

**Mu Zambia
Amano Mambulwa
In Zambia
Wisdom Is Acquired**

Basil Chisonta
&
Jan IJzermans

**Mu Zambia
Amano Mambulwa**

**350 nsoselo sha
mu cilala na mu cisungu**

Abapitulukilemo no kukolanganika
pamo ni ba Basil Chisonta na
ba Jan IJzermans.

**In Zambia
Wisdom is acquired**

**350 proverbs in
Lala and English**

Compiled and edited by
Basil Chisonta and
Jan IJzermans.

Ubulondoloshi

Ndi buku alingile abakulu na baice. Likopela amano amukati ayaba mu nsoselo sha ciLala. Insoselo shili mu musoso wa ciLala nomba kuti shaumfwikila apatantalile ukucila pa buLala bweka. Kwati nifi, ifipaleneko amakumi ane na yane pa mwanda umo kuti fyangwa mu ncende ya baLamba, boneni buku lya ba Doke ilya ba Lamba nshimi, nyimbo ifishalembwapo (1927). Ba Doke bali kukonkomesha: Ubukankala bwa nsoselo shamubumi bwe Lamba tekutipo bucile mucipimo.

Mu nshiku sha kale, ukusoshanya kwa bantu abakulu kwali kwa mu nsoselo. Shalikwitwa ati *mu mapinda*. Tacalikuwamapo kati niwe utalikumfwa ifi kososwa!

Introduction

This book is intended for readers of all ages. It offers insight into the wisdom found in the proverbs of the Lala region (Mkushi and Serenje Districts, Zambia). The proverbs are in the Lala language but are understood in a much wider area than just the Lala region alone. For instance, variants of 44% of them can be found in the adjacent Lamba region; see Clement Doke's *Lamba Folklore* (1927). Doke stated: "The importance of the proverbs in Lamba life cannot be overestimated."

In former days, conversations between adults could be entirely in proverbs, metaphors, and allusions. This is called *mu mapinda*: proverbial language. It was not pleasant when you were the one not understanding what was being discussed!

Ukulingana nobwingi bwa nsoselo shisa noku-linga nakashita ukufuma mutunini mpaka naku-shikosele mukumfwa pantu inshita ilapusana, namano nao ene alinga ukuya ili apusana. Tuko-sanga ati shimbi nsoselo shilola kufya citike akale nomba nanduno shibomba ulo tucili tukosanga nashimbi ishabwangu.

Umusoso walikwata incende ikulu mu ntambi. Insoselo shilanga ubwinenene ne misuminine yaba mukati ka ntambi, mu musango wakuya-bomfya pambi ulo teti cicitike. Ilingi mukukwata ukwibukisha, nsoselo shalikwata utumisango twakubwenako kubati kwibukisha apali uku-londolola apakulu mumashiwi anono.

Nomba mu masabililo anduno aya mu cisungu, insoselo tashisambishiwapo mu masukulu. Ici ecingalenga ukwebati amano a ciLala tayalipo mano anduno.

Bakalemba tabakosuminishapo kuli nku ku-languluka: belengeni nsoselo shili muli ndi buku mwalatotela amano shapela.

The set of often-used proverbs evolves over time because circumstances change and wisdom must evolve as well. Thus, we find some proverbs referring to old situations that are still considered valuable, and we also find some newer proverbs.

Language is an important part of culture. Proverbs are the elements that express the values and beliefs held within a culture, usually in a metaphorical manner. Often, for the sake of memorability, proverbs exhibit stylistic characteristics such as pithiness and wordplay.

With basic education being conducted in English, proverbs are not taught at school. This might suggest that Lala wisdom is not relevant today.

The authors disagree: examine the proverbs in this book, and you will appreciate the wisdom they offer.

Insoselo shalangwa mu fiputulwa fitatu, cimo cikwete umwanda umo nekumi limo na mutanda angula umwanda umo ne kumi limo na cine lubali.

Icipande caku balilapo muli nsoselo isho abantu mwa Chibale bamona ukuti shingomfwika (ngashabomfishiwe mu sukulu shalinga ba geledi 5 na 6).

Icipande cabubili cikwete nsoselo ishiko fwailishiwa (geledi 7 na 8).

Elo mucipande ca butatu mukosangwa ishi-lemeshe sana nsoselo (geledi 9 na 10).

Twaleta nashimbi nsoselo ishaseka sha mucisingu ishikolanga 'ukucenjela kwa ku Bulaya'. Twayaletela mu filangililo ukukonka neficitwa mu buLala, pakwebati abene abantu babone kati fingaba ifya kwafwa.

Ndo lyonse muko lolesha pa mitwi ya nsoselo, ifintu fisano fileesa mukubweneka, cimo cila-kwata ibili angula isano na abili imitwe inini. Nji mitwe ikulu yilashinguluka ninshi ikobomba,

The proverbs are presented in three parts, each containing either 116 or 117 proverbs.

The first part includes proverbs that people in Chibale generally find easy to understand (if used in schools, they are suitable for grades 5 and 6).

The second part contains proverbs that are more challenging (grades 7 and 8).

And in the third part, you will find the deeper proverbs (grades 9 and 10).

Within each part, we also present 22 commonly used European proverbs, to illustrate what constitutes 'European wisdom'. We have applied these to typical situations in Lalaland as examples, for readers to assess their potential usefulness.

When examining the themes and subjects of the proverbs, five main themes emerge, each comprising two to seven subthemes. These main themes revolve around being active,

ukwakanya nokubombela pamo, ukukonkome-sha ukwikatana pamo, kupanga amano ne mibele iyinji abantu bangakwata. Kuti mwapituluka nokubona fyonse mfi mu Cakubwenako kumpelo kwe buku ndi.

Insoselo muli ndi buku shikomaile pafyo twingacita yangula ukusubila ukucitika munshita shimo shimo. Ukukwata amano amo eka mufyo ifintu ficitika palwa fiko. Shimbi nsoselo shitweba ifyakuisunga ukupusana na mafya angula ukutwafwa ifyakucimfya ngalya mafya ulo aisa.

Tushibikile nshi nsoselo muli cila cipande mu mabumba atatu:

Ifya kusunga mibele ne fyakucita.

Ifyakucetekela nefyo fibomba.

Bulala/Bulaya, 2026

sharing and collaborating, fostering social relationships, constructing knowledge, and the various attitudes people may hold. You can review all of this in the Index at the end of this book.

The proverbs in this book often deal with what we can or should expect in certain situations. They share the knowledge of how things inevitably work. Other proverbs tell us how to behave to evade problems or what to do to solve them once they are present.

We have used this division to group the proverbs in each of the three parts:

How to behave and what to do.

What to expect and how things work.

Lalaland/the Netherlands, 2026

Kolofoni / Colophon

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Ukukonka nefyo basangile pamilimo yakufwailikisha ba Jan IJzermans naba Basil Chisonta mu mimbile mwali ukushana, namashiwi a nyimbo nefibombe mwa Chibale, Zambia ukufuma mu mwaka wa 1981 mpaka 2013. Boneni amalimba.org.

Based on research by Jan IJzermans with Basil Chisonta into the music and related dance, text, and ritual in Chibale, Zambia, from 1981 to 2013. See amalimba.org.

Abantu abengi mwa Chibale balyafwileko muli nji buku pakuti lifume, nokukwata icicetekelo cakuti abantu bakalibomfya mu masambililo namu bumi bwa mikalile yabo.

Many people in Chibale have contributed to this book, in the hope that it will be used in education and in daily life.

Imilembelwe noku pitulukamo / Design and editing: Jan IJzermans.

Kubapangile ifikope ukukonkana ne nsoselo / Makers of the photos with the proverbs:

Basil Chisonta: 142, 242.

Benadi Mika and Lafenda Mpyakula: 14, 19, 34, 48, 61, 66, 91, 113, 193, 237, 250, 260, 275, and nsoselo shaku Bulaya 4, 28, 35, 62.

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Jan IJzermans: 24, 29, 41, 53, 86, 106, 137, 149, 154, 161, 166, 171, 178, 216, 223, 255, 270, 280, and nsoselo shaku Bulaya 11, 48, 55.

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Icipande I – Nsoselo ishipubile

Part I – Simple proverbs

Ifya kusunga mibele ne fyakucita

How to behave and what to do

Nsoselo 1

Nkaya mailo abala pa cungulo

Mube abaipekanya ngamukofwaya ukucitapo cimo.

Nga uli nokuyapo kumbi mailo, calinga watampilapo ukupekanya pa cungulo. Calilinga ukupekanya lintu taulaima. Nga bulendo, bona ukwebati fyonse ifikofwaikwa fyaba pa ncende imo. Ulwendo lwa mukulunga, boneni ati imfuti, akasembe, ubonga bwa mufti epo buli, kati malala fwaileni limo icakulya cakusenda kati bunga, natumbi utufwaikwa mu mpanga.

Leaving tomorrow starts in the evening

Be prepared when you undertake something.

If you are going out tomorrow, it is better to start preparing the night before the trip. It is essential to prepare before going out. For an ordinary trip, ensure all necessities are gathered in one place.

If it is a hunting trip, make sure you have a gun, an axe, and bullets. If you plan to be away for more than a day, prepare food to carry and other essentials needed in the wild.

Nsoselo 2

Uufunda lushishi taulateba

Icakubalilapo citangile. Citeni cakubalilapo icikulu pali njilya nshita elyo icitakofwaikapo panshita imbi.

Ngatwaya mukuteba inkuni, tulingile ukuteba inkuni pa kulekelesha elyo twafunda ulushishi. Abakunaila inshima, tekuti usambepo ku minwe ulo inshima taingaisa pantu unga sambapo bwaka.

Do not prepare the rope before collecting firewood

First things first. Address what is most important at the moment, and then what is important at a later stage.

When collecting firewood, we first gather the wood. Only then do we collect fibre at that location to make a rope for tying it.

You can wash your hands when the food is brought. Washing them elsewhere might mean you do not get any food, as others may have finished it all in the meantime.

Nsoselo 3

Pakwakana ubunga tapaba nsoni

Twilokuba nensoni pa cintu tukofwaisha, twalinga twasosa nabambi baishiba.

Ubunga cintu cimo icifwaikwa ku mubili wesu pakuti tukule namaka, kanshi ilyo mu le akana, akanenifye bwino umulinganganya, takuli ukumfwa insoni iyoo, nga bwacepa landa.

There is no shame in sharing mealie meal

Let's not be bashful about something essential; speak up so everyone knows.

Mealie meal is vital for our bodies. So, when sharing, share equally. Never be shy: if your share is small, just say so.

Nsoselo 4

Mungulube alilile umwando emukuputuka

Tekulusapo isubilo.

Angula ifyo tukofwaya bwangu tafibonekelepo, tekulusapo isubilo. Tulingile kukonkanyapo pakwisa kukwata yangula ukupwisha amapange esu.

The bush pig cried as the rope was about to be cut

Don't give up hope.

Even without immediate results, we must not lose hope. We must persist to accomplish our goals.



Nsoselo 5

Amakanga abili alapufuka

Cita cimo panshita imo.

Ulo ukosowa ikanga, tacakwafwe ukweshwa ukusowa abili. Sowa lyenka limo.

Ukucita/ukusenda fibili yangula nafimbi weka panshita imo tacawamepo pantu wakulusa fyonse nokushalapo bwaka. Calinga wakoselela pacintu cimo mpaka ucipwishe. Elo nombamba ungaya ku cakonkapo.

Chasing two guinea fowls means you will fail

Take things one at a time.

When chasing guinea fowl, it won't help to try to chase two; chase only one.

Taking on two or more things at the same time is unwise, as you will ultimately accomplish nothing. You should concentrate on one thing until you finish it; only then can you move on to the next.

Nsoselo 6

Abana bankashi baebene ulushaba

Icitemwiko ecilanga ukuti mbaa bantu ba mulupwa lumo pa fintu fikoboneka.

Tumo utuntu tatwalinga nokwakana, nombafye pantu mwalitemwana filacitika. Kapansha umo teti mu mwakane no munobe, nomba apo paliba icitemwiko kwakana.

Tekuti fibefye mu cakulya, cili namukwafwana naba nobe.

The children of the sisters shared one peanut

Love for all shows that these people are from the same family in whatever they do, however small it may seem.

Some foods are too small to be shared. Peanuts are a good example! One peanut here is shared between the children of sisters, a gesture that cannot be extended to an outsider.

This may not only apply to food sharing but also to helping others through work.

Nsoselo 7

Bulapo, tekupa

Ifilandwa kwati nimfi, ku mulwendo uuwu wayawaya ukupokelela ico bamupa.

Ukuba ngo mwine, niwe walinga ukwakanya na banobe. Abalwendo nganaba kufikila pananda yobe, ni nsambu shobe ukubakanya.

Take, it is not up to you to give

This is said, for instance, to a visitor who hesitates to accept what is being offered.

As the host, you must take the lead in sharing with others. When you have visitors at your home, it is your duty to share with them, and it is their 'duty' not to refuse your hospitality.

Nsoselo 8

Mungulube, Akalindi ako: abali babili balabulana

Ukubombela mukumfwana capamo ciweme sana.

Tulingile ukuba abakumfwana lyonsefye pakusopenshanya ifingaleta ubusanso kubanensu.

Ilyo abantu babili yangula abengi bakoya mukashila-tondo uyo utangile alabulako abanankwe ifili kuntanshi, kati muuso yangula akalindi pakuti abali kunuma baibukila.

"Bush pig", "There is a hole": two people warn one another

A good working relationship is valuable.

We must be united at all times to alert each other to potential dangers.

When people walk in single file, the person at the front will call out if they encounter a hole, warning those behind to avoid stumbling.

Nsoselo 9

Nawe, kwenu takwali bakulu!

Tawafundwapo?

Kwaliba intambi isha seka ku mitundu yonse kwati pakupokelela icintu ku bakulu kupoka na maboko abili, nomba iwe wabomfya fye ukuboko kumo! Nomba epa kumwebati nawe twafundwa pantu konse bwaka abakulu eko baba.

As for you, there were no elders at your home!

Have you not been taught at home?

There are certain manners common to all regions, such as using both hands when receiving a gift from an elder. Now, if you use only one hand, they will say that you must have grown up in a village without elders. Elders who could have taught you are everywhere else.



Nsoselo 10

Kabusha takolelwe bowa

Ukwipusha ekwishilapo nafimbi. Ibukisheni: amano mambulwa. Calinga ukwipusha ekukwata icacine.

Inshita sha mainsa, ubowa ubwa pusana pusana bulamena mpanga yonse. Umo mwine bumbi tabulikwa nangu bwapalana no bulikwa. Eico ngataukoipushapo ukalya nefya kukukola, pambi ufwe no kufwa. Awaipusha mbo abaishiba bwino ubowa wanukula, tawakolwepo. Ifyakulya fisangwa mu mainsa fingi kanshi ulingile ukwipusha pafintu filikwa pakweba ati wikolwapo.

The one who asks will not be poisoned by the mushroom

Asking is knowing more. Remember: wisdom is acquired by being told. It is advisable to ask to learn the truth.

During the rainy season, different types of mushrooms grow. Some of them are poisonous and are never eaten, even though they look like edible ones. Now, if you do not ask, you may eat a poisonous mushroom and suffer. However, if you ask those who know about the kind of mushroom you have picked, you will not be poisoned. There are many fruits you can eat during the rainy season, so make sure you ask which ones are safe.

Nsoselo 11

Ncenjeshi musha wa cipuba

Tacawama ukutumfya abanobe pantu pakulekelesha ukesa moneka icipuba.

Ukubepa abanobe lintu ifyo ukososa fyabufi, pakulekelesha ukesa sangwa mu bwafya nabanobe bakakuseke.

Fond-of-fooling-others will end up a fool

The one who uses deceiving tricks will end up as a fool.

It is not wise to use trickery with your friends, as in the end you will appear foolish.

Cheating your friends, when you yourself know that it isn't true, will ultimately lead to trouble with them, and they will laugh at you.

Nsoselo 12

Cindika akaice nako eli kakucindike

Nci cilalandwa ku muntu ufwaya umucinshi, cibe ena talangapo mucinshi kuli bambi, maka maka kuli mbo abaice kuli ena.

Abana abanini basambilila imisango iibi neiweme kufuma kubakulu. Imisango yonse abaice bamona eyo bapashanya ukucita. Eico twalinga ukubalanga isuma pakuti nabena baba abantu abenenene. Ilyo wacindika umwaice, naena akatampa ukucindika abantu bambi, ekukula na mano. Ico conse umwaice aumfwa kumukulu, eco naena acita.

Respect the young and they will respect you

This is said to someone who asks for respect while not showing much respect to others, especially to the young.

There is no escaping the fact that the young will learn good and bad manners from their elders. Young people emulate the behaviours they see. We need to show them good behaviour, so they will become good citizens. Giving respect to the young will encourage them to respect others, as young people follow the example of their elders.

Nsoselo 13

Nawe, uli musombo tawikuta!

Uku pashanya kumuntu uwatemwa ukulya icitala.

Ukulya kwa citala, kanshi takupo kubona abakolya kano naye alyeko bamupashanya ku musombo wa mpendwa uwo nangu amwaitilako amenshi tawisulapo.

As for you, you are a burrow that is never filled!

This is said to a person who is fond of eating.

Whenever they see others eating, people who are fond of eating are likened to an ant-bear's hole that never fills when water is poured into it.

Nsoselo 14

Mwe baume, mwebali babili tabalwa!

Ukumfwana mwebali babili kuweme.

Ulo mwebali babili muli palwendo lutali, caliwana bonse mukoumfwanina pamo ukucila ukutalikana.

Companions, two together do not fight!

