



Yizwa ukukhala kwethu!  
Amazwi Abahlali  
bakuKennedy Road

Hear our Cries!  
Voices of Kennedy Road  
Letters from the Youth to the  
Mayor and the President

Dear Thabo Mbeki,

Ingamalami ngingu Bongekile Shinga iminyakha yami ingi shumi nabili ngihlala iminjondolo yokhicoe ngama palangwe no pasitikhi silayetha amakhaldela futhi asinawo ama toyilethi. Me-sibuya esikholeni singenazo ukhulda nezingube zokhugqokha skhushile ngexakhukho aisiyifuni imixaso goereleni ngamba isikhole sikhunde futhi khkhona amahlathi nala emijondolo khumamahlathi futhi la emijondolo abatu bayangu indampi nemi sele ehamba amanzi acolile isijandenda ukhhlala everelmi emnye imijondolo iyansekha ngexayakha yakhiwe ngema pilagwe khande ngafithi emijondolo akhukhothuthukha futhi isingane zildala emazini acolile nakhu ndutu izingane ziyangu okhunye abanto mesilisa bahlakhu maza izingane emijondolo maya qekheza emijondolo. Futhi thana angekhe sivote singenawe imixoso sisiohlola emijondolo ngoba siyo vote thondiwe ituthiukho asiyatholi khu kennedy sikhathe ukhuhke emijondole sikhathele.

Dear Thabo Mbeki,

My name is Bongekile Shinga. I am twelve years old. I have lived in a shack for seven years. Our shacks are built with boards and plastics. We use candles for light. We've got no toilet. When we're coming from school, we've got no food to eat or clothes to wear because of the fire. We don't want new houses in far away places. We are in the shacks, and it's dangerous and there are bushes. We're near a dump, and the water is dirty. We don't want to go to Verulam. The other houses are falling down because they are built with plastics. There is no development here. Kids are playing in dirty waters, and they get sick. Old men are raping small children here in the shacks. And the criminals are getting chances to get in because they are built with plastics. We are not going to vote without houses. How could we vote if there are no new houses here in Kennedy Road? We are sick and tired to live in the shacks.

Umhlali ku Kennedy

Dear Thabo Mbeki,

My name is Gugu Khonono. I live in Kennedy Road. I live with my mother and brother. I am twelve years old. I am in Grade 7 in Springfield Model Primary School. We are having problem in the mjondolo. We want houses. We don't have clothes to wear because the mjondolos are fired. Our mjondolos are getting fired every time. And children are raped by the big man. We need water, we got one tap. The rain water is coming inside the mjondolos. We drink dirty water and people are dying. We can't sleep at night because of the water. We are getting sick of the dump makes us sick. We will not vote. We need houses. Try to help us. We will not go to Verulam. If you don't give us some houses you must give us lights to see in the dark. I now that you don't like that things. No vote. No houses – please try to give us some houses to live. We are asking you for help Thabo Mbeki. Make us happy and make for us houses. Eight years I am living in mjondolos. Help us make peace for us. I know that you eat KFC and you have lots of money but you are so fat like a pig..

Dear Obed Mlaba,

My name is Nomvuyo Mngadi. I live in the shacks at Kennedy Road. My problem is I don't want to live in a place like this. You as a mayor, couldn't you help us in these shacks which are built with papers? We've got no toilets, and we are sitting in the mud. Our councilors are selling our land. They want us to go to the farm. But there in the farm there are no jobs. The municipality is hiring people from outside places and where are we going to get the money to go from the farm to reach here, to come to our schools and our jobs? Can't you guys build us houses here near Durban? And the bad thing is our shacks are burning every time. We've got no water. People are living having to poop in their houses, because there are no toilets. Baba Obed Mlaba, the sorrow we are living in with our sisters and brothers, we are sick and tired of it. We are crying every day because our souls can't rest. How long are we going to live the life like this?

