi from Nyoni bleated

Madlizinyoka, the political activist from Mpangeni bellowed

The art-endowed Themba Masinga from KwaShembe recited

Poets from Mthatha took the podiums

While others wrote in newspapers, poetically

S'phamandla Xaba from Jozini praised him for ANC

The artistic one who descended at the kill scene

Claws outstretched like an opportunistic scavenger

Clothed in a white robe of fortune by his ancestors

The eloquent poet that surfaced at dinner

He who cavorted on the rocks like a honey-bird

Bhoza from Isolezwe asked a rhetorical one

"Where the hell was he in cold days of court cases at Maritzburg?"

Isolezwe's Masaka asked the same question in confusion

And Madula's lip-meat choked his throat

At Nkandla, they stood arms akimbo

Others capping their hand over their brows

Searching for the son of Mdadazi

The shuddering of umncwado

He who strikes even when thwarted

With fly-by-night poets

At Parliament they sabotaged him with Xaba

The opportunistic scavengers that surfaced at dinner

The one cavorted on the rocks like a honey bird

They who were scared of the battles of the High Courts

When even the exorcists could not foretell the future

Poets with great zeal at lunch

Zeal that shuttered when the Nxamalala sky was dark and gloomy

That dark cloud of City Press journalists

They peeked at Themba Zwane doing suicidal act

They peeped on Nomkelemane being led to the scaffold

The King has inaugurated, Msholozi

Give thanks to those that deserve it

The war is still on, Mdlovu

If you attack with cowards, there will be more deaths

Even those from across the ocean say;

"Inauguration day, sabotage is at its highest form!"

Late Tim Ncube roamed all over Pretoria for accreditation

Shabalala, the taxi-owner from Nongoma cried out from his converted BMW, resplendant in

his beautiful traditional attire

Roamed the whole of Pretoria for accreditation

They cried of Izingane Zoma, and part of history was buried

They cried of Shiyezendawo, and part of history was buried

They asked for Izingane ZikaMsholozi, and history was buried

They asked for Tsunami, and part of his story was buried

They asked Pastor Dube for holy words, and history was buried again

They asked durable Nomkelemane,

The selfless one of Mdadazi,

Who braved ice-cold weathers of Maritzburg and Jo'burg's High Court,

But valuable history was buried

Worms eat the edible maize

While people are rammed with the inedible

Many voters are for you, my father

They are yours, son of Gcinamazwi

Fully creamed sour-milk of the calf

Eaten by Mpangelekhal' igijima (ANC activist)

Eaten by Elvis Msane of KwaSibhamu at Mthunzini Saying, "If they spill it, the vulture will scream!"

An ocean of enemies is fighting over you, Matomela!

Crawl along softly like a spider

The insect is caught by the web

The shooters can never shoot the gentle man of Lugaju

They remain in tortured hunger for the blood of Makhilimba

You feed the stone to Kaddafi's mouth

You made him masticate the scorpion in the eyes of the AU and UN

Come back Msholozi, you've made history

You left the hippo's with their mouth open

The crocodiles gone to the mountains

The animal that ambushed people in the tall grass

S'kelewu's shield was left in the mountain

The lucky charmer of the virgins and the matured ladies

All your hopeful rivals propose using your name as a charm

The porcupine with sharp quills

I have looked for your back

But it I could not see it

I only saw the assembly of voters

Measured in the worms of a dead elephant

The person I've seen and shivered for

And I said, "Oh! Mhlanganyelwa,

Msholozi is your true ancestor"

Joy is all over sprawling Nkandla

Mothers from the Zuma family ululated

MaYengwayo Zuma of KwaThembitshe ululated MaXulu Zuma of KwaDunusa ululated

Their ululation filled the dry air of great Nkandla

The firstborn Velephi ululated with a brown bottle in her hand

The lastborn S'bongile ululated with a hoarse voice

The life is so good!

I too shouted out my restrained felicity

Seeing Nkandla slanting

The story was evidenced by S'busiso, son of Sibisi

He said; "You must tell Msholozi,

Chwezi too, is still part of Nkandla!

Development must be seen taking place!"

I said, "Duzenezulu! Mahlase!"

Even Nhloshane is still Nkandla,

Mandaba and Matshenezimpisi,

Manawe too is Nkandla!

The dog that relies on its power of biting

The one that bites out a chunk from the flesh

When others set off mongrels to maul him

He bit at Malema, removing a chunk

Even today, his wound lay agape, with no one to heal it

Maybe April Fools' advice from Isolezwe can help

For it wrote about the National Economic Liberation Congress

Even at Limpompo they barked at him

He removed a chunk in response

Hear our cry Nxamalala!

Do not eat on the rocks like a honey-bird

Sipping the solitary golden flower

Poverty still persecutes us poor people

We, who stood in winding lines,

Voting you our hope for a better life,

We are still crying for the development

Hunger gnaws in our empty bowels like a starving dog We, who chanted slogans for equality

Watch, the saliva dripping from our mouths

As tenders evolve around the chosen few

Crime and corruption give us sleepless nights

Assemble your strategies and rally your troops

Help us reclaim the nights from the depraved ones

Let the streets be free for women and children

Help us reclaim our identity, our ubuntu, our essence!

I offer these words, submerged in suspense

Not knowing if I am still the son you love

Or maybe wearing the cloak of misfortune

For I know the inaugurator of a King

Does not reign with him

I, the fighter who fought and won the many battles

Risking rejection and scorn from the cowardly ones

Who looked through their fingers

While their jaws were locked in silence

In the season of trials, tribulations and troubles

At the end of the long ominous time of assorted pains When the gloomy clouds had released the hostage sky

Mushroomed your once enemies

Wearing skins of lambs

One by one they were rewarded and crowned with you

Now they look down on us in disdain,

Looking at us, the true soldiers who gave their lives

While roaring lambs' mouths burst with shame,

Packed with scoff, scorn, sneer and snigger

But worry not, Msholozi

Life is like that lady of kanga!

MSHOLOZI!

MAPHUMEPHETHE!

***This praise poem has been used by permission from Hector Langa, the author. All copyright
remains with the poet/the author. ***