Understanding one another is vital.

When you are on a long journey together, it is advisable to agree with each other rather than argue.



Nsoselo 15

Nawe, uli kangulungulu, tawishi nefibalabila!

Ukukana ishiba ifya kusosa.

Umuntu uwaya ku cilye mukulubulula afwile apekanya bwino ifyakulabila pa mulandu. Talingile ukulaisosha umwine ilyo akopela bunte bwakwe pantu umulandu kuti wamu wila.

As for you, you are a fool; you do not know what you are talking about!

This is said to a person who makes inconsistent statements.

When you go to a court session, you should have proper evidence. It should not conflict with the other things you have already said, otherwise you will be found guilty.

Nsoselo 16

Nawe, uli mwitwa-libili!

Utomfwisha kano libili.

Abantu bamo tabomfwishapo amwamwita umuku umo kano mwabwekeshapo libili. Mu nshila shimo bamo nabo kano wakomailapo pa cintu mukofwaya ulya muntu acite.

As for you, you always need to be called twice!

This is said to a person who never listens properly.

Some people don't listen properly until you call them twice, which often means constantly prompting them to do what you want.

Nsoselo 17

Akaboko kalakonka kabyakwe

Icilangilo ciweme cilakonkwa. Tusubile kupoka kati nafwe tulapela.

Ukwikala weka kwabula fibusa tacawamapo iyoo. Tulokuba no mute wakupela, nafwe ekupelwa.

We muntu weka tekukwanishapo kukwata fyonse. Ngawafungulula kuboko, nawe bakukufungulwila.

The hand follows the hand of another

A good example tends to be followed. Let us hope to receive if we also give.

Living alone and without friends is not good. We should be helpful to others when approached.

No one can achieve everything alone. When you extend a hand to others, they will also reach out to you.

Nsoselo 18

Ukulepa ngo munwe wapakati

Ukuba pantanshi sana ilyo taushininkishe.

Ilyashi nga lyafika mu mushi cibe talili lyobe iwe nomba kwima waya ili ushimika konse konse. Calinga walekela abene balileta ukubilisha pantu ngaba kwipusha ukafilwa ukwasuka.

You stand out like the middle finger

This phrase is used in situations where someone is in the forefront but not really involved.

For example, when news reaches the villages, you might go out to inform others, even though the news isn't yours. It is better for those who know more to inform others, as you will likely fail to answer questions when asked.

Nsoselo 19

Umulinganya wa mapuli ulaponweshha

Wikwata icilumba ku mulandu wakupusana mutuntu ututakwetepo ubuyo.

Ukulinganya ifiputulwa fya mibili ku bwaice kwalikuleta ukupusana apo bekele.

Mukukonka insoselo, abaice ilyo bali kumpanga balikufula nokulwishanya abene beka ukumona ati nani akwete amabolo akulu, ninshi uyu emukulu. Bamo abali namapuli anini bali bakulu ukucila nabakwete amapuli ayakulu.

Competing on the size of testicles leads to fighting

Do not feel proud because of irrelevant differences.

Seeing who had the largest body parts among the children caused division among them.

The children went into the bush and undressed, wanting to see who had the biggest testicles and was therefore to be declared the oldest among them. However, there were those who had small testicles in size but were older in age than those with large ones. And, for sure, none of them could predict who would have healthy children in the future.



Nsoselo 20

Limbula isaka ifyo tafilalimbuka

Ukubangila ukucita ifintu caliwama pantu acatwala imishu panshi, tacakese kulimbuka. Nga mwabona umuntu ifyo akocita tafiwemepo, calinga mwamukanya penka pakutampa. Inshita ya mainsa ulo tubomba mu mabala esu, amasaka balimbula ilyo tucili tunini ne mishila. Ngamwalolela yakula, tekuti ese alimbukepo amwaisa kwesha ukulimbula.

Transplant a seedling before it cannot be relocated anymore

Do things timely. This might mean doing them much earlier than you think. During the rainy season, we transplant seedlings, for example sorghum, when they are still tiny. We do not wait until they are strong. When you see your friend doing things badly or behaving badly, it is better to advise him as soon as possible to stop that behaviour.

Nsoselo 21

Tabalimba bulema weutalakula

Ubulema bwali pusana pusana elyo tatwishiba ulo umo angalwala. Teti twishibe nolo umo angalema naye.

We muntu ulo ucili mwaice nokubaseka abalema, yangula ukaiseka we mwine ku ntanshi.

Do not speak ill of the handicapped, you who are still young

Diseases differ, and we do not know when one will fall ill. One does not know whether one will become handicapped too, or when.

As a young boy, you say many unkind things to the handicapped and laugh at them. Perhaps you are laughing at your future self.

Nsoselo 22

Amenshi balinga no bunga

Ilyo ukocita icintu, bona ukwebati ifintu ukofwaya ukubomfya, fililingene.

Kati mukofwaya ukunaya inshima, icakubalilapo ulo mutanga bika amenshi mu mpoto, boneni ifyo ubunga buli, epakwisa kubika amenshi mu mpoto.

Nangu kati fyakushita, mwifushapo iyo, nishinga mukwete? Epa kwishiba nefyakuya mukushita.

First mealie meal, then water

When preparing to do something, ensure you have enough of what you need.

When you want to cook food, the first thing to do before putting water in the pot, is to check how much mealie meal you have. This will help you determine the amount of water needed.

When you go out to buy things, check how much money you have and then budget accordingly.

Nsoselo 23

Mwebo muli cimbiwi, tamulya nabanenu

Ukuitemwa nako kubi.

We waikala mu mushi ngawali itemwa, ubushiku fikakushupa tawaka kwate kwakulola. Kanshi calinga ilingi ako wakwatako wapelako nabanobe pantu nabo mailo bakakwibukisha.

You are a hyena; you do not eat with your companions

Loving oneself without considering others is harmful.

When you live in a village and think only of yourself, the day when you face problems, you will have nowhere to turn. Therefore, it is better to share whatever you have, as others will remember and reciprocate your kindness.

Nsoselo 24

Ubukulu mano

Tekulosha mukukwata myaka iyinji, cili pa mano. Amano ilingi line alola mummyaka iyingi. Nakuno bo namano alasangwa namu bakwete myaka inono. Icifuma ku mutima mukuwamina bantu abali mumbali yobe efikubwenesha ukuba na mano. Aya mano kuti afuma kumuntu uwa caice tekutipo ati kano abe umukulu.

Kutontomesha pa fintu fingafwilisha abo twaikala nabo. Cila umo pali ifwe umo umo alikwata amaka akulanga amano umo abo twaikala nabo banga kwatila filambu.

To be recognised as a fully grown-up, one must demonstrate wisdom

Of old, wisdom has been associated with the elderly, but it can also be found in the young. What makes a person wise is what comes from their heart for the benefit of those around them. Such wisdom may come from a young person, not necessarily from an elder.

We need to focus on what helps our community. Each of us possesses the capacity to exhibit wisdom that benefits the community.



Nsoselo 25

Utukoshi tuli tubili tatupusa

Taulingile ukubomba incito ikankala weka.

Pakuti ikose noku pwililika, ulingile ukwafwako bambi epakuti nabo bakwafwe. Nci cintu tacicitika ceka. Cifwaya wabikako akalango namaka.

Ukuba weka, tawakasangemo ubuyo ubo ufwaya. Ukafilwa.

Two falcons together do not miss

Don't work alone on important projects.

To be effective, you must help others, and others must help you. Of course, this does not just happen; it requires attention and effort.

By yourself, you will not achieve the results you desire. You will fail.

Nsoselo 26

Mwikala apatalala mwine apatalalika

Ukuisunga we mwine ukutalokuluka naba nobe, umutende mwine aleta apo ekele pakati kobe nabena mupalamano.

Mu mushi umo mwaikala walinga ukuisunga we mwine no lupwa nensansa. Mukuba mfi, abaena mupalamano bakafilwa apa kwingila pa nganda yenu pantu mwalikala ku matwi tondolo, abena mupalamano mwaliba pela umucinshi.

Creating a quarrel-free environment starts with you

If you refrain from petty discussions and arguments, peace will prevail in your home and in your relationships with your neighbours.

When living with neighbours, take care that you and your family are cheerful. If you do this, your neighbours, especially those who are ill-intentioned, will find it difficult to unsettle your home because you are living peacefully and you are showing them respect.

Nsoselo 27

Akacila ka mbushi kasengula apo kekele

Ukubombela pancende imo apo waikala nokukwishiba.

Ukucita ifintu ifiweme pa ncende waikala kuleta insansa. Ecilenga nabena mupalamano, ukupela umucinshi pantu imilimo ubomba ilaboneka.

Tekuti usosepo ati nebo nalibomba fyakuti nafyakuti kumbi, nabantu tekuti bakusumine ifyo ukolabila.

The goat's little tail sweeps only where it lives

Do things where you live and where you are known.

Doing good things in your local area brings happiness. Your neighbours will give you the respect you deserve because they witness your actions.

You cannot claim, "I did great things in that far-away place", and expect respect, as they cannot verify these deeds.

Nsoselo 28

Winshinda nshilanya

Lindila mpwishe ifyo nkocita elintu walanjipusha panuma.

Icintu conse calikwata intampilo ne nshilisho, kanshi calinga kwaba akashita kakumfwa fyonse elyo panuma twaipusha.

Umuntu nga akolondololapo fimo, calilinga ukumupela akashita pakuti apwishe, elyo pa numa, mwamwipusha pafintu mutomfwile bwino. Te kumukala pakati.

Do not clean my anus before I defecate

Do not interrupt me before I finish what I am saying or doing.

Everything has a beginning and an ending, so, time should be taken to listen to everything and then ask your questions at last.

When somebody is explaining what has happened, it is better to give them the chance to finish off. Following that, you are now free to ask any questions you still have. Do not do this during the explanation.

Nsoselo 29

Umuswema ukukula kutina nshila

Akatino kala pususha ku fibi.

Insoka ya muswema pakuti ikule yalinga ukutina ukupita pakati ka nshila pantu kuti baipaya.

Nangu niwe we muntu, ngolafwaya ukukula bwino walinga ukutina ifikali pantu kuti wafwa ucili mwaice ukwabula ukufika ku bukote.

For a snake to grow, it must shun the road

Apprehension is a necessary part of living.

To grow well, a snake must not lie in the middle of the road, as it could easily be killed there.

This also applies to human beings. You must fear bad things, lest you die in your youth without reaching old age.



Nsoselo 30

Sungo mukoshi ubulungu tabwafya

Pa fintu fibili, sungishapo cimo icacila icinankwe.

Ku fipande fya mubili wa muntu, umukoshi ngawalyonaike takuli uko wingasanga uwakubwekeshapo, nomba ubulungu kuti waya fwaya kumbi.

Take care of your neck; the beads are no problem

When there are two things to take care of, the important one comes first.

Looking at the human body parts, you cannot replace a neck once it is broken, while beads can be fetched elsewhere.

Nsoselo 31

Akati uli nako eko bakuswilako mbwa

Ukubomfya icili mupepi nangu ico ukwete.

Nembwa ine kuti wabomfya akati ukwete apo pene, ukucila ukuya mukufwaya kambi pantu kuti wasanga imbwa yaya.

Imilimo tubomba tulinganya namaka tukwete. Tekutipo njeshe ukwimya icipe ico mbwene ati cilemene ukucila amaka anji. Namu bwikashi bwesu, tulya ifyakulya ukulingana nendalama tukwete.

The little stick at hand suffices to strike the dog

You should live and work within your limits.

When striking a dog, we are compelled to use the little stick at hand instead of going out to look for a bigger one, because it is likely that when we return, we shall find the dog gone!

Looking at various types of work around us, we choose according to our strength. You cannot and will not try lifting a load that is clearly too heavy for your strength. And in our way of living, we eat the kind of food that our money can buy.

Nsoselo 32

Teka mutima fili pamulilo

Ukuteka umutima lyonse caliwama, ukucila ukutwala mu kasaku.

We muntu ngawalumbilila umwanakashi wakupa, calinga watekanya pakupela abafyashi ba mwakashi ukupekanya fyonse ififwaikwa. Pambi kuti we waebati balikana, awe fyonse fintu fyaba nakashita. Ifyakutwala mulubilo, emfilya fitakokolapo.

Be patient; food is still on the fire

Patience is always virtue; do not rush things.

When proposing marriage to a girl, you should take your time. Her parents will need to prepare everything required. You might think things are not progressing well, but in reality, they simply need care and time

Nsoselo 33

Tondolo muweme

Ukwikala tondolo ukwabula icongo kwaliwama sana, pantu takuletelela.

Umuntu uwatemwa utwakulabila labila ilingi line asangwa mu milandu ukutaikalila, lyonse kulondolola. Awa umfwapo akelyashi, we ninshi kuya mukusosa nakuli bambi, nangu taushininkishe! Niwe bakwisa kwebati ulim wabufi.

It is good to remain quiet

You will always be free if you respect yourself and do not get involved in unknown discussions.

If you are fond of gossiping, you will eventually get involved in trouble and you will not be free. If you start broadcasting issues without any proof, you'll be called a liar or a troublemaker!

Nsoselo 34

Mayo mpapa, naine nkakupapa

Ungafweko nduno – nandi nkakwafwako kuntanshi.

Ilyo tufyalwa, tatubako elyo tatwishibapo nefikocitika mpaka twakula twaba namano epakutampa ukwishiba tumo tumo. Kanshi ulu twaishiba ifyali kunuma, tufwile nafwe twalipila pamafya abafyashi batwafwile. Ilyo umufyashi akula, fwe balinga nombamba ukumu tentemba nifwe, mukumu fwaila icakulya, ukumufwika nokumusunga bwino.

Mother, carry me on your back, and I shall carry you on mine

You help me now – I shall help you later.

When we are born, we are not yet fully present. We don't know what is going on until we reach a stage where we start knowing and understanding things. Then, at a given moment, we realise what our parents did for us earlier on. We then feel compelled to 'repay' them for what they went through. Therefore, when our parents grow old, we will take care of them by providing food and clothing.



Nsoselo 35

Akobe kaweme, balalya nekabishi

Waliba nensambu ukucita pafintu fyobe ukofwaya.

Twaliba ne nsambu ukubomba ifyo tukofwaya cikulu imilimo yesu taipulungenye bambi.

Ilyo tuya mu mpanga mukutola ifinsabwansabwa, kwati masuku, tutola ayapya nombamba we mwine ngawafwaya kuti watola nayabishi, tapapo uwinga kwipusha ico watolela alya.

Your little bit of food is good; you may eat it raw as well

You have the right to decide what to do with your own possessions.

We have this right, provided it does not disturb other people.

When we go out into the bush to pick fruits, like *masuku* fruits, we only pick ripe ones. However, if you pick a raw one, no one should question why you did that.

Nsoselo 36

Cikola mumbo likafya mushi

Langeni ati muli pakuicingilila.

Mbo abakola umumbo balangati umushi uli 'uumi' kubapita nshila. Balangati muli ubumi nokuba abaipekanya.

The ones that cough deliberately show there is life in the village

Show that you are on your guard.

People who deliberately cough show that the village is 'alive' to passing outsiders. They demonstrate liveliness and alertness.

Nsoselo 37

Naposa mu menshi

Nalusa bwaka. Tapapo isubilo lyakuti mungacipoka.

Kuti wayafwa umuntu ku cakufwala pantu takwete, nombwa waisa sanga ukuti cilia cintu aile cikabusha no bwalwa ukucila ukuti alokufwala.

I have thrown it into the water

I have wasted it all. There is no chance that I can get it back.

You can help a person with some clothing because he had none, but then you find that the same clothing was bartered for beer instead of that person wearing it.

Nsoselo 38

Umweni tabamulolesha pa mpumi, bamulolesha pa mala

Bombeleni pa fintu ifikulu.

Umulwendo wenu mubakeni bwino, tekumulolesha pa mpumi iyo, boneni pa mala.

Ico mulingile ukwisha ulo umulwendo wenu afika pa mushi wenu, cakwebati kale emine kwabo elyo apa ali nensala. Munailepo akashima elyo pa numa mwise mubandike ukwipusha ifyo endele.

Do not look at your visitor's forehead; look at the belly

Concentrate on what is important.

To treat your visitor well, don't just look at the forehead; think of the belly.

When your visitor arrives at your home, you should realise that he left his home some time ago and he is surely hungry. Cook him food first, and then have a nice time to chat about his mission.

Nsoselo 39

Sankata noko acilipo

Wipontela mbo walimbamo.

Ulo banoko angula Bambi bakusunga bafwa, ukomfwa kubati walilekeleshiwa nokukusha weka palobe kubati takwabapo abalolesha Pali iwe. Ekuti wimupontela.

Rejoice while your mother is still alive

Do not offend the ones you depend on.

When your mother or another guardian passes on, you will feel abandoned and left on your own, as if nobody cares about you. So, don't offend her.

Nsoselo 40

Uuleta pansaka tonaula

Nga lyashi ilikosele pakuti lyangukeko calinga watwala ku nsaka ku cintubwingi abakulu bakwafweko umwa kuli twalila. Ngo onse uuleta ilyashi pa nsaka, afwaya kuti bamwafwe nabakulu bambi.

Cingaba angula lyashi lya malwele, ku ceshuko kukangaba umo uwishibe umuti.

Taking issues to the village resting shelter is not a waste of time

If an issue is too complicated for it to be easily resolved, one should take it to the elders, who may help in solving it. Anyone who brings an issue to the village resting place, needs help from others. If the issue concerns illnesses, one may fortunately know the cure.

Nsoselo 41

Ukupeshe lungu, kwendamo

Tekutipo mulabile pa cintu, kano mwali cipitamo mwe mwebene.