Dear Obed Mlaba

Igama lami ngu Nomvuyo Mngadi nihlala enjondolo wase Kennedy Monje nginesicelo lapha okukuqola. Angisa thandi ukuhlala lapha emjondolo manje. Wena njenge meyo bewungke wodiswa na ngoba kulemjondolo esihlala kuyond yokhiwe ngoma pha

Pha futhinomothoyilethe asinawo nodoka lusizokile. Futhi Okunye ukuthi Amakhansela asidlela mihlaba yethu ofuna ukuthi siyekokle emofoma kanei imisebenzi ayikho emafama kunjalo nje omasipala bawasha abantu emafama kunjalo imali sizoyithathaphi uma sisisuku endaweni enethuba lemisebenzi Benkungeke nina nisakhele izindlu ezisemaduze neTheku na. Futhi udaba olwethusa kokhulo olokuthi imijodo isha minyaka yonke kanfi amanzi asinawo futhi. Nabantu sebahlala nexindle exindlinde ngenxa yokungabikhona kwathoyilethu.

Baba Obed Mlaba usizi esindlo ngaba foweth no dadewethu abashisiya yo lapha emhlabeni sikhafhele. Uku khala mihla nama langu ezimpineni zethu akukho akuphumula. Kuyo zekubenini sihlala nendle exindlini.

Dear Mr. President,

I am a resident of a shack at Kennedy Road. Here is my problem: I've have stayed here for twenty years, but I see no development. Our houses are built with cardboards and plastics. We've got no electricity, which leads to our shacks burning every day. In this poverty we have, we end up losing our relatives because of fire. If it's raining, our houses are filled with water, and it's like we're living outside. I just want your eyes to focus on the place we are living in, and see the sorrow we are facing. First of all, you are promising us. If you want us to vote for you, you promise us a better life, job opportunities, etcetera, etcetera. And you can be my weakness – many votes you get, you're getting it from abahlali base mjondolo, because we go to vote, all of us, in the hope that you are going to build us new houses. And that we are going to leave the sorrow behind. But we are deceiving ourselves about that. After you've got the votes, and you're sitting in your swivel chairs, you just forget about us. You must remember one thing: that you being the president relies on the votes from abahlali base mjondolo.

A Concerned Shack Dweller,

Mpume Ndosi

Dear Obed Mlaba

Mina igama lami ngingu Khosi Zondi ngineminyaka eyishumi nesithupha ngineminyaka eysithupha ngihlala emjondolo waseThekwini kwi Kennedy Road. Sengi khathele ukuhlala emjondolo sengifuna inbuthuko . Okubi kakhulu ngoba angihambi lapha sihleli wena uma ufuna ukusisiza sakhele khona lapha ngaphakathi ebisas asihambi sihleli lapha sifuna izindlu sifuna umbani sifuna amabhoyelebhe sifuna amanzi. Ngithi-kuwe Obed Mlaba ukuba izindlu zikhona ngabe asiLokhusizihlapha ngawe manje sihluphekile ngoba siyashelwa yisindlu imiphfumulo yodadewethu kanye nabafowethu kanenezingane zethu ngabisekhona ukuba umbaninasifakela nezi ndlu futhi okubi-kakhulu awulethi isimonto zikili nelamatoilet uthi thinabantu asiwakiline wonalawa angekho kodwa wena Obed Mlaba kwakho nezinga nezakho nihleli kahle nindla izambane likamphondo uyajabula uma uzwa ukuthi kuphume imiphfumu loyabantu uphathekakahle okubi ngobangithi nawe kuyokwenza unkulunkulu uyabhendulela abantu bakhe. Angiphathi ngoba asivonti ngithilendawo osuyithengile uthi uzakwak-hola thina jeleukho hlele. Uyasizahla emahlathini sikhathele ukubona abazali besishi ya ngenxayemililo siyizintandane ngenxayemililo boningi abafowethu ngenxa yemililo sekwanele ukuphuma kwepefumulo engenacala. Kulungile imiphfumuloyethu iyosiphendulela Obed Mlaba uyakazi okwenzayo koathina asikwazi.

