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Ibhasi elikhulu eliluhlaza

Pumla Mdontswa
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Mango Tree



Lalilodwa ibhasi elihamba
emphakathini wakubo
kaZweli.

Lalikhulu futhi liluhlaza
okwesibhakabhaka.
Lalinomsindo omkhulu.



Ngelinye ilanga umama kaZweli wathi, "Kusasa sizoya edolobheni siyothenga umfaniswano wakho."



UZweli wajabula kakhulu.

Babezohamba ngebhasi
elikhulu eliluhlaza
okwesibhakabhaka.
Kwakungavumi ukuba
alale ebusuku.



UZweli wayesegqokile
lapho umama wakhe
engena ezomvusa.



UZweli nomama wakhe
baya esitobhini. Balindela
ibhasi elikhulu eliluhlaza
okwesibhakabhaka.

Kodwa do ibhasi!



Abanye abantu bafika
esitobhini. Babekhononda
ngoba ibhasi
lalingasigcinanga
isikhathi.

"Ngabe ibhasi lisishiyile?"
bebuzana bodwa.



UZweli wakhathazeka.

"Ngeke sikwazi ukuya edolobheni. Ngeke ngikwazi ukuthola umfaniswano wami," ecabanga.



Abanye abantu baduba
babuyela emakhaya.
Kodwa uZweli wayekhala
engafuni ukuya ekhaya.

Umama wakhe
wayemduduza ethi,
"Sizolinda isikhashana."



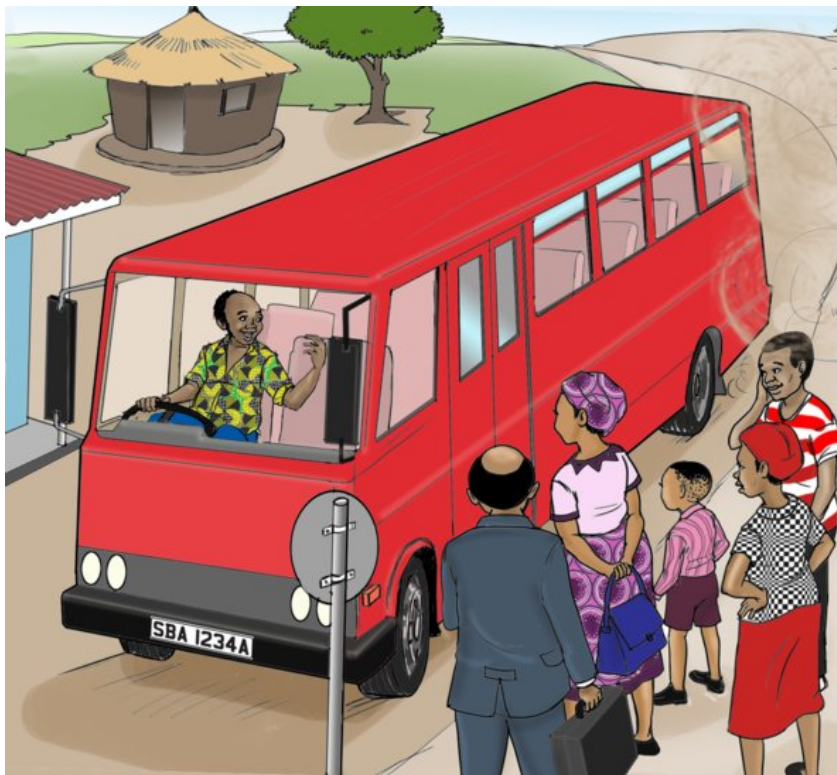
Masishane, bezwa
umsindo. Babona izintuli
emoyeni.

Laliza ibhasi!



Kodwa leli bhasi
lalingeluhlaza. Leli bhasi
lalibomvu futhi lilincane.

Abantu ababelindile
bavela balibuka leli bhasi.
Abazange bagibele.



"Ngenani! Ngenani!
sishiywe isikhathi,"
kumemeza umshayeli.



UZweli nomama wakhe
bangena kuqala.

Ngokushesha bonke
abantu bangena ebhasini.



Lapho uZweli elunguza
ngefasitela, wabona
abantu abaningi
esitobhini.



Abanye babegijima bejahe ukugibela ibhasi. Kodwa ibhasi lase ligcwele.

Naliya ibhasi elibomvu liya edolobheni.



"Liphi ibhasi elikhulu eliluhlaza?" kubuza umama ka Zweli.

"Lifile," kuphendula umshayeli. "Siyalilungisa, lizoba khona kusasa," kusho umshayeli.



UZweli wayengenandaba
nombala webhasi.
Wayengenandaba
nobukhulu bebhasi.

Wayejabuliswa ukuthi
laliya edolobheni.

Ibhasi elikhulu eliluhlaza

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