Ukwishiba bwino ifyo ilungu lyakul1a kano waendamo lyonse.

Ukuba kambone wa cine mu mulandu kano waishiba intampilo yelyashi pantu eko wali.

To explore a plain, you need to walk through it

You cannot speak about something unless you have experienced it yourself.

When you want to know how big the plain is, you need to walk around it.

When you claim to be a witness in a case, you should know it from the start.



Nsoselo 42

Imfumu ukwenda nebantu, cifuto ikwete

Intungulushi nga yalikhwata ukumfwana bwino na bantu baiko, bakaikonka kwabula ubwafya.
Imisango iweme wakwata eikaleta abengi ukukukonka nge fibusa.

Leaders will be followed if they are well-mannered towards all

If a leader has a good relationship with his people, they will follow him more easily.
People will follow you as friends because of your good behaviour.

Nsoselo 43

Ukusakauka

Ube lyonse uwaiteyanya.

Ulo icintu cakwishila ukutaba uwakucelwa celwa.

Nge cilangililo, ngawa pokela abalwendo, walinga kubomba kasaku kasaku ukutaposa inshita. Na balwendo bobo bakwishibati ifintu fili mukwenda.

Kuti wabomfya nji nsoselo muku londolola akasaku.

Make sure you're ready at all times

Always be ready. When something comes your way, don't dawdle.

For instance, when you receive visitors, you need to act swiftly and not waste time. Your visitors should be able to tell you're on the move.

You can also use this proverb to draw attention to the care that is required in certain circumstances.

Nsoselo 44

Ngulube bakonka iya lya mumbu

Bona ukuti ulikwete ifishimka ulo utalacita nelyo kamo.

Tekweshwa kupela cilubo kumuntu uuli onse, ungesa kuba mu bwafya.

You must only follow the bush pig that ate the yam

Make sure you have enough evidence before you act.

If you just blame someone, you'll get into trouble.

Ifyakucetekela nefyo fibomba

What to expect and how things work

Nsoselo 45

Ubushiku insofu ifwile nelyashi liba pa nsofu

Ulo kwacitika icintu icikulu, bonse bala labilapo.

Insofu ni nama ikulu sana elyo yalishibikwa, ngayafwa bonse basosa pali ngulya mulandu.

Intungulushi sha calo makamaka ba kateka ngabafwa, onse umuntu uwamulya mu calo alaba nobulanda sana. Kanshi isho nshiku ilyashi abantu basosapo nipali kateka wabo uwafwa.

When an elephant dies, everyone talks about the elephant

When something important happens, everyone talks about it.

An elephant is a well-known and large animal. When such an animal dies, everyone talks about it.

The loss of a country's leader, especially the president, is felt by everyone in that country. During that period, that great leader is the main topic of discussion.

Nsoselo 46

Mwe baice, imiti ili pamo eikwesana

Mu bwaice ilingi kulaba ukupusana.

Imiti imenena mupepi pamo, yalikukwesana.

Ilyo abaice bakokulila pamo, balapusana sana pantu emikulile yabo tapali uwakusula ifyo mubyakwe asosa. Inshita inini nakambi batampa kwangalila pamo.

Youngsters, trees close together rub against each other

When children grow up together, they sometimes disagree.

When trees grow close to each other, they will often rub against each other.

It is normal for children during their growing-up to disagree and to ignore what the other one says. Soon after, they begin playing together again.

Nsoselo 47

Munshenda alifyele mwana kaenda

Umuntu tekuti eshibepo ifyakucita icintu cimo nomba tacilolelemo kwebati angafilwa ukubomba na fimbi.

Ngata twishibe intulo yabo, tatulingile ukubapingula mu nshila bekalilamo. Napo mungalabila ifyo mwana uwo banyina balema no kwenda tabenda? Nani angeshiba pambi akabe shing'anga angula Kateka!

The cripple gave birth to a child who could walk

A person may not be capable of doing one thing, but that does not mean they are incapable of doing other things!

If we don't understand people's backgrounds, we shouldn't judge them for how they live. Can you predict the future condition of a child whose mother is a cripple and never walks? Who knows, he might be a doctor or a president!

Nsoselo 48

Mu bantu abengi balakoselamo

Mu bwinji nga mukoumfwana incito ilanaka.

Umuntu nga imaka inanda, icishalako kufimba. Ala pekanyapo utwa musunga utwa kufimbila. No bushiku bwakufimba abantu abenji balesako mukwafwa mu kashita akanini ne nanda ninshi yapwa ukufimba. Na mubulimi cimo ceka abantu balesako mukulima icakwebati pakashita akanini impanga balimapo ikulu sana.

Many together make strong

Many hands make light work. When many people cooperate effectively, work becomes easier. After a person has built a house, the remaining task is roofing. Some beer is prepared for this work. On the day of roofing, many people come to help, and in no time the house is completely roofed. The same applies to cooperation in farming, where people go to hoe, and within a short time, a large piece of land is hoed.



Nsoselo 49

Taipaya wamina mate

Nangu kangaba kanono teti ufwe ku nsala.

Kulaba inshita shimo ilyo ubwikashi bushupa sana icakuti mwafilwa kusanga icakulya imiku ibili akasuba kamo. Ku ceshuko aba luse kuti bamupako tunono uto mwingalalya panono ukucila ukulala insala.

Hunger does not kill who has swallowed saliva

In times of hunger, something is better than nothing.

There are times when a better living is not within reach, and you cannot find food for a day. If someone gives you a little, you will make that supply last to at least have something for each meal instead of going without anything.

Nsoselo 50

Ukuli uwobe, takwitika muto

Ukuba ne fibusa ifiweme.

Umuto tekuti witike calola ukwebati: tapali icingalubana.

Umunobe mumfwana nankwe kuti akucinkulako kufyo abantu ababi bakokupingila pakuti waikala uwailuka.

Where you have a close friend or relative, soup can never be spilt

It is important to have faithful friends.

'Soup can never be spilt' means nothing can go wrong.

When your friend hears of a threat from your enemies, she or he will notify you so that you are aware.

Nsoselo 51

Amenshi akonko mufolo

Tekweshapo ukupatikisha ifintu ifitangalulwa.

Cacine amenshi tekutipo aninike umulundu, ku konka ukuli umufolo pantu kwasulama. Pa lupwa kati pacitika umulandu, niba lupwa ebalilapo ukwishiba nokubona ukwingafuma ubwafwilisho. Mwana mwalalume nga aimisha ifumo ku mwanansungu, ba lupwa ebeshiba pakuti bafwilishe ngulya mwana. Abena buko uloba mwita, ulupwa eluyako mukumfwa ubupingushi. Ngakulipila indalama, balupwa ebasonka pakuti bakumaninshe nokulipila. Ndi lyashi likonka ba lupwa epela, efili na menshi ukukonka umufolo.

Ecimo cenka ukulabilati ukushita ifipe ukulingana ne ndalama mukwete.

Water follows the furrow

Do not force things in trying to evade the inevitable.

Water cannot go just anywhere; for instance, upwards. It only follows where there is a furrow. In a family, when there is an issue, family members should be aware of it and look for possible solutions. If a young boy impregnates a girl, family members must be informed. When the girl's family summons them, nearby family members gather to hear the fine imposed. They will then contribute towards it. This issue is shared among the family, so goes the saying: water follows the furrow.

The proverb can also be used to express that you must buy goods worth the amount you have.

Nsoselo 52

Umwaice tashimbula kabondo ka nshya, kani akashimbula alakalyapo

Ngu mwana asokolola icishinka.

Tekutipo ese ukulabila ifitapo.

Ambi amalyashi alinga ukwambaulwapo na bakulu, pantu bo bakusunga inkama. Mu malyashi amusango ngu, teku patawila naba myaka ipusene.

When a child mentions a piece of duiker meat, it implies they eat it frequently

Children recount what they have actually seen.

A child cannot simply invent something from thin air.

Certain topics are for adult discussion only and should be kept confidential. Avoid discussing such matters with people of mixed ages.

Nsoselo 53

Akeshibilo ka kuloke mfula makumbi ili abako

Kufyo mwabona, eko mwakwishibila. Icintu conse caliba necishibilo cakwebati cikocitika. Icimuti umukunyu ulatwala amaluba ninshi bonse bakoshibila ati imfula ili mupepi. Namu mainsa mwine, kumulu akutapo makumbi ninshi imfula takupo.

The sign that rain is coming is the gathering of clouds

From what you see, you will know what comes thereafter. Everything has symptoms or signs that something is going to take place.

When the *mukuyu* tree starts flowering, everyone knows that the rainy season is nearby.

Also, during the rainy season, if in the sky there are no clouds in the sky, it means there will not be rain.



Nsoselo 54

Munyena pa citenge tabula kubweleshapo

Umuntu uwabelela ukucita icintu cimo cine alabwekeshapo.

Umuntu ngani kabwalala calishupa ukuleka pantu umwine encito asanga inakile ukucila iyakupibe libe. Nga bulimi bufwaya ukubombesha sana pakuti ifyakulya fisanguke! Kuli ukulima, ukubyala, ukusekwila nokusombola.

He who excretes on clothes will not fail to do it again

People who do bad things will keep doing them.

For thieves, it is very difficult to stop, as they find it easier than doing something that would make them sweat, like in farming, which requires hard work until you have crops: ploughing, planting, weeding, and harvesting.

Nsoselo 55

Imputi isula, taibula kubwekeshapo

Ukukwata imisango imo imo iibi, ilingi line kulaba ukubwekeshapo.

We muntu ngawalitemwa nokwishibikwa ukuti uleba ifipe fyabene, nelintu ifipe fimo fikaluba, tabakatwishike abebile, bakebafye ati iyo lindileni tukamwishiba uwiba, mpaka naiwe pantu eflyo ucita basuka bakusanga ukoiba pantu bakaipekanya abene bafipe.

The anus that emits gas will do it again

Once you are accustomed to doing something, usually something bad, people will know you for that and will always assume you were the one who did it.

Imagine you love stealing and you are known for that. Now, when something is missing, people will not hesitate to assume who stole it! They might set up a trap that you will not know about until you are caught red-handed.

Nsoselo 56

Amenso tayalya

Ukucita ekufwaikwa. Ukulolesha fye teti kusende ifili fyonse.

Ulo waya mukutandala ku mashitolo, twilako fye mukubona ifipe nokutampa ukupekanya ifyakuya mukufishita ulo twakukwata indalama. Nomba muli nji nshila, tatwakalyepo mfi fipe; kubonako cabe.

Eyes do not eat

Action is needed. Looking at something alone does not fill your belly.

When we go window shopping, we merely see goods and plan to buy them when financially able. However, by merely looking, you will not be able to eat the goods; you are only observing them.



Nsoselo 57

Mwalombela mwishamo, fyashila kale

Nga tenshita yobe, teti upelwe.

Ilyo twapelebela muli fimo twebe ati, tatukwete umucele. Elo pancende twikala pali bamo abo twashimpamo amano ukuti bena bangatwafwa. Ifyo ukolanguluka eflyo nabambi bakolanguluka ukuteshibati eko nabo baciya mukufwayako umucele.

Ulo wafika ukulomba, kuti baebati mwaendela mwishamo ulipwile.

You have begged in misfortune: everything is already gone

If it is not your day, you cannot be assisted.

When you run short of certain essentials, such as salt, you may think of a person you always believe can help. Not knowing that what you are planning is what others had planned also, to beg some salt, you go there to ask. Now, that person will only say you have come at the wrong time because all that they had is finished.

Nsoselo 58

Ukulu wolwele umunobe, eko bakupantilako

Tulokubala katu tontonkanya bwino ulo tatulacita icintu! Twilokusaikwapo, tulokulanguluka nefya kunuma.

Umuntu nga afunika ukulu, we munankwe kulaba ukumfwa ubulanda elyo waya mukumutensha, ukualacina kulya kulu mpaka apola.

Ku ceshamo ngawa mulufyanyako panono waisa sanga akupantila nakukulu walikumucina.

Abo twafwilisha pakubala, panuma ebese mukutulufyanya.

The friend's leg you nursed may be the one kicking you in the end

Before acting, we must think more and reflect on the past, rather than being in a hurry.

People we help or support may turn against us at a later time.

For instance, when a friend is hurt or has a fractured leg, you, as a friend, feel sad and nurse their leg until it heals. However, some time later, you might hurt them with your words, and they could then kick you using the very leg you nursed back to health.

Nsoselo 59

Akana kankoko ukupala ni nyina akalanga

Pamo nga bafyashi, twaliba no mulimo wa kukushishamo abana besu ukukula mu mutende, pakwebati twipelwa filubo kufuma kuli bambi.

Twalinga ukutotelwa munshila twakushishamo abana besu.

The chick scratches itself as its mother has shown

As parents, we have a duty to raise our children to lead a normal life, so they won't be blamed by others.

We deserve praise for the way we raise our children.

Nsoselo 60

Tafilya wenda

Ambi amashuko esa fye ukwabula ukuyenekela. Ako walya ni ako kene.

Ilyo tuli palwendo, kwaliba inshita tusanga abantu bakolya mu mishi tupita. Ngabatwita ukuya lya nabo, ninshi nifilya fine, lishuko lyesu. Tatusubila ukuti batunaile nabumbi pantu tuli mulupita.

When on a journey, do not expect to eat full meals

Some chances come unexpectedly. Accept and be thankful for what is given to you.

There are times when we are on a journey, and, by chance, we find people eating in one of the villages we pass through who invite us to join them. It is our good fortune, and we should not expect them to cook more food for us, as we are only passing through.

Nsoselo 61

Tafilya ulima

Upekanya umo elyo nabambi baponenamo. Nomba, twilalubako kubatasha.

Ngani mu bulimi, umo alima nokusanga ati abesa mukulyako bengi. Eico ecintu tulingile ukwibukisha. Ukulolesha ku lubali lumbi, tekuti alime ifyakwe eka kati alafwaya ukukwata abana, bafyashi abakote, ifibusa naba lwendo bambi.

Farmers do not eat everything they cultivate

Only a few people take care of the food while the rest benefit from it. Therefore, we should not forget to thank them.

In farming, one person does the ploughing, but many people help in the consuming, and we must remember this. From another perspective, you cannot cultivate solely for yourself if you wish to have children and care for elderly parents, friends, and other visitors.



Nsoselo 62

Umulilo ucingilile abakulu taoca

Ukukonka amafunde ciweme sana.

Abakulu balikala muno calo nokubona ificitika, kanshi kuti bapandako amano abaice pakutu nabo baikala aba mutende.

A fire surrounded by the elders will not burn you

Taking advice from more experienced people is essential.

Elders have lived in the world for quite some time and thus have vast experience to advise the young on how to lead a good life.

Nsoselo 63

Mwe baice, ni kafyalweni te kapalaneni!

Mukufyalwa tekutipo ati mwakupalana.

Nangu ni mulupwa lumo lwine, abana bafyalwa balikwatapo icibapusanyana ku mu nankwe.

Youngsters, it is being born in the same family, not resembling one another!

Being born into the same family does not mean that you will resemble one another!

It is normal for the children in the same family to have different features.

Nsoselo 64

Akafumbe kunona katampile mwabo kunona

Ifyo abakulu baboneka mu misango itampila ku bwaice bobe.

Akafumbe ka beba akanona sana, noku kunona kwatampile ku bwaice bwakako.

Na fwe bantu imisango yesu ngacakuti abafyashi besu balitukushishe bwino itampila ku bunya nwesu, emo twakulila.

The little mouse started to get fat from an early age

Adult behaviour can be traced back to childhood.

The *kafumbe* is a small mouse that is very fatty and therefore tastes good. It begins to accumulate this fatness from infancy.

It is similar for us as human beings regarding our behaviour. If our parents cared for us well from childhood, we grow up to have good behaviour.

Nsoselo 65

Apafwila insofu cani cicula

Lyonse ulo utalacita icili conse, ishibila limo ifyo cikaleta. Eco wishibe.

Umufyashi cakolwa alaisekesha umwine ukulaba ku bana ati nabo balakabila ukucingilwa kufuma kuli bena.

Iciposepose ca ndalama tacawama cilenga indupwa ukwikala nshiku ishingwa ukwabula icakulya, ulo indalama epo shali. Twalinga ukulangulukila ulupwa kufya kuntanshi.

Where elephants fight, the grass suffers

Before you do anything, consider the consequences. This is essential.

Drunkard parents satisfy themselves, forgetting that their children need their protection.

Careless spending is ill-advised, as it may lead to the family going without food, even when money was available. We must think about our family's future.

Nsoselo 66

Kwapa tacila kubeya

Umuli monse mungaba, palaba umo uwakukwata maka ayenji kupitila mufyo aishibisha nokongola banankwe. Aba bambi bashala bena kukonka ifyo alabila.

Ibumba lya mupila wakumakasa lili mu cibansa, kalisha wa pintu ewupingula fyonse, teba kateya iyoo.

Kuli abo intungulushi, ebali namaka akutungulula nokupingula icikofwaikwa.

The armpit is not above the shoulder

In every situation, there is someone with more authority based on experience and influence, and the others should follow their advice.

When a football team takes to the field of play, the referee is in charge, not the players.

For those who are leaders, it is their duty to instruct and make decisions for the benefit of all. They are not of a different order than the others.



Nsoselo 67

Amenso tepaya

Itontonkanyo takuli ekucita.

Ba cibinda mumpanga ebakwata ukulanguluka mfi. Cibinda nga aya mumpanga afwaya ukwipaya inama sha kutobela. Ilabako nshita imbi ulo asanga inama ishingwi mwi lungi shikolya angula shili minine! Apa epo atonntonkanya ati amenso ngeyali kwipaya inama lelo shonse nshi, nga munani wanji. Inama nasho sheba ati nga menso yepaya fwense ngatwalipwa ukufwa.