Dear Obed Mlaba,

My name is Khosi Zondi, I am sixteen years old. I have stayed here for six years in the shacks of Kennedy Road. I am sick and tired of staying in the shacks, I want development. The bad thing is as we are sitting here, you, you want to move us away to the farm, and you don't want to help us. We are not going anywhere here at Kennedy Road. We want houses to be built here. We want electricity, toilets, and water. I am saying to you, Obed Mlaba, I wouldn't be writing this letter to if there were houses, electricity and water, and all our needs. Many shacks have been burned because of the fire. We have lost our sisters, our brothers, and our parents. And if there was electricity, we wouldn't have been using candles. And most of all, the little toilets we are having – you don't bring the cars to drain or clean the toilets. You, Obed Mlaba, are using a flushing toilet. That is why you don't care about our toilets being drained. You are eating expensive food while we are eating Phuthu only. But I'm saying to you, one day God will be on our side. Because we are not going to vote, and the place that you've bought by saying you are going to build houses for us, just forget about it. You are drawing us away, and we are not going anywhere. We are orphans because of the fires. We are sick and tired of the fire, we are saying enough is enough. We have lost enough relatives now. It's okay, Obed Mlaba, you know what you are doing to us.

Dear Obed Mlaba,

My name is Nomvuyo Mngadi. I live in eThekwini, in the shacks of Kennedy Road. I am thirteen years old. I've stayed here about seven years. I have a request to make to you as the mayor of the city of Durban, for you to help us. We are crying every day here in the shacks because of the fire. The reason is that our house are built with cardboards and plastics and paint tins. As I'm talking, in these past few weeks we've buried a small boy, Mhlengi Khumalo. He died because of the fire here at the shacks. Land, houses, and electricity could have helped protect his life.

The next thing is we've got no toilets. We have to relieve ourselves in the bushes. The toilets are full. As I write, if we go to our councilors they are deceiving us. They want us to move away where there are no jobs. And we don't want to go there to the farm. We are going to stay here, we are not going anywhere. Father Obed Mlaba please, we are begging you. You are living a life of luxury while we are sitting here in poverty. While we are crying you are laughing. We are sick and tired to live in the shacks. Why are you guys not allowing our rights, what would you say if you were living in a place like this. Are you happy as we are sitting here in the shacks?

Dear Obed Mlaba

Igama lami ngu Nomvuyo Mngadi Ngihlala eThekwini emjondolo yabe Kennedy Road Ngineminyaka eyishumi nontothu. Ngihla Kulendowo lenasengize ngobb neminyaka engu seven . Nineskelo engisethulo kuwena nenge meya yetheku ukuthi usisize ngaso. Sikho mihlo yonke lapha emjondolo ngokusha kwezindlu zethu kadaluo ukuthi sokho ngamaphulasitiki amaphulongu knoge nama kopi apendi asikiwe kumonje ngikuma kulamasonlo adlu bekude singewabo umtwona igama lakhe umhlengi khumulo washa konje no mjondolo umhlaba, izindlu no gesi ngoba kwayiphephisa imphiloyakhe nakhu okunje lapha asinowo amathogilethu asithembisa ukuthi sihale emofamu inkinga kutina ukuthi imisebenzi ayikho emafoma. Ezindoweni ezisemaphondleni bathi kithi uma singa funi ukaua emaphondleni sizo hlala khona lapha ngeke sihomba. Baba Obed Mlaba please sicela asilekelele wena unleli lapho uthina umathina sihlupheka kanga bo sithi siklala wena uhlelka ngluapha nje.Sikhathele ukuhla emijondolo sikhathele bo. Kudalwa yini ningo wavumeli amalungelo ethu. Nithulo nithinin uma sihlelidengwane kanjina. Niya jabulu no nengoba thina sihla yini no.

