

husband, Vusi Shangase, who is presently furthering his studies in radio journalism.

We of the ANC and our revolutionary army, Umkhonto we Sizwe, pledge to pick up the fallen weapon of Comrade Nomava Shangase and continue from where she left off until we achieve what she sacrificed her life for, the liberation of our Motherland.

HAMBA KAHLE MKHONTO!

LALA FAKU!

KHOTHAMA NGQONGQOSHE!



JOURNEYING TO MK

I have kissed the earth of ancestral Africa.
Its humid aroma I inhaled
Arms sideways stretched
I borrowed the wings of the sparrow
And exciting flights I performed
Over elegant grasslands
And the slopy landscape
of conquered motherland.
Over hungry villages
and starving townships
Beneath me they swept like movie tricks.

I crow-flied from city to city
Circled low about ghettos
The cities bright and dazzling
Like Persian carpets,
The ghettos gloomy and putrid

Like s e p t i c wounds
On the back of conquered Africa
Played "survival of the fiercest" game
with police dogs and fascist bullets
Whilst Africa with heavy mind
head stuck between the knees
counts pairs of jack-boots

I leered beyond the mine dumps
Beyond school yards and police stations
Across rows of cement hovels
Apologies of school buildings
Yet there's laughter here
As if laughing our own destitute
And yet there's courage here
Here I've witnessed the rejuvenation
of a power rediscovered
The young generation
discovered the secret of Prometheus
With real fire they bring down
symbols of oppression
These raging flames beckon patriots
To the furnace of revolution
You wouldn't resist
I couldn't think twice
And when the clarion sounded
I was no more playing pilots.
I scurried and ducked through buses
and borders

Now we are a wonderful army.
Here in the f i r m trench
Here we kissed the lem of the people's spear.
Here we saluted the grave of slain Bambatha.
Only yesterday we stood by Mahlangu's grave
H e r e w e p l e d g e d
Over the bodies of our martyrs
H e r e w e s w o r e
Over the bodies of our slain heroes
The volcano we have forged is unstoppable,
"This land will be ours again."

- THABANG MAKWETLA