Eyes don't kill

Wishes are not actions.

Hunters in the forests always have this wish: if only their eyes could kill. When a hunter goes out hunting, his mission is to kill animals. At one time, he finds many animals in the plains eating grass or just standing! He then thinks: "If eyes could kill, I could have killed all these animals for my relish today!" Perhaps animals have a feeling as well: "If eyes were killers, we all would have been killed and none of us could have lived."

Nsoselo 68

Uumfwa uko impundu shikopona, untu ali mu mupundu

Kati niwe fikumine ifintu niwe waba na matontonkanyo apusene nabo fitakumine. Ukulanguluka kobe ekukwete ubuleme sana.

Icililo ngacapona, abomfwa ubulanda sana bantu bafwilwa ukucila abantu lukoso. Nangu umuntu alya impilipili, uumfwa sana ukubaba ningu asa kulya, tebaibelele iyoo.

Only the one under the mupundu tree knows how many fruits have fallen

When you are closely connected to something, you feel differently about it than those less connected. In such cases, your opinion should carry more weight.

When a funeral occurs, family members feel more sadness than outsiders. Similarly, hot chilli is only truly felt by the one who eats it.

Nsoselo 69

Kumushi ukutontwele balomfwila ku twaice ukusala

Ifi pela ifishibilo filenga ukwishiba ifikocitika. Cili kuli mwe ukufitwala mu cine.

Imicitile yabaice ikonkana nefyo bekele uko kuncende. Tekuti basalepo ne nyimbo ngakuli icililo.

Hearing children playing reveals that the village is at peace

Signs let you know what is going on. It is up to you to interpret them correctly.

Children's actions are related to what happens in their environment; they won't play around with play songs when there is a funeral.

Nsoselo 70

Ikumbi limo talisusha nika

Ukufikila apakulu limo lyeka lyacepa. Ulingile ukwimaka ifintu ukukonka ulutampulo panono panono.

Kati ukofwaya ukufuma muli bushibulimi bunono ukuya kuli bushibulimi ubukulu ulingile kukwata apa kulima apakulu.

Cimo ceka nga uko ambisha mwanakashi ukuba mu cupo, umuku wakubalilapo ubwasuko angula tekutipo bukuwamine pakuti naye angula 'akofwaya kubona kati ukofwaisha'. Walinga ukumfwana naye ifya kukumana naye mpaka ukacimfye.

One rainy cloud will not fill up the river

To reach a larger goal, a single effort is not enough; you need to build things up step by step. When you want to switch from small-scale farming to commercial farming, you need to do more than just cultivate a bigger portion.

The same applies when you are proposing to a woman for marriage. The first time, the response might not be favourable, as she may be 'working' on you as well to determine your seriousness. You have to arrange for another meeting until you succeed.

Nsoselo 71

Umukulu tapusa kebo, apusa kabwe

Ulo mukofwailisha amaka ayo muntu akwata, kwateni mu mano imyaka ne mibele yangulya muntu.

Umuntu ilyo afyalwa, alapita nangu alabona ifintu ifingi. Kanshi ndu ulo akososa, fyakacine pantu alifibwene. Ifyo angapusa nimfi ifyakuposa kati mabwe, pantu limbi takwatapo amalunga. Mu citemi mwaliba imisango yakwanshilamo ifiti iyo yatampile akale sana. Kwaliba kulakula ne myunda. Muli nji misango amale alabamo sana, kanshi ukufika nalelo bacili bakoibomfya.

An elderly person is good with words but less good at throwing stones

When assessing a person's abilities, bear in mind their age and other qualities.

People experience many things throughout their lives. When an elderly person narrates, accept their account as true because they witnessed it. However, they may not be good at tasks requiring the physical prowess of younger individuals.

In our agriculture, there are several ways of laying cut branches, such as in narrow stretches and in circles. This practice originated long ago, and through these methods, the yield of finger millet has consistently been high. These methods are still in use, as recounted by elders.



Nsoselo 72

Ukuboko bayota kwakosa

Ukumfwana kuweme ngamwapusana.

Ilingi line mu buntu bwesu mu mikalile tamubula ukupusana. Nomba ici tecingalenga ukuti mwi ikala panshi nokweshwa ukubona apo mwapusanine. Nga niwe uli mu cilubo, calinga wasumina nokulomba ubwelelo ku nobe ukucila ukutalika pantu ififuma umu kuti fyabipila umu.

They twist your arm only if you resist

We must settle disputes peacefully when we differ.

It is normal for people living in one community to disagree on certain issues from time to time. This doesn't mean the end of everything! You must sit down and see where one went wrong. If you were wrong, it is better to accept this and ask for forgiveness than to keep on resisting.

Nsoselo 73

Niba cumbu munshololwa

Umuntu ushifwaya ukumuloshako pakuti acite iciweme.

Ukupandashanya amano umo twikele cintu ici weme sana. Nomba bambi tabafwayapo kanofye icili ku mano akwe epela, nomba ulo asangwa mu bwafya elo ailuka ati kanshi nganasa kukonka ifyo basa kumbulako.

He is like a sweet potato: he cannot be bent

This is said of a person who will not listen to advice.

Where we live, sharing ideas is regarded as part of being grown-up. Still, there are people who do not want to receive any advice from friends. Now, when in trouble, that is the time they have to think of what they failed to accept: the advice of family and friends.

Nsoselo 74

Umwana ashenda atota banyina ukunaya

Ukutasha fye ifintu umona pa ncende waikala tacawama.

Ukutandalila incende ishalekana lekana kulapela amano enji nokwishiba ifintu ifingi. Ificitwa pa ncende waikala ukebati efyapelako kanshi eko bali nabambi abaishibisha ukucila ifyo ubona.

He who never visits other places praises his mother as the best cook

To praise what you only see in your immediate surroundings as the best is naive.

Visiting different places will broaden your knowledge and experience. Concluding that what happens around you is the best shows a lack of experience; there are many others who know better.

Nsoselo 75

Tandafube munshipewa nswa, inswa shine shilileta imilongo

Nji nsoselo ibomfiwa nambo bonse abapalwa.

Icilangililo: Bashing'anga wa miti balikwata ubupe bwakuposha amalwele; nokulipilwapo nga fyabomba. Abalwele ebafwaishisha bashing'anga, eco belako muku poshiwa. Muli nci, bashing'anga tabendapo, kuku lekelesha ebapokelelapo ne cilambu.

The spider doesn't need to hunt the flying ants; they line up for it

This proverb is used by and for people gifted with talents.

For example, herbalists have the gift to cure certain diseases. They are paid when the cure works. Sick people are always in need of these herbalists, and they seek them out for healing. As a result, the herbalist doesn't have to go out, and the end result is very rewarding.

Nsoselo 76

Umunwe umo tautola nda

Ukuba wekafye tapapo ico wingacita. Incito mu bwinji taikosapo pantu muli benji.

Umuntu kuti apwa ukwimaka icimbusu nokubangila akamutenge panshi elo kwashala ukukabika pamulu. Iyi ncito tekuicitapo weka kano nabambi bakwafwako uku kemya pa kubika pa mulu.

Ne mililmo iba pa cililo, bengi baya mukwimbe manda, napakutwala mbokoshi napo pene ukuba ukwafwana ukupinta.

One finger cannot pick lice

Alone, you cannot succeed. It is easier to do work when there are many.

A person can easily construct a toilet building and prepare the roof on the ground. However, lifting it onto the toilet building then remains the task. This requires many people to help.

Another example is that of a funeral. Many people go to dig the grave and help in carrying the corpse. Alone, this would be impossible.



Nsoselo 77

Uuli ukufwa, tomfwapo

Ube uwakumfwikisha, pantu limbi niwe wemwine ukasangwa necilubo.

Ngacakuti inama taitampile kubutuka penkapo aya umfwa uko imbwa ishilungi uko shikoisa ikepaiwa.

Tawakokolapo mu bwikashi, eico umfwila sana ifyo bakokusopesha namaka abakokola mubwikashi nokupitamo pantu ukasangwa mumpela umubi. Aba bantu abako kusopesha pafyo babona kunuma nku.

The one who is going to die, does not hear

Be attentive, or you will only have yourself to blame.

If an animal does not run as soon as it hears the hunting dogs, it will be killed.

If you lack experience in life, take warnings from experienced people seriously, or you may find yourself in a bad situation. These people are warning you based on their past experiences.

Nsoselo 78

Icifinya cumfwo mwine

Nga uli mu bwafya ubukulu, abantu bambi abaibelele balafwaya ukuti ulabeko.

Kwaliba abang’o abakuti bena ngabainjila munanda mukwiba, basenda tonse utupe ukubikapo notwakufimbana. Ulo we mwine waisa kusanga ificitikwe, umutima ulakalipa sana, icakwebati kufwaya noku ikulika! Nomba balya abesa mukuku nasha ati: iyo wisakamana, eflyo caba, natumbipo, tabeshiba ndalama waposele pali fyo fibilwe. We mwine nacikukalipa sana pantu niwe cacitikila.

The pain is felt by the one affected

When you find yourself in big trouble, outsiders do not feel the same way and often wish you would forget about it!

Imagine that thieves swept your house, taking all your belongings, including bedding, leaving absolutely nothing. When you discover this, you become so enraged that you even consider committing suicide. Now, those who come to comfort you will say: “Don’t worry, that’s how it is, it happened”, and so forth. They don’t realise how much effort it took for you to gather the money to buy those items. You alone are the one feeling the impact of this theft.

Nsoselo 79

Ubu bwalwa masamba mbata

Tawalinga ukuilanga ifyo ulusa. Bushiku bumo tawaka kwatishe, ukabwelela kubwalwa bwa cipa ubo bambi banwa.

Ubwalwa bwisa mu misango iingi no mutengo uwapusana. Mbo bwacipa bwitwa ati 'bwalwa bwa masamba mbata'. Na bantu abenji ebo banwa.

This is beer for ducks to swim in

Don't brag about your spending. One day you might have less, and you may have to resort to the cheap stuff others use.

Beer comes in different varieties and with different prices. Regular, cheap beer is called 'beer for ducks to swim in'. Most people drink that beer.

Nsoselo 80

Umweo wa muntu walala mu matwi

Abapitamo mu mafya ebo twalinga ukumfwako ngaba sambishi.

Ku mufyashi, ukusunga mwana aba nokukutika kufyo bambi balabila imisungile iweme ukuba uwabumi.

Ulo wakula walinga ukukonka ifyo bakupandako kubapitamo mumafya.

Balishiba ifikonkapo kati taukonkapo amafunde.

The ears hold the key to people's lives

The ability to listen and understand keeps a person alive.

Experienced people are the best teachers.

For a mother, taking care of her child means listening to what others say about how to keep the child safe and healthy.

And when you're an adult, you should heed the advice of experienced people. They know what ultimately happens if you don't follow the rules.

Nsoselo 81

Akanwa ka mwefu takabepa

Ukokokola pano calo kulenga umuntu ukubona ifintu ifingi ifyapusana pusana, ifibi ne fiweme. Ulo umuntu akokula, kumubili wakwe kulamena imyefu iyiisa apapita imyaka iyingi. Kanshi mukukula kwakwe, alabona ifintu ifipusene pusene, kanshi ici ciba masambililo nokwishiba ifyo ifi fintu fileta kutanshi! Nolo akasosa ku bana kukula, aleshiba icikatumbukamo pakuti baishibila limo. Umwana kuti bakomukanya ukulungana naba lalume nangu abanansungu pantu icifuma muu lifumo.

A mouth with a moustache will never tell lies

Older people are often wiser. Having lived many years has exposed them to a wide range of experiences, both good and bad.

As a person matures, hair begins to grow after a considerable period. During this stage of life, they witness many events that serve as lessons, helping them understand what lies ahead. When they recount these experiences to children, they already know the consequences. For instance, a child might be advised against being too promiscuous, as pregnancy can follow.



Nsoselo 82

Ngoma likafya mushi

Imibele ilanga ukumfwana ukwakosa pakati ka bantu yaliwamisha.

Kulafwaikwa ingoma pakwimba nokushana. Ilingi balisha ingoma ulo abantu balongana pamo.

Ninshita yaku sansamuka ulo ileta abena mushi pamo ukusamwa.

Ngoma shibomfiwa ku fintu fyonse umushi angula kwikatana ifi sunga nokwikatana pamo.

Drums bring the village to life

Things that demonstrate energetic collaboration between people are important.

You need drums for complete music and for dancing. Drums are often played when people gather together. These are joyous moments that bring the village to life.

'Drums' here refers to everything a village or cooperative does to keep things alive and together.

Nsoselo 83

Akambangile takanwene nkundwa

Ukubangila kuti wasanga ifiweme.

Kwalibako inshita shimo shimo ilyo amenshi yamu nika akama. Kanshi mu ncende musangwa amenshi kuba ukukumaninapo ne nama. Eico abantunse balabangila lintu takalatula sana ukuya tapapo amenshi ilyo ubwinanama tabulayapo.

Namu kusambala, ababalilapo eba pinta ifiweme, mwebalekelesha mwapintapo ifitaweme.

The early one never drank dirty water

Being the first gets you the best.

At times, in certain areas, water becomes very scarce in the rivers. So, wherever there is water, even animals come to drink. People then will go there before the animal kingdom does.

Also in business, those who visit the shops first often get the best.

Nsoselo 84

Ulubilo lwa mwipi kubangila

Ngatawakwatisha amaka akwenda, calinga wabangilako ukucila ukutampila pamo nabanobe.

Ukucita ico caishibikwa icalinga tacinga citwa ku muntu onse.

Ukwenda kwalipusana pa bantu abepi naba tali. We mwipi walinga ukubangilako ulwendo pantu ungesa kushalila inuma.

The speed of short people is that they start off earlier

You must make do with the faculties you have, not with those that people in general possess.

What is generally regarded as favourable might not apply to a particular person.

Walking differs according to people's heights. When you are short, it is better to start earlier because you have shorter strides.

Nsoselo 85

Umwana kasembe, kakukoma wabwela wakobeka

Fimbi ifintu fyalikatana sana, tekuti mufilekanyepo iyoo.

Akasembe no mwana fintu fyalingana mumibomfeshe. Boneni, umwana limbi alakwata ukukalifya mwe bafyashi icakuti mwe bafyashi mwafilwa ifyakucita. Apo mwana wenu ngali nemilandu, nimwe mulingile ukumwafwa nangu acaba shani.

Ecimo na kasembe ilyo wile mukutema, kanga kukoma ku lukasa, tawaebepo ati nkokaposa akasembe! Kubula bwaka kokobeka watampa nokuya ku mushi.

A child is like an axe: it may cut you, but you keep on carrying it

Some things are too important to be left out.

An axe and a child are similar in certain ways. Your own child may at times wrong you, and you wouldn't know what to do. And when your child is in trouble, you are the one who should be responsible for bailing him or her out.

It is the same way when you go out to cut trees. The same axe may cut you, and you will not think of throwing or abandoning it; no! You will pick it up and hang it on your shoulder as you go home.

Nsoselo 86

Icikalilwa pa nsaka ni nshima

Fintu fyaba umo fyabela.

Insaka nincende imo umo abantu abalalume bekala nokutusha yangula ukulabilapo utwa malyashi utwa mu mushi bekala. Nakambi encende aba mu mushi abalalume naba baice balila icakulya. Abanakashi batwala inshima ku nsaka ekwakulila. Nomba ulo ico bakonkele capwa kufumamo.

Takwabapo uko abekala calo bangabomba umulimo utakwetepo ubuyo ngabakofwaya ubuyantanshi. Ukubako, benji bakakomailapo pali nji nsoselo yangula pa fintu umo fyabela. Enco pakucita icili conse kano mwabonapo ifyo cakumubombela.

Men in the resting shelter means food will be brought in

Things are as they are.

A village shelter is a place where the men of the village go to rest and discuss issues pertaining to the village. It is also a place where men and young boys eat communally. Women bring plates of food to the resting shelter. Afterwards, the men leave, having received what they needed.

The local community will only undertake new initiatives once it is clear that they will yield fruitful results. Otherwise, they will react with this proverb or with "Things are as they are." Therefore, before embarking on a project, people should be aware of its potential benefits.



Nsoselo 87

Umulandu taubolapo

Imisango iibi tailabwapo, nangu apapita imyaka iyinji, bonse bakebukisha. Kanshi calinga mwaupwisha bwangu no kusulako.

Fwe bantu tuli bena kuluba umo twaikala. Ulo twapusana naba byesu twalinga twaikala panshi nokupitulukamo mu mulandu pakuti tusange inshila yakuwamyamo. Nomba nga wafyuka ukuya kumbi, umulandu wacitile ulashala uko kupembela. Elo nobushiku ukabwela cikesa kuboneka kubati pambi elo waucita.

A case does not waste away

Acts done in bad faith will never be forgotten. Though many years may pass, everyone will remember. So, it is better to sit and discuss the matter and clear it out.

As human beings, we are prone to making mistakes. When we differ with friends, we are supposed to sit down and go over the differences to see the way forward and clear it out. But if you decide to avoid that area, the case will remain fresh, waiting for you. And the day you return, it will be as though you have just committed it!

Nsoselo 88

Ubufi bulaya no kubwela

Ubufi bwali shupa ukufisa.

Nangu mungatontokanyati mukaba neshuko lyakupusukilamo, ico mutenekele cikesa kumubika apaswetele kwebati nimwe mwabepele.

Ukusabankanya bufi kukesa kumwalukila ulo iciine cikesa palwalwa; nabonse mbo abamupele umucinshi, bakaleka ukumucetekela.