Dear Obed Mlaba,

My name is Sisanda Notsolo I am eleven years old. Long long time I have lived here, 7 years. I have a problem. Here my problem is that we have no toilet, the water is getting in our houses that does not make us happy. In our mjondolo we are not safe. People are raping children and this is not safe people are killing other people. I like to stay here but the problem is that our mjondolo is always burning every time. There are not enough water and toilet. We live in small houses. The place we live on is dirty this is not the place we must live on. If you come and visit our place you are going to see if this is the place we can live on. We need to move here this is not the place that we have to live on. We cannot vote for you if you don't move us on this place. This is not the way we are safe this does not make our lives safe. We have only two taps for people. We pee in the bush this is how we are safe. No voting, no land, no nothing.

From Sisanda Notsolo

Dear Mr. President,

Ngingumhlali wasemjondolo ku Kennedy. Nansi inkillingo enginayo: nine-minyaka engu 20 ngihlala laplia; kodwa inththuko ayibonwa. Sihlala ezindlini ezakhiwe ngamapulastiki namacardboard asinawo ugesi. Lokho kuholda ekutheni sisha njalo. Futhi ekuhluphekeni esinakho kungezeke ngokuthi silahlekelwe izihlobo zethu ngelixa yomlilo. Uhla-kunetha izindlu zethu zigcwala amlizi; kufane nokuthi sihlali eminyango. Ngicela uzame ukuphendule amehlo akho awabhekisa kubahlali basemjondolo ubone usizi asibhekana nalo. Okukuqala nje uyaza izithembiso enisithembisa zono nozukwenu unia nisafuna amavoti (impilo engcono, amathuba emisebenzi nokunya) futhi uzongifukazela ukuthi amavoti niwathola kakhulu lapha kithi abahlali basemjondolo; ngoba siphuma ngobuningi siyonivotela ngoba sinethemba lukuthi sizophuma osizini kanti niyasikhohlisa uma seniphumelele seniphenduka nezihlalu nikhohlwa yithi: ngicela ukuhumblele ukuthi ungu president ngathi, ngamavoti ethu.

Umhlali wasemjondolo

Okhathazekile

Dear Thabo Mbeki,

My name is Mzingisi Mphetshwa. I am sixteen years old. I have lived here about six years. We are burning in this place, because we've got no proper houses. We don't want to go to other places, except this place. We love this place. The reason we don't want to move is because we are near our schools. This place is dirty, and we are sick because of the bad smells coming from the dump. If we could have electricity, new houses and water, we could be living a good life. Please you must give us everything we ask from you, because we are not going to vote. It's been a long time that we've been told that we're going to be built houses. We were told to march, but there are no results. It's been a long time we've been deceived, told we were going to be built houses. You want us to bow on our knees to request houses. You must accept our request because we've got no clothes since our houses were burned. Everything we had in our shacks was burned, even our uniforms. We want you to show us what you are doing because being burned is not a good thing. Is it good to you to hear that people are dying because of fire while you are sitting there eating expensive food?

Dear Thabo Mbeki

Igama lami ningu Mzingisi Mphetshwa nginemi nyaka eyishumi nesithupha nginemin-yaka eyisithupha ngihlala emjondolo yasethekwini kanti kunjalonje siyasha kulendawo ngoba asina zindlu ezilungileyo kuseyimijondolo ngoba asifuni ukuhamba siyekwenye indawongaphandle kwalendawo kanti siyayithanda lendawo into ebangela ukuthi singahambi kulendawo sisondelele esikoleni zethu kanti lendawo ayiLunganga ngoba siyagula siyafa lamoya omubi wasedampini ukubakukhona ubani exindlini kanye namanzi ube ususakhela isindu ezincono kunalezi esihlala kuso ukuthi awusa khele izindlu nazo zonke-lesi sinto esizicelayo asizulota ngoba kudalokuthiwa sizokwakhelwa kuphinde kuthiwe makutoyitoywe dowa akukho bhphumelo sidenesikhathi sikhohliswa kuthiwa sizokwakhelwa sisingaze siguqesicele ukuthi sicela izindlu usencele izicele zethu ngoba asiwazinto kugqoka kusukela kushindlu. Yonke into umuntu anayo enlini isha inqonqo into yinasezikoleni ngokuba izindlu cekhuzishile kunye nezi ngubo zokugqoka siyahlupeka sicela wenze ubona kalise ukuthi phela wenzani ngoba kusha ukuthi kumnandi kuwe ukuzwa ukuthi imiphefumulo yabantu. Wena uhleli undla izambane lika mpondo kulungile.

