

These Lives in Context

Obituary:

Nkonzo Theodore and Xolisa Sandiso KHUMALO

*04th January, 1973 & *24th August 1974
23rd March 2002



Nkonzo Khumalo Xolisa Khumalo
*04.01.1973 *24.08.1974

Trinity Methodist Church, Northcliff, Johannesburg
Thursday, the 28th March 2002

Dr. Ben Khumalo-Seegelken

Triple tragedy strikes Transnet chief's family

BY THEMBA WA SEPOTOKELE

Tragedy has struck the family of Transnet boss Dr Bongani Khumalo with the deaths of his two sons and a nephew in a car accident.

The bereaved Transnet chairperson told *The Star* last night that his two sons, Nkonzo (29) and Xolisa (28), and nephew Ntokozi Khumalo (29) had been travelling from a funeral in Vryheid, KwaZulu Natal, on Saturday night when their car went out of control in adverse weather and overturned on the N3 near Vosloorus, on the East Rand.

The three victims were going to join the 26th birthday



Ntokozi Khumalo



Nkonzo Khumalo



Xolisa Khumalo

celebrations and baby shower for Funeka Khumalo, Nkonzo's wife.

"She is expecting their second child," a devastated Khumalo said.

"Nkonzo was coming to give her a birthday present. These were very special boys. They were exemplary and we are so proud of them. They have left a huge void."

Last night, Public Works Minister Stella Sigcau, Minister of Public Enterprises Jeff Radebe and his wife Bridget, and Mafube Publishing head Thami Mazwai visited the Khumalo family to convey their condolences.

Deputy President Jacob Zuma, for whom Khumalo was a former special adviser, expressed his condolences.

A joint funeral for Nkonzo, a communications practitioner at Eskom, and Xolisa, a property consultant, will be held on Thursday at West Park Cemetery, Ntokozi, who was completing his accounting studies at Technikon SA, will be buried on Saturday.

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Lezi zinsizwa esihlangene ngazo namuhla,

oNkonzo noXolisa
bakaBongani noNelisa Khumalo

zizalwe zakhula ngesikhathi esinezenzakalo nezigigaba ezibalulekile kuleli nasemhlabeni wonke. Eminyakeni ecishe ibe ngamashumi amathathu edlule sibone izinguquko, sedlula eziwengwini nasezinxushunxushwini eziningi: kuzwe lonke nasemindenini yakwaKhumalo, kwaMatutu nakwaSomi ngokunjalo. Lezi zigigaba sezingumlando kaNkonzo, ngumlando kaXolisa, ngumlando wethu.

Two histories and two biographies merged when - in the early 70s - Nelisa Matutu wasebaThenjini in the then Eastern Cape and Bongani Khumalo wasebaQulusini in the then Northern Natal discovered the love for each

other and started developing a mutual life, founding a family, establishing a home.

This young family - that home - was to be a nursery, a haven and a filling station for many children and youngsters from both sides, who came, stayed or passed through and shared moments, bread and parental love with Nkonzo and Xolisa over the years - over almost three decades by today! A childhood and a youth in community - a community of sojourners - an open society.

ElaseXhoseni nelakwaZulu laba bafana bakhule belazi kungelakwabo. This laid a viable foundation at an early age in their hearts for a future with a widening horizon. Unity in diversity was to remain a prime experience - not just a motto.

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Lezi zelamani zakwaKhumalo,

*abazukulu beNtabayezulu yeNgobamakhosi kwelaseMahlabathini
nokaSiyaya wakwelaseNgoje, intombi yeSwazi:

*abazukulu benkosi uFulinzima ("A! Fulinzima!") kaKhuluphele
wasebaThenjini nentombi yakwaHlongwane, uNogesi.

yizinsizwa zamancoko, amaphoshophosho, ezithi umuntu zimudla zibe zimyenga ngendaba,

ziyabazi nokho nazo ubunzima, ziyazazi iyingqinamba zakuleli - hhayi-nje ngenzwabethi.

Nkonzo and Xolisa came to see day-light and to grow up in times in which

*it was not uncommon in this land of Africa
that families would be torn apart and children would not live
under the same roof with mother and father: Influx and Efflux

Control, Labour- and Pass Laws.

- *it was not uncommon in this land of abundance and wealth that children would die day-in and day-out of malnutrition and hunger - casualties and victims of the greed and injustice of the day: Group Areas, Eviction and Persecution.
- *it was not uncommon in this land of advancing knowledge, the land of the first heart transplant (Groote Schuur) that children and youngsters were denied access to opportunities of learning. They had to observe, how their parents had to battle to attain even the most elementary prerequisite for what could perhaps be called a childhood.

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These and other conditions of living and struggling in an unjust society did leave an indelible impression on the minds of the two young boys and laid seeds for the aspirations and the commitment that characterised them for the rest of their lives as young adults.

Abaqambi manga abadala uma bethi: Ukhamba lufuze imbiza. Kanti kakubafana bakaBongani noManeshi yini laba? Yizinsizwa zasende linye; ngabantwana basisu sinye!

Ophikelela bethi bayavinjelwa!
Osikhumba senj' endal' esehlul' abashuki!
Okhwani liyasikwa, liyamila!

(Kesithi ukubagiyisa ngezikayis' omkhulu namuhla).