Lies say goodbye and then come back

Lies are difficult to conceal.

Although you may think you've had a lucky escape, something unexpected will eventually expose you as a fraud.

Spreading lies may backfire when the truth comes to light: all those who respected you will no longer trust you.

Nsoselo 89

Bwaca fimbí lelo

Ifintu fyonse fyalikwata akashita cila bushiku.

Ishuko ku muntu lisa lintu tenekele ukuti kuti lyabako. Ciba kwati ebushiku apelwe. Abaluse kuti baisesa mupela ico akofwaisha nge ndalama shakubomfya pa nganda, pamo nge cakulya.

It is dawn; today other things may happen

Each day unfolds differently, from dawn to sunset.

Luck comes to people when they are unaware! To them, it may appear just another day. But perhaps sympathisers will come and give them some money that could be used at home to buy much-needed food.

Nsoselo 90

Umulandu mume

Mu mume no mulandu mwaliba ifyapalana.

Ngawa sangwa no mulandu, ulalambata kuli iwe kubati mume ku cani mu kacelo.

Umume ulekata kuli onse uwapitama mu cani. Munshila imo ine, uuli onse angasangwa mu mulandu.

Umulandu waba kubati mume uwikata ku molu onse mu kacelo. Ukaba naimwe muntampulo shonse ukwenda. Mu mulandu mwaba ifiteyo fingi umo ungawila.

Nomba nshita ya kasuba yalilepa ukucila akacelo: umume ukoma penkapo ukomfwako na bwino.

A case is like dew

There are similarities between dew and a case.

When you are involved in a case, it sticks to you like dew on the grass in the morning.

A case is like the dew that gets on your legs; it will cling to you with every step you make. In a case, there are so many pitfalls into which you can fall.

The dew will cling to anyone who walks through that field. In the same way, anyone can become involved in a case.

But the day is longer than a morning; the dew will disappear. You will feel better once the case is over.

Nsoselo 91

Mu butala emuli amano

Abantu ababona nefya kuntanshi kucila pakashita kenka nko kuti basangwa mu mafya anini. Ukukwata ubutala cilanga amano. Twalishiba ati ifya kuntanshi tefya kwenekela. Calinga ukupekanishisha libela ukutesa kubutukila ulo nshita ilipwile.

There is wisdom in a granary

People who look beyond the present may experience fewer problems. Having a granary is a sign of wisdom. We all know the future is uncertain. One needs to prepare in advance, rather than rushing when it is too late.



Nsoselo 92

Icifu ca baice, imbeba ya bakulu

Abaice nangu babombe shani, abakulu ebesa mukusekelamo mufyo abaice babombele.
Kulaba ukuya mumpanga mukwimba imbeba nabaice. Palaba imbeba ishikulu ne shinini.
Ngababwelela ku mushi, abakulu balasalapo ishikulu no kulya, bashila abaice utunini.

The trap belongs to the children, the mouse to the elders

The fruit of the children's hard work is often seized by one or more elders.
Children go out into the wild to dig out mice of different sizes. When the children return home,
the elders pick the biggest ones, leaving the small ones for the children.

Nsoselo 93

Ifi fwe bantu kulya no kufwa

Ici caba kwati cibukisho kuli ifwe fwe bantu, angu cingaba ukukonkanyapo ukulya, impela yesu kufwa. Fyonse ifyo twapekenye pano isonde nangu fitapwile, fikapwa atwafwa. Calinga ukupwishisha imilimo yenu, ukuta pelesha munshila.

The important things for us, human beings, are to eat and to die

This is a reminder to all mankind that though we will continue to eat, the end is to die. All that we have planned on earth and have not yet completed will come to an end when we die. Finish all your work. Don't stop halfway.

Nsoselo 94

Akanwa bucingo

Ifyo ukolabila efikalenga ukwishibikwa ku lubali ubebele.

Akanwa kanga kupokako angula ukukubika mu mafya. Bucingo ku filwani.

The mouth is your shield

What you say will determine your position.

The mouth can defend you or get you into trouble. It is your shield against danger.

Nsosele shaku Bulaya

European proverbs

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 1

Do unto others as you would have them do unto you

Whatever is hurtful to you, do not do that to any other person.

Treat other people with the concern and kindness you would like them to show toward you.

Muyinga: Mupeta has still not returned the money I lent him.

Pande: I hear you saying this: the one who never repays a loan. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Citila abanobe ifyo nawe ungafwayako bakucitile

Icili conse icingakucena, wicicitila kuli onse.

Tentemba abantu bambi noluse ngefyo ungate mwa nabo bacita kuli we.

Muyinga: Mupeta nanomba tangabweshwa indalama namukopele.

Pande: Naumfwa ukososa ati: uyo utabweshwa ifyo akopa. Citila abanobe ifyo nawe ungafwaya bakucitile.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 2

Honesty is the best policy

Lies may get you out of trouble at first, but once the truth comes out, you'll be even worse off.

Kalale: I am completely entangled in lies after lying about the reason I came back from town.

Kalunga: Yes, a hundred lies must be told to hide one act of dishonesty; honesty is the best policy.

Icishinka enshila yakukonka

Ubufi kuti bwakufumya mu mafya pakutampa nombwa muku lekelesha yakutwala ku bubi ubwacilamo ulu icishinka casangwa.

Kalale: Nashingwana mu bufi ulu nabepele ati nici mfumine ku tauni.

Kalunga: Ina, ubufi umwanda umo bulalandwa pakufisa icintu cimo ica bufi, icishinka enshila yakukonka.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 3

A penny saved is a penny earned

First, consider whether you really want or need to spend the money you are about to spend. If not, do not spend it. By doing so, you save it, or, as some even say, you earn it. Save your money for it to grow. Saving is another form of earning.

Chibuye: I can hire that tractor for 10% less than it was last year. So, the money I put aside for it, is more than I need.

Chola: A penny saved is a penny earned.

Ikobili lyasungwa ekobili lyanonkwa

Icakubalilapo salapo kati ukofwaya ukusunga angula konaula ndalama ukofwaya ukubomfya. Kati tefyo, wionaula. Mukucite ifyo, waisunga, nangu wati, wainonka. Sungeni ndalama shenu pantu shilakula. Ukusunga ninshila imbi iya kunonka.

Chibuye: Kuti naita talakita pamutengo wayako panshi ngefyo cali ngu mwaka. Kanshi ndalama naibikile pambali niyo nshalikufwayapo.

Chola: Ikobili lyasungwa ekobili lyanonkwa.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 4

There's no place like home

Your own home is the most comfortable place to be, no matter how humble it may be.

Kunda: Are you glad to be home from school?

Bupe: Yes, father, there's no place like home.

Takwabapo icifulo icaba nga kwenu

Kwenu encende inga kusansamusha ukwikalako, nangula ingaba inono.

Kunda: Napo watemwa sana ukubwela kwenu kufuma ku sukulu?

Bupe: Ina, bata, takwabapo icifulo icaba nga kwenu.



Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 5

Actions speak louder than words

What you do is more significant than what you say. Simply stating that you will do something doesn't mean much; actually doing it is more challenging and meaningful.

You must prepare for what your opponents might do, not for what they claim they will do.

Chibale: You keep saying that you'll do your fair share of the housework, but remember that actions speak louder than words.

Ukucita kwalicila ukulabila

Ifyo wacita fiba ifinenene ukucila ifyo ukolabila. Ukulabila bwaka ati nakucita mfi tafipela ukufikapo, ukucita icintu kwali kosa nokulondolola bwino.

Ulo kwishibile kale ifyo abo mukocimfyanya nabo bangacita, ukuteba ifyo bakolabila ati bakucita.

Chibale: Ukulabila bwaka ati nakubombako nande imilimo ya munanda, nomba ulokwibukile ati ukucita kwalicila ukulabila.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 6

Good things come to those who wait

Be patient. Intervening in a process or situation will, in many instances, not further the case. Some things must first take their course.

Musonda: I am glad I did not interfere in the disagreement between my sisters. It might have made things worse. And at present, they are getting along fine again. Good things come to those who wait.

Ifiweme fisa kulimbo abakofilindila

Teka umutima. Uingilapo mulyashi ilyo wipwishe, ilingi line talipwapo bwino. Fimo ifintu fyaba nakashita.

Musonda: Natemwa nshasakuiposamo mu kutosha kwasa mukuli pakati ka nkashi shandi. Nga elo ifintu fyaisa kubipilako. Pali njino mpindi, balitampile ukumfwana bwino. Ifiweme fisa kulimbo abakofilindila.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 7

The early bird catches the worm

If you act now, you will fare better than if you leave things until the last minute. Life will not wait for you.

If a bird goes out worm hunting earlier than the others, it will be the first, and perhaps even the only, one to find a worm.

Kasubika: What time are we going trapping tomorrow?

Mulenga: Four in the morning.

Kasubika: Why so early?

Mulenga: The early bird catches the worm!

Don't miss this year's best deal! The sale on Cairo Road will start tomorrow morning at six. The

Akoni kabangile ekekata umwambo

Ngwabomba nduno, walabomba bwino ukucila ukubomba pakulekelesha. Ubumi tabwakulindilepo. Kati akoni kaima ulu kalya imyambo kubangila ukucila tumbi utuni, kakuba akantangile angula ekakuba keka ukukwata umwambo.

Kasubika: Ninshita ndo twakwima mukuteya mailo?

Mulenga: Folo koloko akacelo.

Kasubika: Nindo ukucelela?

Mulenga: Akoni kabangile ekekata umwambo.

Mwipuswako uno mwaka kufikoisa!! Ukushitisha kwakuba mu Kailo Lodi kwakutampa mailo pa shikishi koloko. Akoni kabangile ekekata umwambo.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 8

Easy come, easy go

If something good happens easily, it can just as easily be taken away or destroyed. When you get money quickly, such as by winning it, it is easy to spend it or lose it just as quickly. Those who acquire money without effort often squander it.

Mwape worked hard to earn enough money to buy shoes for the entire family. While on her way to purchase them, she decided to take part in a wager. She lost all the money. With a heavy dose of irony, she concluded: *Easy come, easy go*, and was left with nothing but regret.

Icisa ceka, nokuya efyo ciya

Cimo icintu ngacacitika apatali maka cilasendwa angula ukonaika. Ngawakwatapo indalama munshila yamubwipi, muku iwina, calyanguka ukuibomfya angula ukulufya. Mbo abakwata indalama ukwabula ukuiculila ilingi line balaposaika.

Mwape alibomba sana mukukwata indalama shakushita insapato sha bonse palupwa. Ulo alikuya mukushita, aitumpile mu cangalo ca ndalama. Alilushile shonse. Mukusangwa nefyo taibukile, asosele: *Icisa ceka, nokuya efyo ciya* nokushala nangu nindalama namalangulushi.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 9

The apple doesn't fall far from the tree

Children often resemble their parents.

Some of their character and personality appear to be inherited from their parents or grandparents.

Chibolele: Kabinda seems to be suspicious of everything!

Mumba: You know how her father is. The apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

Icitwalo taciponenapo ukutali ne citi

Abana baba kubati bafyashi babo.

Imibele imbi nefyo baba abafyashi nangu ifikolwe fibonekela mu bana babo.

Chibolele: Kabinda akoboneka uwakutwishika muli fyonse!

Mumba: Walishiba ifyo ba wishi baba. Icitwalo taciponena ukutali ne citi.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 10

The first step is always the hardest

Starting a new endeavour is the hardest part of it. It gets easier once you begin.

Changwe: I want to quit drinking too much, but I can't get myself started.

Ngosa: If you can just start this project, I know the rest will be easy. The first step is always the hardest.

Ndashe: I have always wanted to start with a larger field, but I can never decide on the place.

Katumpa: The first step is always the hardest.

Ulutampulo lwakubalilapo elwakosa

Pakutampa umulimo epa kosa sana, ilaya ulo inaka pantu nautampa kale.

Changwe: Nkofwaya ukuleka ukunwa ubwalwa, nomba cikokosa ukucicita.

Ngosa: Awantampako ninshi fikanaka kuntanshi. Ulutampulo lwakubalilapo elwakosa.

Ndashe: Ndafwaya ukulima apakulu, nomba ndafilwa ukusanga incende.

Katumpa: Ulutampulo lwakubalilapo elwakosa.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 11

Where there is smoke, there is fire

If something appears to be wrong, it probably is.

Some things cannot be separated. Smoke is always present after a fire has been lit.

Mondwa: Mukosha overheard someone say that Bangwa has been mistreated by Mupeta. There must be some truth to it, even though they seemed such a nice couple.

Muyinga: So, you believe that where there's smoke, there's fire? You could be a little bit more critical...

Ukuli cushi, kuli umulilo

Acaboneka ukuti calubana, nacine ninshi kuli icilubene.

Fimbi fintu tafipatulwapo. Icushi cilabako amwa asha umulilo.

Mondwa: Mukosha alyumfwile uko umbi muntu alabile ati Bangwa tasungilwepo bwino kuli Mupeta. Mulingile ukuba icine angula balikuboneka ukuba abaupana bwino.

Muyinga: Nomba mukotontonkanya ati ukuli cushi, no mulilo eko uli? Mulokubako limbi ukwikanya...



Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 12

No pain, no gain

Without suffering, we cannot achieve our goal.

Nunda: This work is difficult!

Kabamba: True, but it will help you gain the money for your daughter to be helped. No pain, no gain.

Apatali kucula, tapaba ico ulekabila

Ukwabula ukucula tekuti tukwatepo ico tukofwaya.

Nunda: Nji ncito ikosele sana!

Kabamba: Cacine nomba cakukwafwa ukukwata indalama shabana banakashi ukubafwalishako.
Apatali kucula tapaba ico ulekabila.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 13

You can't have your cake and eat it too

You can't have the best of both worlds.

One should not want more than one deserves or can handle.

One cannot, or rather should not, try to have two incompatible things: you can eat the cake and then not have it anymore, or you can keep it but then you cannot eat it.

Mumba: I could spend the money on fertilisers, but on the other hand, I would like to keep it to be able to hold out against any misfortune.

Munsele: Of course, but you can't have your cake and eat it too.

Tekutipo ulye keke nokuikwata nakambi

Tekuti ukwatapo fyonse ifiwamishe imiku fibili.

Umo talingile kutemwa ukwatapo ifingi ukucila cimo icimulingile nangu ukukwanisha.

Umo tekuti angula ukufwaisha ukukwata ifitangekala fibili panshita imo yenka: ungalya keke nokutaikwata nakambi, nangu icilipo kuisunga nokutailya.

Mumba: Ningatemwa ukushita umufundo mu ndalama yanji nomba lubali lumbi ningatemwa ukuisunga pakuti yangafwilishako mu mafya.

Munsele: Shuwa, nomba tekutipo ulyepo keke nokuikwata nakambi.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 14

You can't judge a book by its cover

Do not base your judgement on outward appearances alone.

Sometimes things seem different than they really are. People need to get to know each other better; otherwise, they will continue to judge each other solely based on outward appearances.

A restaurant that looks old and small might serve amazing food.

Mangala: She doesn't look very bright, but you can't judge a book by its cover.

Tekuti wishibe ifyamukati ke buku ku cikopa caciko

Wipingula pamubele fibelemo fyeka kunse.

Ifintu fiboneka ifyapusana kufyo fyaba. Abantu balingile ukwishibana bwino, ukucila ukupwisha ifyo baba pa fintu baboneka.

Inanda ya malila iboneka iyakale no bunini pambi eingakwata ifyakulya ifiwene.

Mangala: Tamonekapo ukucenjela, nomba tekuti wishibe ifya mukati ke buku ku cikopa caciko.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 15

The person who laughs last laughs best

Only in the end will we know who gets the better of the situation. So, do not despair when things do not work out as planned while the situation is still in progress.

Mambwe: Chibale was nagging me that he got away with his lie about my involvement in the fight yesterday.

Kasubika: Chibale will not be able to continue lying; you will laugh last and best.

Useka pakulelekesha, ewusekako bwino

Penka pakulelekesha twakwishiba uwakucimfya bwino. Nomba muibwelamo ulo ifintu tafikoyendapo bwino ukulingana nobupekanyo bwenu pantu inshita icili ikoya.

Mambwe: Chibale asakunkalifya pabufi bwakuti nine nali mukulwa mailo.

Kasubika: Chibale takakonkanyepo ukubepa, ukaseka nokuwama elo cikawama.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 16

Better late than never

Doing something later than expected is not ideal, but it is better than not doing it at all. Even if it is too late, I am glad that something has been done. The proverb can be used with either relief or sarcasm, which provides a clue to its true meaning.

Musonda: Here is the money that I borrowed from you; my excuses that I am two weeks too late.
Changwe: Ah well, better late than never.

Cawama wacelwako ukucila tapapo

Ukucita icintu mukucelwa ulo cikofwaikwa tacawamapo, cawama tapali nagu cimo. Angula line cacelwa, natemwa sana paliko icacitikwa. Ukusubila kuti kwaonaula ifyo ukusosa kukopilibula.

Musonda: Tenshi ndalama nakopele kuli we, nomba nalomaba ubwelelo mukweba ati nacelwako pa milungu ibili.
Changwe: Ah, cawama wacelwa ukucila tapapo.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 17

Haste makes waste

Acting too quickly may actually slow things down.

You do not save any time by working too fast.

Hurrying will cause you to make mistakes, and you will have to take extra time to do the job over again.

Kaluba: Hurry up and get my cart fixed.

Kalunga: Don't rush me; haste makes waste.

Akasaku kalonaula

Ukucita mukasaku kungalenga milimo kucitwa panono.

Tausungapo akashita mukubomba mu kasaku.