My name is Gugu Mthembu. I am sixteen years old. I have stayed here for six years, but I see no development. All I see are people dying in fires. Many peoples lives are lost because of fire, because our houses are built with cardboard and plastics. If we had electricity, we wouldn't have lost so many souls. We abahlali base mjondolo, we want our houses to be built here, not in Verulam. Here we are near job opportunities. If you don't have the power to build us houses, please give us electricity at least. If you don't want to accept our request, how long are you going to watch us dying? We can see that you are happy with all these things happening to us in our land? You are looking at the outside countries, that they are living in poverty, but you are not looking in your own country. Every time we come from school, we get a surprise: that our homes have been burned, and we've been left with nothing. We are sick and tired of living in the shacks, while you are sitting there eating expensive food. We are sick and tired of watching our brothers and sisters dying because of fire. Orphans are left because of fire. There are many widows and widowers because of fire. It is enough now. We have no electricity, we have no toilets, we must go to the bushes if we want to go to the toilet. But I'm saying: one day, somebody will have to answer to God about those souls. How does it sound to you to hear that people are dying every day? It is enough. Enough of staying in the shacks. Enough of going to the toilet in the bushes.

Dear Thabo Mbheki

Mina igama lami nginguGugu Mthembu ngineminyaka eyishumi nesithupha. Ngineminyaka eyisithupha ngihlala emijondolo kodwa akukho ntuthuko okubi kathulu siyafa sibulawa yimililo. Kuze kuphume imiphefumulo yabantu ngenxa yemililo ebakhona. Izindlu esihlala kuzo amapulangwe, amaplasiki kanye namaphepha. Ukuba kukhona umbani ngabe izinalu zethu ziphephile kanye neximpilo zethu thina bahlali basemijondolo. Okubi sifuna izindla ngaphakathi asifuni ukulahlwa ngaphandle le to Velulem. Ngenze yotuthi siseduze namathuba amsebenzi. Ngoba nisinika amathubo amandla okusakhela izindlu sizmeli umbani. Ngoba anifuni uku senzela izikhalo zethu. Kuyoze kube nini sifa siphela . Sizha nexindle ezweni lethu. Uhleka amazwe angaphandle ukuhlupheka kwawo. Sithi sibuya ezikoleni imijondolo ishile sisale dengwane singenalutho sikhathele ukuhlala emijondolo sikhathele bo. Kodwa wena udla izambane likaphondo. Sikhathele ukubona abafowethu nodoadewethu besishiya ngenxa yemililo. Siyizintandane ngenxa yemililo. Baningi abafelokazi ngenxa yemililo. Sekwanele ukuphuma kwemiphefumulo engenacala. Ngenxa yokuthi umbani asinawo nezindlu zethu zamaphepha. Asinawo ngisho amatoilet sizikhulula ezihlahleni. Kodwa sithi imiphefumulo yethu iyosiphendulela ngelinye ilanga kulungile uma kuzwakala kangcono kuwena ukufa kwabanbu sekwanele ukufa kwezihlobo zethu. Sekwanele ukuhlala eminondolo. Sekwanele ukuzithulula ehlathini.

Dear Obed Mlaba,

Dear Dr. Mlaba,

I've got twenty-five years living here, and I see no difference. All I see are shacks that came behind us getting houses. Now we are going to be grannies, but I see no difference. We are living in poverty, drinking dirty water, we see no jobs. We don't see even houses. We are sleeping in the water like fishes. Can you sit in the water with mud? You guys asked us to vote and promised us you'd build houses for us, but till today – nothing. How can we vote if we are sitting in a place like this? See other countries are living in houses. How long are we going to stay like this while we are voting every year? Instead we are getting older, sitting in a place like this, living in the water like fishes and pigs. There is no electricity, there are no houses, but we are asked to vote. We are not going to vote if there are no houses, no houses, and no electricity.