Having taken root and grown up in a big city, Nkonzo and Xolisa, simply and naturally remained part and parcel of the life back in the rural homes of their parents. They willingly retained their status in the constellation and hierarchy in both clans eXhoseni nakwaZulu. That reminded in some way of

their grandfathers - some hundred and twenty years back - who had broken out to fetch gold from the intestines of this city in order to pay taxes and make the ends meet and so contributed to the wealth of this sub-continent, only to be turned back and driven away as outcasts at old age. In some way contrary to that, Nkonzo and Xolisa - some hundred and twenty years later - had come to own this city, what they actually did! A hundred and twenty years, they had not only arrived and were at home in this centre of the sub-continent, they had successfully

taken Gauteng to KwaNgenetsheni and
had brought Mqanduli and eMondlo to Gauteng !

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Visible pillars in the economic structure of a developing Economic Union of Southern Africa.

In the eyes of their relatives across the seas Nkonzo and Xolisa are and have been a convincing example as to how "young urban professionals" (Yuppies) in this similarly young democracy could be genuinely be the hope-bearers of the nation and help bring together what used to be torn and held apart.

Muva nje usungathi belama uBongani, belame uNelisa, ngendlela abebezwana , bekhonzene, besizana, behloniphana nabo ngayo. Bathi abadala phela: Kuhlonishwana kubili; omdal' uhloniph' omncane ngokunjalo. Respekt und Achtung auf Gegenseitigkeit. Bayalingiselana, bayaqwagayisana, bayancomana, bayasolana, bayabuyisana, bayakhuthazana, bayahleka kunjeya! Kunjalo nje ke kwaKhumalo, kubo kaNkonzo noXoli.

Kumnandi kuyathokozisa, bakwethu, ukukubona lokho kwenzeka, ikakhulukazi ngoba kunini kulokhu kwathiwa:

"Laf' elihle kakhulu! Yonakel' intsha, inzalo kathayela!
Izifundiswa azinambeko, azinanhlonipho, azinamfundiso, zilula!"

Kumnandi ukubona umndeni wezifundiswa onobuntu nokwazisana nokungazithwali. Bayisibonelo laba bafana kulokho.

Discussions on current events, exchange of opinions on crucial issues, arguments and political discussions are daily bread in that home. "Ubuya nini, Baba, phesheya?" ("When are you returning from exile, dear uncle?") How often had I have to repeat my answer to that concerned question - more especially since CODESA and the 27th of April 1994? Political discussions across the seas. Xolisa and Nkonzo grew up in that family tradition. They experienced and cherished the liberation-struggle as their

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own family-life - their own biography. They in that personify, they symbolize, they reflect

those two histories, those two biographies
that once merged and formed a mutual starting point

for two and more new histories
for two and more new biographies through them.

These two biographies will live and continue generating hope. We will honor and remember Nkonzo and Xolisa. We shall continue living with them.

I read some notes to recall the two young men:

NKONZO and XOLISA, the eldest sons of Nelisa and Bongani Khumalo, were born on 4 January, 1973 and 24 August 1974, respectively. They started their primary schooling at Nonto Primary School in Rockville, Soweto in 1980, when their parents had just moved to Johannesburg.

They continued and completed their primary schooling at Holy Cross Primary School, Diepkloof, Soweto - as the family was resident in Diepkloof at that

time. Nkonzo later joined St John's College, Houghton, and later completed his Matric at the First National College; while Xolisa did and completed his at Sacred Heart College, Observatory.

They parted ways at tertiary level when Nkonzo pursued and obtained a national Diploma in Communications and Journalism at the Natal Technikon, later followed by a B-Tech at the Wits Technikon.

Xolisa completed his BSc, Construction Management, at the University of Cape Town. He later obtained a Post-Graduate Diploma in Investment Management at RAU. He was currently studying for an MBA with the University of Natal Business School.

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At the time of their tragic death, Nkonzo was as a Communications Practitioner at Eskom Enterprises, and Xolisa, a Property Portfolio Manager with Pareto Limited.

They are survived by their parents Bongani and Nelisa, by Makhosazana Buhle, Mzilikazi Donda, sisters and brothers, their maternal grandmother, Mrs Eunice Matutu and relatives. Nkonzo, was married to Funeka (born Somi), and were blessed with one son, Ntsika. They are expecting their second child.

They were inseparable growing up, in their working lives, socially, as they were in their final moments.

They will be sorely missed by their large family, friends and colleagues.

LALANI NGOXOLO KE, MANTUNGWA ambulazi,
Nina enithi umuntu nimudla, nibe nimyenga ngendaba!

BoMzilikazi kaMashobana!
Donda!

Nina bakaBheje, nina bakaSomcuba - beNgobamakhosi!

Nina bakaMabaso,
Owabas' entabeni kwadliw' ilanga lishona!

Nina bakaMawela,
Owawel' iZambezi ngezikhali!
Nina boNkomo-zavul' inqaba,
Zavul' inqaba ngezimpondo kwelaseNgome!

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Bheje,
Owabhej' eNgome kwabonakala!

MaNtungw' ancwaba; zindlov' ezibantu!
Zindlov' ezimacocombela!
Nin' enehla ngesilulu,
MaNtungw' aluhlaza!

Maqhaw' amakhulu, ehlul' abeSuthu
NoShak' engazang' abehlule!
MaNtungw' adl' izimf' ezimbili,
Ikhambi laphuma lilinye!

Nin' enal' ukudl' umlenze kwaBulawayo!
Nin' enahlubuk' eNdlunkulu kaZulu
Nenyuka nezwe!

Lulwandle kaluwelwa,
Luwelwa zinkonjane
Zona ziphapha phezulu!

Sonan' esingoni lutho sikaNdaba
Okwemihlambi yezinyamazane
Eyahamba yalal' emfuleni.

MaNtungwa!

>> [KHUMALO](#)