Ukwangufyanya kulaleta ifilubo icikupela nombamba kukwata nakambi akashita ukupitulukamo.

Kaluba: Endesheni muwamye cikoti kala.

Kalunga: Mwintwala ulubilo, akasaku kalonaula.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 18

Two heads are better than one

When two people cooperate with each other, they come up with better ideas.

Mushili: Without your knowledge of growing these types of seedlings, it would never have worked out.

Ndashe: And without your skill in woodcarving, I would have lost a lot of time. Two heads are better than one.

Imitwi ibili yawamapo ukucila umo

Ulo abantu babili babombela pamo, balesa mukukwatilapo amano nayambi.

Mushili: Ngatemano yobe aya kwishiba imilimine yambuto, ngatacibombekelepo bwino.

Ndashe: Nawe ngate mano akwishiba ifyakubasa basa nga mposele ishita yandi bwaka. Imitwi ibili yawamapo ukucila umo.



Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 19

Practice makes perfect

It takes a lot of practice to become good at something.

Doing something over and over again makes one better at it. The more you do something, the easier it becomes.

Making clay pots begins at an early age for girls. As they continue doing so, they eventually become experts in this skill, hence earning some money from sales.

Chisenga: You should go out with a hunter in the bush where he will show you how to handle a gun and aim at the animals, especially which parts to aim at. Practice makes perfect.

Ukweshako kuleta ukwishibisha

Uli nokweshakw akacito konse pakuti ukeshibisha.

Ukubomba ncito imiku ne miku kulenga ukwishibisha. Nga wabombapo ilingi, cilanaka kuntanishi.

Ukubumba inongo ukutampa kubwaice bwabakashana. Nga akonkanyapo ukubumba, pakulekelesha aba uwaishibisha muli nga mano, ico atampa nokukwatako indalama nga ashitisha.

Chisenga: Ukuya mu mpanga nana bacibinda umu bangaya mukulanga ifyakuleme mfuti ukuloshapa nama, makamaka incende apa kulashila. Ukweshako kuleta ukwishibisha.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 20

When the cat's away, the mice will play

In the absence of a person in authority, people will take advantage of the circumstances.

When the teacher left for a few minutes, the children started running through the classroom.

When the cat's away, the mice will play.

Chibuye: You shouldn't be playing a game at your desk.

Chola: The boss isn't here. And when the cat's away, the mice will play.

Ulo kapushi takalipo, bakoswe balangala sana

Ulo umuntu wakumubona tapo, abantu baba fye ukulingana nenshita njilya.

Umusambishi nga afumapo pakashita akanini, abaice bangalila ukubutauka mu cipinda camasambililo. Ulo kapushi takalipo bakoswe balayangalila.

Chibuye: Tamulingile kwangalila apo mukolembela.

Chola: Abakutusopa tabamo muno. Nolo kapushi takalipo bakoswe balayangila.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 21

Well begun is half done

A good beginning is an appropriate indicator of success.

Once you have begun a project well, you do not need to put in much more effort to finish it. Beginning a project well makes the rest easier.

Mwape: I'm afraid I'll never be able to finish this field.

Mwewa: You've already hoed a fair stretch. Well begun is half done.

Ukutampa bwino ekubomba ukufika pakati

Intampilo iweme cilangililo cakupwisha bwino.

Ulo watampa umulimo bwino, taulingile ukubikako nayambi amaka ukuti upwishe. Ukutampa bwino umulimo kulangusha ukubomba iyashalako.

Mwape: Ndino mwenso, nshapwishepo ili bala.

Mwewa: Naulima apalingile apakulu. Ukutampa bwino ekubomba ukufika pakati.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 22

You're never too old to learn

You can always learn something new, no matter how old you are.
However much you know, you can always learn more.

Kabamba: I have some maize left and want to brew beer, but I don't know how to do it.
Kabinda: You're never too old to learn; the brewsters will teach you.

Tawakulapo sana ku masambililo

Lyonse kuti wasambilila ifya bwangu, nangu wingakula shani.
Nomba pafyo waishiba ifingi, kuti walundapo ukusambilila nafimbi.

Kabamba: Ndiko ne fitonga fishele nomba nkofwaya uku kumbako ubwalwa, nshishipo ifyo bacita.
Kabinda: Tawakulapo sana kuku sambilila, ba cikumbe bakakusambilisha.

Icipande II – Nsoselo ishikofwaikwa

Part II – More demanding proverbs

Ifya kusunga mibele ne fyakucita

How to behave and what to do

Nsoselo 101

Ifunda talicenjela, ucejela mwine we funda

Abantu, ukuteba ifintu, ebalufyanya.

Balupwa wambo baleta ebeshiba inshila sha kuwamishamo/kupwishishamo njo imilandu.

Kwaliba imilandu iyo icitika nawe mwine ulishi ati mulandu uyu. Boneni ubuteko bwalikanya ukwipaya inama ukwabula ipaso. Ulo we waya kwipaya inama mumpanga, ifunda lyobe talishibapo noko likoya, kanshi we mwine wandi funda niwe ulingile ukwishiba imyendele pakuti ukafishe uko ukofwaya. Ulo bakwikata, nawe waluka kubati lifunda. Ulupwa lobe ebakupususha.

The load is not careful; careful is the owner of the load

It is people who make mistakes, not things.

Those responsible for the youth are accountable for their mistakes. When a child, or indeed any family member, errs, it is the family that addresses the issue.

There are people who knowingly commit illegal acts. For example, the Government has established procedures for hunting game: a licence is required. Therefore, when you go out to hunt secretly, the meat you carry does not know where it is being taken. If you are arrested, you will appear a fool, and your family members will have to go to great lengths to bail you out.

Nsoselo 102

Akasuba kamo takaboosha nama/mbeba

Ukuteka umutima pakucita ifintu, tekucitapo mukasaku iyoo.

Fimo ifintu fifwaya akashita akatali pakuti fise fibe bwino.

Pakukumba ubwalwa, bapela amashiku asano na abili pakuti bupye ukufikapo.

Mu mikumbile mwaliba ifikomo ifyakukonka mpaka no bushiku bwa kunwa. Nga bwapya panshiku ishitapendwa ninshi tabulipo bwino. Ukukumba kufwaya akashita.

One day will not make the game/mouse rot

Take time to do things; don't rush them.

Certain tasks require sufficient time to be fully accomplished.

In the brewing process of local beer, from start to the day of drinking, it takes seven days, as the whole process has stages to follow. If drunk earlier than these seven days, it is not the real thing. Brewing needs time.

Nsoselo 103

Ngatwime kumaca, umufu wansala ili ucilele

Katucite mfi ulo ifitaweme talingaisa mukucilinganya.

Ulo mwabuka, mulomfwa ukuba ababwangu na maka. Kuntanshi mungafilwa kupwishisha ifyo mutampile kumulandu wa kulema no kupwa maka elyo na mafya ayangesa muli nji nshita.

Let's start early in the morning, while the hunger pangs are still asleep

Let's do this before negative influences arise.

As you wake up, you still feel fresh and energetic. Later, you may fail to finish what you started due to tiredness or problems that arise in the meantime.

Nsoselo 104

Umucinshi wa nseba kwimina pamo

Imilimo yacintu bwingi yalinga ukubombela pamo elo yanguka.

Inseba tuni utwinji utwendela pamo, elo twaliba nomusango wakwimina pamo, takubapo akashalila.

Enco bapashanyako nakubantu ukuti kamo ngakwaba ukubomba imilimo yacintu bwingi, kano bonse mwaimina pamo. Taciwamapo bambi bashala pantu ulo ngulya mulimo wakupwa, ukalabombela bonse abantu.

Icilangililo kufika kwa bulalo pakanika apo abana baya mukusambililaku sukulu bangalokwabuka ukwabula ubwafya.

The respect of the nseba birds consists in flying out all together

Communal work should be done by all, and at the same time, so that it doesn't take long.

The *nseba*, small birds that fly in large numbers, start flying out all at once, with none remaining behind. That is why a proverb was derived from this: people must act likewise.

When a communal job has to be done, it demands all concerned to stand up and do it. It is not good to see others evade their responsibilities. Once that project is completed, it will serve all the people in the vicinity.

An example of such a project is putting up a bridge across a stream to allow school-going children to cross it without problems.

Nsoselo 105

Nkoya! Nkoya! Nkoya! alepaisha

Mailo tekwisapo.

Bamo abantu tabafwaya ukubomba imilimo ingabaletela icuma kuntanshi.

Umuntu uwaishiba ubune bwa bulimi, alaya mukulima pakuti akakwate icakulya icingi. Nomba ye aikalila ati, nebo nkaya nibwangu noma umo mwine emo acelelwa nangu kuyapo. Pakulekelesha kucula mulandu wa nsala.

"I will go!" "I will go!" "I will go!" causes suffering

Tomorrow never comes; do it now.

Some people do not want to do work that will only bring them prosperity in the future.

Knowing the importance of farming, one goes out to cultivate so that there will be enough food to eat in the future. Then there are others saying, "I will be leaving for cultivation soon", who never leave! In the end, they will starve.

Nsoselo 106

Nakana ifyakene mbwa kuseka/kufwala

Cilingile ukuba umo akofwaila.

Ukupashanya ifya kene mbwa ukuseka nangu ukufwala ecimo cine ukwebati ifyo nkofwaya nifyo fine takuli ukwaluka iyoo. Akaninina fyekefyo.

I refuse in the same way a dog refuses to laugh/to dress

It has to be exactly how he wants it.

By behaving in the same way as the dog that refused to laugh/dress, the person wants it their own way, and that is irreversible.



Nsoselo 107

Uwaitwa tafwala bwino

Ukukonka akashita ulo cikofwayikwa.

Nga waitwa, cakubalilapo bona kati nshita ikulu eko ili angula iyo.

Wipela icilubo ku muntu pakukana fikilisha utukofwaikwa utunini libe ifya kucita ifikulu efikofwaikwa.

Calinga ukukonkana nobwite, ukwabula ukuposa inshita, ulo taulaishiba ico bakokwitila.

Ilyo waitwa, taulingile nombamba ukutampa ukupekanya, ukumonati bushe nalafwala indo. Empali walacelwa ku bwite.

The one who is being called, does not put on nice clothes

Know when action is required.

When you are invited or called, consider the reason first. Does it allow for more time or not?

Do not blame a person for not fulfilling a less important requirement when other urgent action was needed.

If you are being called for an urgent matter, you must follow-up immediately without wasting time, as this may require your immediate intervention instead of, for instance, looking for nice clothes to put on.

Nsoselo 108

Mposa mabwe ninkanshi akwete

Tulokuba abacenjela mu fintu tucita pantu kuti fyatuletelela.

Ukwangalakubi kuti kwalenga waibika mu bwafya. Mukwangala ngali temwa ukuposa amabwe, ukalasa mwana wa bene pambi ukamutibule shiso ko mulemanika. Ba lupwa bakesa kufwayab ati apo wamulemanika, niwe ukomupa inkashi yobe ope, pantu bambi abanakashi tabakamusuminepo ukupwa kuli ngulya cilema.

If you like to throw stones, you should have a sister

If you take risks, you should be able to cover what happens when things do not work out well.

We must be very careful in what we do, because if we don't, we shall be in trouble. Dangerous games can put you into trouble. In games, if you are fond of throwing stones at others, one day you will hit someone and damage his eye or make him lame. In the past, the relatives of the injured would demand your sister to marry him, because other girls would not accept him as he was handicapped.

Nsoselo 109

Akalulu pa mulamu kalikwata umukoshi

Bucibusa bwaba mukupimwa/ukulinganya.

Ico utangapela umuntu umbi, ku muntu waba mupepi nawe mu lupwa ena kuti wamupa. Kwaliba limbi wakwatafye akamunani akanini, bambi abantu abatali balupwa lobe teti ubapeko, kusosa ati kacepa. Nomba uwamulupwa lobe nangu cibusa obe ukwafwa libili libili ena kumupako.

When you are with your brother-in-law, a rabbit has a neck

Friendship comes in different degrees.

What you would not give to an outsider, you can give to a close relative. With close friends and relatives, you feel less easily ashamed.

There are times and occasions when you have very little (the neck of a rabbit) to share. You will not share certain foods with people who are not very close to you because you feel it is too little. But as for those close to you, it will be shared.

Nsoselo 110

Sampa ukulwila nankwe ubulobo, balamulekela

Ukunakilila mukucita ifintu kulaleta insansa. Tekweshapo ukuba uwakutemwa ukukwatisha noku pupumina pa fintu bwangu bwangu.

Ilyo mwaya mukuloba isabi, calinga muletekanya empali mwalusa ubulobo pamo ne sabi line. Nga mwamona lilelila, imwe kunakulila pakufumya.

When the sampa fish fights with your hook, you give it the chance to do so

You must be flexible when handling things that can bring you happiness. Do not be greedy or jump on them too quickly.

When fishing, be steady, otherwise you will lose the hook and the fish. When the fish bites the bait, pull it out lightly.

Nsoselo 111

Kokoto kokoto taileta

Icintu ukofwaisha makamaka umunani usuma uwa nama wisa ukufuma muku bombesha. Icikasha teti ciye ngacakuti taubombeshe. Ngo kofwaya ukulya umunani wa nama, cili kuli iwe, pantu uku kokota ifupa kano wabombeshe sana.

Good meat doesn't serve itself

Anything you want will only become real after you have worked hard for it. A strong desire to eat good food is not enough to be served good food. To have meat, you have to work very hard.

Nsoselo 112

Tabalila bulungu ninshiku shileta

Ifiletwa nangu ukuboneka, Lesa emwine waishiba ico angakupela muli mbulya bushiku. Icakulya pananda, indupwa shimi shimo shalasungilila pakuti tafipwile bwangu, nolo ulu lupwa taluleikuta pantu basubile ukwisa lya mu nshiku sha kuntanshi. Kanshi te kulingapo kati fyakulya ati mfi fyakutufisha muli mbulya bushiku.

Do not cry for beads; the days will bring them

Make the most of what you have, for you do not know what the future holds. With a family's food stocks, the mother strictly rations them to a minimum, ensuring they do not run out too soon, even if the family members remain unsatisfied. It is unwise to consume more, as the food would then be finished too quickly.

Nsoselo 113

Nshilala mwesu, mano alimo

Nci cisoswa ulo muntu alabila ati akomba bwino ifyo bonse balesubila no kumfwikwa.

Ifintu fyonse fyaliba nakashita apo fitangacitika napo fingacitika. Umwana nga akula, alakwata ukufuma muba fyashi nokutampa ukulala eka mu nanda yakwe. Pali njilya mpindi, telinji engjila njila munanda yaba fyashi nokulala. Nomba ulo alwalisha, amano akukana ukulala mwabo alapwa icakwebati abafyashi bakwe abanakashi batampa nokumu pipa nga alilwalisha, pantu umufyashi mufyashi.

"I don't sleep in my parents' house" means you are sane

This phrase is used when someone states to do something that is to be expected or is already obvious.

Everything has its appropriate times and circumstances. When children grow up, they leave their parents' house and begin to sleep elsewhere. From that point onwards, they do not frequently return to their parents' house to sleep. However, a time may come when they fall ill, too ill to refuse sleeping in their parents' house. This might even extend to their mother tending to them, as a parent is a parent.



Nsoselo 114

Mulinda bwalwa, alinda inkoto

Lintu tuli mukwangala, tukwate inshita yakuipima ati nomba capwa tubwelelemo ku nanda ukucila ukulindilila ico mutabwene.

Kwaliba ukwangala nabanensu, cibe limbi mukutandala nangu ukuya mukunwa ubwalwa. Nomba ilesa inshita umwine apekenye utu bwalwa alandati “ubwalwa bwapwa nomba”. Nomba apo iwe waumfwa bwino kwikalilila ukutayapo. Umuya inshita, pambi palya pese pabuke ulubuli elyo ku ceshamo bese bakupaminepo iciti walemana! Elyo waibukisha ati kanshi nganasa mwile akale.

Lingering when the beer is finished is lingering to be beaten

When we visit places, let us take care to leave on time instead of waiting for ... we don't know what.

When we are enjoying ourselves with friends at a certain place, the owner may say it is over now at a given moment. But you might feel you have to wait longer. As time goes on, a fight could break out and, unluckily, you might be hit by a stick; this is when you realise that you should have left earlier.

Nsoselo 115

Ifyakulya ubushiku bafibwena ku malushi

Tulokuba abaibukila ukuti ifintu tulokucita kuntanshi fikeshibikwa.

Umuntu uwatemwa ubucende, iciisa muku boneka lifumo. Ilyo bakokumana no mwanalume, takwali uwaishibe, nomba ukwisa ishibikilwa kwi fumo. Nangu kati walile amasana abene, ulo ukoisa kuliuka bonse bakeshiba ati niwe walile kumulandu wa musungushi.

What you ate at night will be known when you vomit

You may be secretive, but bear in mind that what you do will one day be known to others.

A person who is adulterous will be known through her pregnancy. While she was meeting the man, nobody knew what was happening until a pregnancy occurred. The same thing happens when you eat other people's eggs; it will be known who ate them after you have vomited, as the yolk will show.

Nsoselo 116

Tailila apo yaikatila

Nga wapokela ubupe, tacawama ukusha kunuma muku kweba ati nakwisa kusenda nshita imbi. Ukucita ico cicolanga ati tawasekelemo muli nco. Cenka nci kuti bacipela nakuli umbi, mukulanguluka ati twakumufwaila cimbi.

Nkalamo ngayaikata nokwipaya inama pa ncende imo, ilasesha nokufisa kumbi.