Concerned Resident of Kennedy Road, D.M. Buthelezi

Dear Dr. Mlaba

Ngineminyaka engu 25year ngihleli lapha ku lemijondolo kungekho mehluko! Ku lungiselwa imijondolo ejike muva! Sesize siyaqu qa siquqela lepha akukho mehluko! Siya hlupheka siphuza amanzi ngot. Siyalamba imisebenzi kayibonwa. Ngisho nezindlu kazi-bonwa. Silala om anzini nje ngojish! Ngabe wena ungahlala yini emanzini anodaka na? Nasithemisa ukuba masivote sinivotele nizosakhela nanamuhla lutho! Sizovota kanjani sihleli ngaphandle soze sivote siphandle! Bheka ezinye I zizwe sihlezi ezindlini: Kuyoze kube nini sihiezi bandle kodwa sivota minyakayonke: Kunalokho sesize sagula ukuhlala jne ngofish neziqulube odokeni nogesi awukho nezindlu lutho kodwa kuthiwa vote! Asivoti.

Izindlu zingekho namanzi

Obalile Ngu D. M. Buthelezi

O Hlala Ku Kennedy Road

Dear Baba Mbeki

Ngizalelwe lapha kuKennedy ngineminyaka ewu 15years old. Kodwa umehluko awukho sihlala odakeni nje ngezinqulube silala emihokhwini enamanzi. Kuyana akuni kuya jana. Ngicela ukubuza ukuthi wena izingane zakho ungavuma zihkale o dakeni na? Ngisho izindlu, ugesi lutho nje nemisebenzi ayikho. Kodwa uthi vote sil ambile, sihleli nje ngezinqulube! Asivote without housing

Obalayo yingane yakho

uThola Mkhonde

Dear Baba Mbeki,

I was born here in Kennedy Road, and I'm fifteen years old now. But I see no difference. We live in the mud just like pigs. We are living in the shacks with water inside on the floor, whether it's raining or not – it's the same. What I want to ask to you: would you agree to let your children live in the place with mud? Even our houses have no electricity, no jobs, but you want us to vote while we are starving. We're sitting here like pigs. We are not going to vote without housing and electricity.

Your concerned child,

Thola Mkhonde

Dear Honorable Mlaba,

Your majesty, I'm sick and tired to live in the shacks. I've got fourteen years living here, and now I'm twenty-four years old. Here is my problem: in all these years I've seen nothing when it comes to development. This is what I've seen:

1. burning of shacks
2. Apartheid by Indians
3. No jobs and
4. Starvation.

Our parents couldn't find jobs, they are not working. The first informal settlement in Ward 25 was Kennedy Road, and we were promised houses first. But the shacks that were built behind, they now got new houses. And now you want to move us away! Where do you want us to go, because we've grown up here?

Yours Sincerely,

Jabu Nkosi

Dear Muhlonishwa Mlaba

Muhlonishwa ngikhathela ukuhlala e Shelter Ngineminyaka ewu 14 Ngihleli emujondolo ngikhu lelekhona senqize ngaba neminyaka ewu 24 years naku okungangiphethe kahle. Kule minyaka engi yihlalile. Akwenzekanga lutho

Okwenzelile Yilokhu!

1. Ukusha kwa ma shelter
2. Ukubandlululwa nga maindian
3. Nemisebenzi ayikho siyalamba
4. Abazalibethu nabo abayitholi imisebenzi

Amashetha o kucala iyona la wa kuKennedy Road kodwa kwakhelwa amasheltha ajika muba: Thina sakhulela lapha kuKennedy Road! Masiyphi

Ngiyaphela lapho obhalile wozi

Thobile Jabu Nkosi