The lion never eats at the place where it has killed

When you receive a gift, it is unwise to leave it behind with the intention of collecting it later. Doing so suggests you are not fully content with it. The same item might then be given to someone else, as those who gave it to you may have found something else to replace your gift.

When a lion catches and kills an animal, it drags it to another place to hide it.

Nsoselo 117

Umweni wakolwe alya ifyo kolwe alyako

Calilinga ukukonka ifyo abo mukotandala, pantu teti musubile ifi bacilile.

We muntu ngawatandalila abakankala, tulakwata isubilo ilya kuti tukaya mukulala apaweme elyo nefyakulya fyakuba ifilondolokele ifiweme. Kati ni ncushi, tulingile ukupokelela ifyo batupekanishisha.

Visiting the monkeys, you eat what the monkeys eat

You'd better follow the practices of those you visit or the area where you have come to live. Try not to expect more than what can be offered.

When visiting a well-to-do person, you can hope for a good reception, such as blankets for sleeping and good food. But if the one visited is poor, we must accept what is offered.

Nsoselo 118

Akana kanshiwa kaumfwile mano mulukolo

Ngoli mwana wanshiwa, amano ukapula kuli bambi abatali bafyashi bobé.

Ukuba weka nangu wakukwafwa, ubwafwilisho bukatula kumbi kati wanakilila. Ecimo cine nobwana bwa nshiwa. We walilufya abafyashi bobé uko winga tola amano akubomfya mu bwikalo bobé. Ngoli umwana musuma, bambi aba ibelele ebaka kwebako ifyakucita ngawaba no bwafya.

The orphan gained knowledge while sitting outside the house

When you are an orphan, knowledge will be gained from people other than your parents.

You have lost both your parents who could have given you good advice on how to live. If you are well-mannered, other people will advise you on how to proceed when you are in trouble.

This applies to others too. When you are alone with no one you know to help you, the help you need will come from other people, as long as you are well-mannered.



Nsoselo 119

Tabunwa mukamfwilwa

Mubwalwa emo ilyashi lya nkama lisokolokwa pantu abantu nabakolwa.

Mu malo akunwenamo bwalwa, abantu bayamo balipusana pusana. Ngomo mwine mwingila abafwilwa, bata nangula bama, nabambi abaibelele ne ficitwa fyabo. Nomba ulo wakolwa, cilesa kumano ukulabila pafyo uli. Limbi ngauli muka mfwilwa watampa ukutopa abena buko kati balicelwa uku kupyanka, yangula ukulabila pa tupe bapita. Ili lyashi lyalingile ukwikala pamo pa ncende imbi, nomba we watwala pa bwalwa. Ici tacilangapo umucinshi.

Beer should not be drunk excessively by those in widowhood

Confidential information may be revealed after drinking, which is not advisable.

At drinking places, people exhibit various behaviours. Some, such as widowers and widows, may have personal, confidential issues. When they become drunk, they might begin to raise issues, such as accusing their in-laws of delaying in providing them with a new spouse, or discussing items that were snatched from them. Of course, these matters should be discussed at home with all relevant parties present, not in public.

Nsoselo 120

Ubweni bwapeteke ba mbwa umucila

Ulokusha imibele yobe ku ncende waikala kwenu.

Pela umucinshi kuli mbo wasanga ku ncende shimbi, nabo baka kulanga imibele yabo iweme. Umuntu aishibikwa ku ncende ekala, ecilenga nokuti ngawatandala ku ncende imbi, uicefye pakuti wanonkelamo na mano ambi ku fintu waishiba kale.

We muntu ngawatandalila balupwa obe kumbi uko tabakwishiba, walinga waicefya sana pakuti abantu tabakwishibe imisango wakwata. Imibele yobe wakwata ishale kwenu. Abo wasangako babike pa mulu elo bangafisulula ne misango yabo.

At a new place, the dog keeps its tail between its legs

Leave your usual behaviour at home.

Respect those whom you find in a new place, and they will eventually show you how well-behaved they are. You are well known in the area where you reside, but when visiting other areas, you must act differently so that you learn more from those whom you do not yet know.

When you visit relatives in a new area, the other people there do not know you. Now, you need to be humble, not displaying all the behaviour you are accustomed to at home.

Nsoselo 121

Nkaya nkaya ashilile ubunga mu katondo

Tacalinga ukulanda ku bantu amapange obe ilyo taulaishiba ati fili nokucitika.

Ilyo taulacita icintu, ba uwaipekanya ukucila ukukwata isubilo ukuti eko cikafuma. Umunobe kuti limbi akulaya ati tukese ya mu mpanga, ukapekanyepo utu bunga. Nomba inshita takwebele iyakwilapo, iwe waikalafye ukulolela wasuka wapwisha no tubunga wasungile utwakusenda mu mpanga.

"I'm going to ...", "I'm going to ..." finished the mealie meal in the little pot

It is not advisable to mention your plans when you are not sure when they will take place.

Before you do something, be prepared with what is required, instead of hoping to get these things from someone else. A friend may ask you to go hunting in the wild with him and request that you prepare some food. Because he didn't tell you when this would take place, you continue waiting until all that was to be used in the wild is consumed.

Nsoselo 122

Nyina ng'ombe pa bana tasela

Namayo ekasunga nokucingilila abana, emulandu wine abamwenapo.

Ulo abana baya mukwangala beka elo kwaumfwikapo ifyalubana, yangula kwaba ulubuli pali beka beka, ukuteka mitima nabafyashi kulingile kwakonkwa pantu tabeshibapo uwalutampa.

Umufyashi umo nga atampa ukukalipila mwana umbi, nci cingaleta ubonaushi.

Imisendele ilingile ukuba iyabucibusa. Abafyashi bonse ebalolesha pa bana bonse.

Mother cow never loses sight of her children

A mother is the custodian and protector of her children, so she takes great care.

When children play alone and something goes wrong, or when there is a fight among them, parents must exercise patience because no one knows who started the issue. If one parent blames another child, this may escalate the situation.

The approach should be friendly. All parents should take care of all children.

Nsoselo 123

Amano ndi ikwatile aile no tufi ku buko

Abengi bamona kwati balikwata amano ukucila abanabo. Tekuti tube lyonse aba mano ukucila bambi abanensu.

Umuntu utayapo ku tauni, afwile ukwipusha abayako pakuti aba uwaibukila.

I-have-the-wisdom went to his in-laws with shit on his clothes

It is better not to pretend to know everything. We cannot always be smarter than our peers. People who have never visited a town, should first get impressions from those who have been there, so that they are aware of what awaits them.

Nsoselo 124

Nawe, ulushimu lukakumema!

Nci cilabilwa ku muntu ngo uwakusenda ati walinakilila: ukacimfya ulo nomba ngu mulandu tawakapwe, ukwasha ku kumema nawe.

Nangu njino nshita kuti wanshupa, wibukishe bumbi bushiku ukeshibikwa ne cilandushi cika kuponena.

As for you, a bee will hover round you!

This is said to a person who wants to take advantage of your weakness: you may succeed now, but this issue will not stop; it will hover around you.

Though you may mistreat me this time, remember that one day you will be known, and vengeance will be taken on you.

Nsoselo 125

Umupama pamo watibwile ingoma

Bika amano pacintu ukofwaya, tepa fingi iyo.

Ukutibula ngoma ecomunga bwenako ukukonkanya. Ukubombela pa cintu cimo pakashita akatali, ku kulekelesha emo ungabwena ifyo walefwaya cibe fiweme angula fibi.

Mubwikashi bwesu fwe bantunse, kulaba ifyo tufwaisha, nomba ifi fintu fisa mukuboneka pa nshita ntali. Kanshi pakuti ici cintu cimoneke, kano watala waipesha sana ukubombapo elyo panuma caisa moneka.

If you hit the drum in just one spot, it will break

Concentrate on achieving a few things, not on many.

Breaking the drum is a positive image of perseverance. Working on one thing for a long time will eventually yield results, good or bad.

During our time in this world, there are certain matters we would like to have or achieve, some of which may only come about after a long, long time. You must dedicate significant time and effort to them so that, in the end, you enjoy what you have achieved.



Nsoselo 126

Mutota nsha enda na kafunda

Kwateni icilangililo pakuti abantu bamusumine pafyo mukososa.

Uyo ulabila pali nakasha ulo abwela kufuma uko aile alinga aletako cipandwa ca nama paku shininkisha.

Ngawaile mukutandala ku tauni pakashita akatali, pa kubwelela ku mushi kano wapintako natumo tumo pakuti abali ku mushi bakabone. Tekwebapo bwaka twali kulila ku tauni ukwabula icilangililo.

Praising a duiker's meat requires something to back it up

Carry with you a proof or a sample of what you are talking about so people will believe you.

One who talks about a duiker from a trip should bring with him a piece of it as proof.

After visiting towns for some time, when you return to the village, it is better to carry with you something that will make those you left behind accept what you say about town life.

Nsoselo 127

Twishilila nshima ku muto

Pantu ifintu fyawama sana, walabako nokwebati nafimbi fikoisa ificilile apa. Tulingile ukuteka umutima.

Inshima yenda no munani, ungaba uwa buswete! Ilyo inshima baleta mu nsaka, tabatwalapo lubilo ukutampa ukulya, yangula ukutobela muli supu. Kubona ati fyonse baleta empali umunani wa nama ucili kunuma.

Let us not finish off the nshima with soup alone

Because the things are so good, you forget that there is more to come. We must patiently continue.

Nshima is served with relish, sometimes with meat. When it is brought to the eating place, do not rush to start eating it with soup only! Wait until all are served; perhaps meat is still being prepared for this meal.

Nsoselo 128

Nawe, niwe ntoshabape, tatota!

Tautotelapo ngaba kwafwa.

Utakwatapo mafunde aweme atampa no kulaka nabantu abamwafwa.

As for you, you quarrel with your benefactors; you don't thank them!

This is said to someone quarrelling with those who support them.

Ill-mannered persons will quarrel with those who help them.

Nsoselo 129

Uwakwensho bushiku bamutotela abwaca

Uwa kwafwilisha nshita ya bushiku mutashe nga bwaca.

Cabafye ku fintu umuntu uli onse akucitila, pakulekelesha walinga ukumutasha pa mulimo ulya.

You thank the night guide at dawn

A guide at night is praised the following morning when it turns out that he has done his work well.

You don't thank for work that is not yet finished.

Nsoselo 130

Nikwenkwe uyu, talalansala, nalelo alokupita

Ngu ni Kwenkwe, lyonse alafwaya nshila yakuissekeshamo nakambi tuli nankwe muli baifwe. Ifi efilandwa pali ngo usekelela mu bufwayo (bwa bulale lale) bwakwe. Mwilanguluka ati abantu bamusango ngu bekala kumbi, baba muli baifwe.

It is a hyena who never sleeps hungry, and now you will see him passing by

This person is a hustler. He will always find a way to serve himself, and he is just among us. This is said of someone who is keen on serving his own (sexual) needs. Do not think that such people live elsewhere; they are here among us.



Nsoselo 131

Mutuka bakulu tashuka

Ngata wakwata imisango ibipile, bonse tabakakutemwepo elo teti ukwate ne shuko.

Mu mikalile ya lutambi, abaice baling ukucindika abakulu epakuti bakwate ishuko. Abaice kano bakwata ukubomfya amashiwi aya mucinshi kubakulu, eku basalula iyo. Ng aba kutuma ukubomba akamulimo walinga ukubomba, wasanga abakulu nabapita icipe kano upoke ubafweko ukupinta.

Slandering an elder will not lead to prosperity

If you are ill-mannered, everyone will be against you, and you will have no luck.

In our culture, children should respect their elders to receive blessings. They should mind their language when speaking to elders and refrain from abusive speech. When asked to do some work, you must comply. If you see an elderly person carrying a load, try to help them carry it.

Nsoselo 132

Umwaice aboseshe akatiti mwitumba

Ukubangila, kuweme. Mwilindila nshita itali limbi mungaisanga fyamu bipila ifya fumamo. Uku kulanguluka kwabipa, ukuteshiba ati ulo kafwile fye, elintu kali nokwipikwa. Tekulindilapo ati njipailepo nakambi akali mu mpanga ekuti njipike tubili. Umo nga ali nobulwele ubukofwaikwa kucitila pekapo, ishibishako nabambi bakulosheko ifya kubondapa ulo tabulafika panshita itali ya kukana citila.

Eventually, the small bird rotted in the boy's pocket

The sooner, the better. Don't wait too long, or you might end up with a bad outcome. It is poor thinking not to realise that as fresh as the small bird was, it had to be cooked soon. Don't wait until you kill another in the bush so you can cook two. If one has an illness that requires immediate action, inform others for guidance to cure it before it becomes incurable.

Nsoselo 133

Umwana atomfwa omfwila mu musuku

Amafunde abafyashi bapela abana alinga ukuyakonka pantu bena balipitamo ukufuma ku kale, kanshi balishiba nefitumbukamo.

Ngefyo cili shino nshiku, amalwele nayaseka sana icakwebati abana misepela bapwa ukufwa. Necikolenga mulandu wakuti balilekele ukumfwa amafunde. Boneni abakulu bebati, mwebana tekwesha ukulala nabanakashi pantu limbi ulya mwanakashi alilwala akasele, nomba we kukana ati mubepelefy.

Icakulekelesha kusanga umwana alilwala akasele nomba abakulu epa kumushinina ati wabona nomba! Apo ninshi ali mukupelwa umuti ku bakulu.

The wayward child will only listen if it is already receiving treatment

Rules that parents give their children are best followed because they, the parents, have gone through similar experiences and know the consequences.

The child in this proverb only started listening when he was treated by the cupping horn.

Nowadays, there are many diseases that are claiming the lives of the young, as children do not take advice seriously. For example, the advice not to engage in casual sex. Imagine a boy having syphilis while rejecting such advice! In the end, when you are sick, you still call upon the elders for help with the treatment.

Nsoselo 134

Akoni kacenjefe kalala pa nsansu

Ba uwapamulola.

Akoni kalishiba ukuti kalafwaikwa ku bantu. Emulandu wine icinsa cakako cibela pancende mpo patangafika na bantu nokuba akaibukila nga kwaumfwika icongo ca nsansu sha fiti ishumine mupepi ne cinsa.

We muntu wewapatwa, walinga ukoibaka ukwishiba myendele yobe, nefintu mulokulanshanya nabantu bambi.

The smart little bird sleeps where there are small, dry pieces of wood

Be on your guard.

A little bird knows that people want it as a relish for their food. That is why it makes its nest in a place not reachable by people and takes care to be notified by the noise they make while walking on the dry pieces of wood near the nest.

When you are hated by people, you must be very careful in the way you move around and how you communicate with others.

Nsoselo 135

Uwashingwana oonta nobuta bwakwe

Ngataukwete cimbi icakubomfya, kubomfya conse icilipo.

Ba cibinda ilyo baya mumpanga, mwaliba muncende shino umutaba nkuni, nomba acashupa balabula ubuta nokukonawila pa mulilo pakuti onteko.

When stranded, one even uses the bow as firewood

When there are no other options, one must use what is available.

In the past, when hunters went out hunting, there were areas where they could not find firewood, and when necessitated, they would have to use their bows to make fire for warmth.

Nsoselo 136

Mfunda buteshi e uwa

Tulokucenjelela pafyo tukocenjeshako abanensu.

Utushila tuya ku nika twaba utunini ukulinga amolu. Nelingi amwapalamina ku nika utu tushila tuba utwa telela sana. Icisa mukuboneka cakuti ulya uko cenjeshako banakwe ukuti babe abaibukila ati kuno kutelele ewisa mukuwa panshi nabonse eko babwena ati cacine kutelele.

Cibafye nakuli mbo abakopepesha, mukosanga abakofunda muma caliki ebakolufyanya pafyo bakufunda, bafilwa ukucita ifyo bakososa.

The one who is always warning about slipperiness is the one to fall

Let us be prudent when we warn others.

Little paths leading to the riverbanks are usually too narrow for two people walking abreast, and these paths are often slippery. What is observed is that the one who warns others about the 'slippery' spot often falls on that very spot. This confirms to others that the area is indeed slippery.

It is also the same for leaders in the church: they warn against all kinds of misbehaviour and are not rarely found to exhibit this same misbehaviour.

Nsoselo 137

Ubwalwa tabunwa mwipi

Ubukali bwa bwalwa bukalinga walabila nefe kucilile cimo.

Icakonkapo cilangililo cimo pa nsoselo nji pamulu ngoli necikokushupa mu mano. Nga waya mukunwa bwalwa kulaba inshita ulu wakolwa, watampa lyashi likuucusha pancende apatalingile, mumano ati yangula banga ngafwako ababyanji.

Worried people shouldn't drink beer

The strength of the beer will make you say things you shouldn't.

The proverb applies to anyone with something troubling on their mind. When they go out to drink and get drunk, they bring the issues troubling them to the wrong place, mistakenly believing friends will help them.



Nsoselo 138

Ubushiku umwana afyelwe ne nsalu yakupapamo ilafya

Ukupekanya kufwaikwa kucitwa ulo mbulya bushiku tabulafika. Ukwabula ukupekanya umwana afyalwa takwatapo tumo utufwaikwa.

Abakofwaya ukumu tandalila balinga basanga ncende apa kulala nokutalubako icakulya icilingile nshiku bakuba namwe.

The day a baby is born, there is no cloth to carry him

Preparatory work must be done before the actual day arrives.

Without preparation, a newborn child would not have the necessary outfit.

If people wish to visit you, they need to find somewhere to sleep and remember to take enough food for the duration of their stay.

Nsoselo 139

Icila cansaka umo acileta

Nji nsoselo ikwete umwakullosha mubili. Ku lubali lumo ikokosho kwebati onse uwikala mu mushi ali nomulimo wakuleta ifiweme notwashala tumbi. Ulubali lumbi ikopanda mano akwebati ngo uwaletete ngalya mano alingile uku asunga mukubonati fyonse fyaletwa nokupwa ifyakuwamina bonse ngefyo cicitwa ulo umo atatula ulwimbo.

At the meeting place, one person brings a song, dance, discussion, or activity

This proverb has a double meaning. On the one hand, it states that every person in a village has the responsibility to bring forward good things and issues. On the other hand, it advises that once something is brought forward, the initiator must be able to see it through to a good conclusion, as is done when someone brings a song.

Nsoselo 140

Tabatumfya citumfyetumfye

Ukwefya umuntu kulabwela. Ube uwa cenjela pakusosa ifinga kuletelela. Tawaishiba ifyo baba kunuma, icili cilubo. Waba nabo shani? Cabafye bwino ukutumfyanya nabafyala bobo ukucila nabonse bambi.

Despising someone backfires

Be careful who you speak contemptuously of.

What is your relationship with them like? It is wrong if you do not know their background.

It is okay to make mocking jokes with cousins, but not with everyone else.

Nsoselo 141

Mutukamfumu tatuka imo, ili watuka iyo, imbi nayo ukaituka

Tawakwata umucinshi, nakambi tawakalukepo.

Nga tekuti ucindike umuntu umuleme, kuti wacita cimo cine nakuli umbi.

To insult a chief is to insult the entire chieftainship system

You are ill-mannered; you won't change.

If you cannot respect that high-ranking person, you are likely to do the same to another similar person.

Nsoselo 142

Umupini umo tawipaya imbwa

Ukufikilisha kukwata amapange yobe kucitwa ayo fwaisha, ulingile ukubikishako amano. Tayakesepo nga meno mukanwa ka mwana.

Mu masambilio namo mwaliba umo yendela. Tekutipo pekampa waba mu masambilio ayapamulu, apo kwaba ukutampila panshi ukusambilako utwa kutampilako elyo mwalundapo ayapamulu.

One axe handle doesn't kill a dog

To achieve your goals, you must make more effort. It will not come easily, like teeth appearing in a child's mouth.

There are stages to education. You cannot become a secondary school student immediately; as you have to start off as a pre-school and then a primary school student.



Nsoselo 143

Ba mukolwe nga bafula ubushiku tabuca bwangu

Ciweme ukulekela umuntu umo ukutungulula.

Muntu umo aba ku mupando ngakuti uku kumana kwenu muku lanshanya kube bwino.

Bonse amwatampa ukulabila, tapapo uko umfwa. Tapali inshila imo iyakuti mupwishe muku kwata icakucita.

When you keep a lot of cocks, dawn takes a long time

It is better when one person takes the lead.

It takes one person to chair a meeting for it to be successful. When everyone starts talking, no one listens, and there is no way you are going to reach a good conclusion.

Nsoselo 144

Umutumfyo batumfya uwakutumfishepo

Awatumfya mbo utaishibana nabo bwino, ungabacena.

Ukutumfya tekwebapo ati nikuli onse. Tekubapo ukulingana ne mishinku yonse.

Cenjela mukutaba kalifya. Bo bangasenda amashiwi walabila ati eflyo ulo wemwine wayatwele ati kwangala.

You can only fool people who have fooled you before

If you fool people, you are not familiar with, you could hurt them.

Fooling cannot be aimed at just anyone; it might not be appropriate for all age groups.

Take care not to embarrass others. They might take your words seriously even though you don't mean them.

Nsoselo 145

Akafupa utemenwe ekakusho mucena

Ukudemwisha icintu cimo, kuti cakuletelela imilandu pa kulekelesha.

We muntu ngawalitemwisha amano abi, ku ntanshi kuti waba mubwafya. Ulubuli nalwena kuti wasangilwamo ne milandu. Kati ukoumfwikila mukulwa na bantu, mailo kuceshamo ukasanga ati waipaya umuntu. Tataluke ku misango iibipile.

Fondness for gnawing bones will make you lose your teeth

Even a harmless habit of doing one thing all the time, may lead to problems in the end.

What will happen with bad habits? When you have bad manners, you will end up in trouble. If you are always fighting with other people, one day, if you are not lucky, you will kill someone! Let us abandon bad manners.

Nsoselo 146

Ubwalwa bwashila, palanganeni micila yenu

Ciweme ukumfwa nga ubwalwa bwashila. Ndi shiwi libomfiwa ulo abantu balindila ukupelwa bwalwa nga bulishilile angula uko balongene. Nci cilanga imisango bubu Ici ngaleta nokulwa. Ukumfwikisha baya sana nokulingwa kuli ba kolwe.

The beer is finished; get your tails out of here

It is really important to understand when the beer is done.

This expression is used when people linger after a beer or other party, hoping for some free beer. This is considered inappropriate behaviour and could lead to a fight. To make it clear they're overstepping, they're compared to monkeys.

Nsoselo 147

Akakubulile mfwa yaba noko katanshi

Ngawaikatwa ne nobu nkukwa, tawakwate amaka yakupituluka mu lyashi. Bambi nabo bakesa nelyashi ukukwebelapo nafimbi.

Ulo wapokela mbila ilibi kukufika nokwipaya ifintu walinokubomba, walinga kufwailisha nalimbi lyashi. Nomba pa kashita kamo kene ukoumfwa ukucenekwa na maka ukupwa. Naumbi nga aisa ne lyashi limo line ilya nshita ninshi naushipikisha. Pantu naulishiba akale.

The one who informs you of your mother's death is the first one

When you are overwhelmed by grief, you won't be able to process much information. Other messengers will come to tell you more.

When a message reaches you that upsets you to the extent that you cancel all plans, you must take care to gather as much information as possible. However, at the same time, you are feeling hurt and weak. When another messenger comes with the same message, you will have gathered some courage. This is because you already know.

Ifyakucetekela nefyo fibomba

What to expect and how things work

Nsoselo 148

Nkalamo ukukalipa itampila pabo

Ubukali bwa nkalamo butampila cabe ilyo yafyalwa, ico icaba cimo ceka no muntu umunkalwe ufyalwa.

Kwaliba abantu bamo abatafwayapo ukulengululwa, kano ico basosa ecekeco. Nangu mweshe shani, kano ifyo asosa efyo mucite. Limbi babetati, bamunshololwa.

The fierceness of the lion begins at its home

The lion's vicious behaviour starts from birth. The same applies to a man with a wicked heart. There are certain people who never wish to be corrected, only wanting others to follow their orders. Even if you do your best to convince them, they will only insist that you do as they wish. Sometimes, they are called the unruly ones.

Nsoselo 149

Mwenda mainsa taceba kwiulu

Tulingile ukuba abaipekanya mu ncito ili yonse twaibimbamo nokwishibati nshita ikapingula ifya kucita.

Inshita amainsa aisa, tuleshiba ati ni mfula nomba. Kanshi twalinga ukuipekanya ifyakufwala fya iyi nshita. Na mu mainsa tulokubomba nga lyonse.

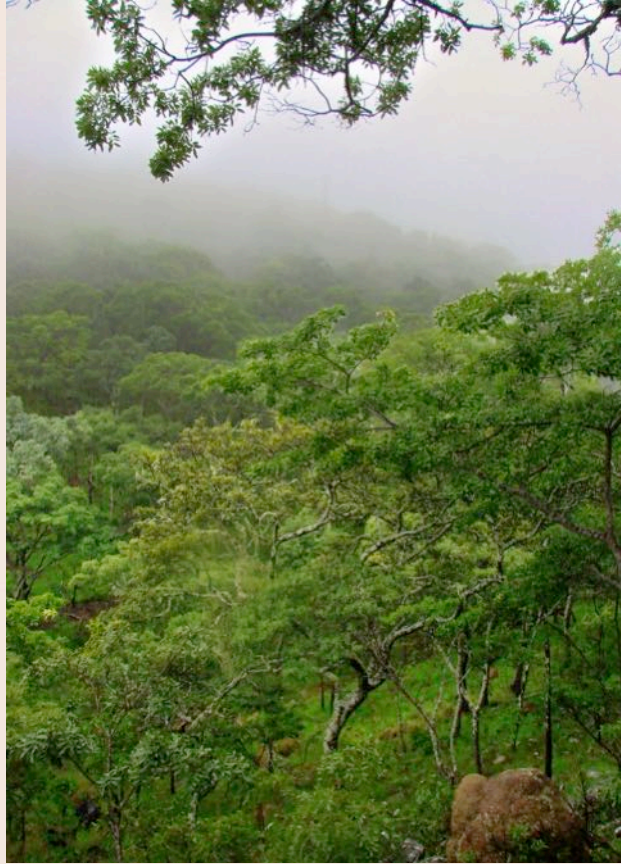
Katulabile ati ulabombela umuntu. Nomba, lyonse bwaka alakupela ifya kucita, napo ungaisosha ati aliba nensambu shakucita ifyo?

When travelling in the rainy season, one does not look at the sky

We must be prepared for any work we undertake, but circumstances dictate our actions.

During the rainy season, we know that it will rain, so we must prepare ourselves with appropriate clothing for that period. We should continue working normally, even if it rains heavily.

Suppose you work for someone. Now, every time he gives you an assignment, are you going to dispute whether he is authorised to do so?



Nsoselo 150

Ubukulu bwa nkoko, masako

Inkoko ipimwa ulo ikolola ukubikapo na masako. Nomba cilya cipimo tecopo pantu fimbi ifilinga amasako tatulyapo!

Ulo tukoshitisha inkoko tupimina kumo na masako, takwabapo uko bafukula elo bashitisha iyoo. Kanshi ubucindami bwa nkoko masako.

The size of a chicken: its feathers

While it is true that you can only judge something by its appearance, you should be aware of the downside of judging by outward appearance.

When we want to sell a chicken, we consider its size along with its feathers. Thus, the chicken's appeal is its feathers. However, this is not ideal, as feathers are not eaten.

Nsoselo 151

Tabwakwete munkumbi kabumena?

Icintu conse calikwata intampilo.

Kuti wapusanya shani icintu libe taulatampako ukubombelapo?

Mubwikashi bwesu muno calo, umuntu onse alakwata ico atemwisha pakuti akese ba bwino kuntanshi. Ulo tuya ku sukulu tulafwaya ukusambilila pakuti nafwe twise tubeko ifyo tukofwaya.

If it had no stem, would it grow?

Everything we do is based on past actions and prior preparations.

How can you achieve something if you do not begin working on it?

In this world, we all have future plans we wish to achieve. When we go to school, we aim to learn so that we become what we aspire to be. We prepare for a long journey. We raise our children to ensure they do well.

Nsoselo 152

Pa kufumapo kambí kasuba ukanaka

Ukasumina kumashiwi nakwena lintu ukashala weka.

Sansamuka ulo abafyashi bobé bacili abomi noku shupikwa lintu nabaya. Tawaka kwate ubusungishi bwaku bafyashi.

You'll agree, the day I have left you ...

You'll accept what I have told you the day I leave you behind (I die).

Rejoice while your parents are still alive and regret when they are gone. You will no longer have parental care.

Nsoselo 153

Uwa kalema takaleka

Ndeta misoka taleka.

Uwabelela ukwiba ifyabene mu mabala nangu mu mayanda naena eko fyamutwala. Kanshi lyonse bwaka wakusangwa mu fifungo.

A bad habit is hard to break

Once you live like that, you cannot stop.

Someone who is used to stealing from the fields or homes will become dependent on it, and will only stop when they end up in prison.

Nsoselo 154

Apali umunwe epali ne bala

Ico wimininepo eci citika.

Mwaliba imilimo iingi nomba cila umo alikwata uko camutwala nokukoselela eko abikisha amano pakuti imoneke.

Wherever your finger points, there will be a field for you

People's intentions differ, just as people differ.

There are many types of talents in the world, and each of us pursues what is valuable to us in order to see results in the end.



Nsoselo 155

Akalyo akanini kalaleta umulyolyo

Ngawapelwa utunini, epa kufwaya nafimbi.

Nji nsoselo ilabilwa patwa bwalwa utunini namu makwebo afyakulya. Balapela dyonko pakuti wishibe ubune bulimo. Bukulu bwa cipimfya wapelwa ebulenga ukushitilapo nafimbi.

A little food makes you want more

When you get a little, you want more.

This proverb is applied by small beer and food businesses. They offer you a small foretaste, so you can experience the quality. The small portion size entices you to buy more.

Nsoselo 156

Akanwa kamufungo kene kailetelele

Nga ulipo nacimo mu mano, kuti wailetelela nga taucenjele mukusosa.

Ilyashi lisoswa mucalo lingi, eico umuntu uuli no mulandu, ala supa lyonse eukososa pakuti abantu bamumfwe. Nomba mukulabila labila nangu tewepo bepwishe, bonse baeshiba ati niwe umulandu ukumine.

The mouth of the guilty one will betray him

Even though your guilt is not yet clear, your reckless language indicates your connection.

Topics of discussion are many in this world, so it is not wise for a guilty person to take the lead and have people listen to them. Because of this continuous talking, even though you were not asked, people will conclude that you must be involved!

Nsoselo 157

Nalilile mu mpanga, tamuli icamwine

Ifyasangwa fyonse fya bonse, takupo umwine.

Mu mpanga ba Lesa babikamo ifintu ifya pusana pusana pakuti fyafwe abantunse. Kanshi takwabapo umwine fya bonse uwabalilapo ku fibona.

I ate it while in the wild, so it belongs to no one

Everything found in the wild is for all; there is no ownership.

In order to help mankind, Lesa put so many different things in the wild. You cannot claim them as your own!

Nsoselo 158

Akalilile nyina, ni mwisaana kafumine

Ifya fiseme fikasokoloka ku ntanshi.

Abana banono balafyengwa ilyo abafyashi babo babepaya, nomba ico balingile ukwishiba cakuti aba bana bakesa ishiba nowacitile filya mpaka nabo bakacite icilandushi icabipa.

The thing that cried for its mother emerged from the egg

Eventually, what is hidden will be revealed.

Children who have been treated unfairly, for instance, will understand this as adults and will come to bring trouble to the wrongdoer.

Nsoselo 159

Ubushiku bwaluba umukote ne cimbiw canye mfwi

Apa calola mukwebati, ificitika fyaba nenshila/nangu impela iyakubwenako.

Mu nganda mwikala, abana ilinji balaya mukwangala kubanabo. Kulya kwine ulo bafyashi babanabo bapekanya icakulya, nabalya bana bambi balalyako. Ulo babwelela kunanda yabo, abafyashi tyabeshibapo ati abana babo nabalya. Ngabapekanya icakulya, nabalya balile ku mulandu wa mwenso pantu balibakanya balaya mukulya. Ico besa mukubwenako mikutile! Uli apa nebo naikuta, libe inshima icily ikulu. Epo beshibila ati balililepo kumbi. Nokulingana ne nsoselo, ulo umukote aluba, nakonse uko bakosanga apa nyelele icimbwi pakuboneka mfwi mfwi, bakatontonkanyati cimbiw calile bakuti nabakuti.

An old man goes missing and the hyena excretes grey hair

We must always consider the relationships between things and the hints about these relationships that are given to us. When an old person goes missing, the faeces of a hyena can tell the story of that missing grey-haired person.

In a home, children go out to play with friends. Where they are, the parents prepare food for all, so including for them. But when they return home, their parents will also have prepared food, not knowing that they have already eaten. Because they have been warned never to eat at other homes, the children will still partake in the eating but will not eat much. Then the parents will know that the children ate somewhere else.

Nsoselo 160

Mwaice kulumbula kabondo kansha, ninshi alikabwene

Abaice taba bepapo mu fintu fimo. Ifyo umwana umwaice asosa ninshi alikabwene, tekuti asepo ifyo atabwene.

Pa nanda kati abalume baipayapo akanama (ubuswete) ngabana bena liba elyashi uko baya mu kwangala naba nabo. Necilenga ninci: tabeshibapo ati ili lyashi lingaleta ulupato kubakulu bambi pantu tababa peleko ifyo abana bakolabila.

A child who mentions a duiker's leg has seen one

Children do not lie about certain things. This sort of thing cannot be made up by a child, so it must have been seen recently.

When a man kills an animal and brings it home, his children may make it an important news item for other children. They do not know that those stories might lead to families disagreeing because the meat wasn't shared.

Nsoselo 161

Akalimba ka kwashima takapwa misango

Icakwashima tacilipo cobe. Tontonkanya pa kashita ka kubomba.

Umuntu nga aashima icipe, alinga ukucibomfya bwangu bwangu pantu abane kuti baisa mukupoka panshita ateneke.

Tatulingile ukucisunga pa nshita itali kubati cesu.

A borrowed musical instrument won't give you time to play all types of music

A borrowed item is not truly yours. Consider the time factor.

When you borrow anything, be it a bicycle or a banjo, you should start using it for its intended purpose promptly, as the owner might want it back unexpectedly.

Do not keep it for too long as if it were your own.



Nsoselo 162

Imfula pakuya epo yonaula ifisabo

Ilapwa nga yapwililila.

Imilimo iyingi isa mukonaika lilya line yaya mukupwa.

Shimbi nshita ifilyo fya mwibala filonaika ku mfula pa kulekelesha, nokukula fyalikula kale.

Icipupu ca mfula cilenga amataba esu ukuwa panshi ilyo nenshita ya mfula ukupwa ili mupepi, elo teti mu abushe yonse mwibala, elo yonse yacili abishi!

It is only when the rainy season is almost ending, that crops are spoiled

It is only finished when it is truly finished.

Most work runs the risk of being spoiled, especially when it is almost complete.

Sometimes, crops in the fields, already ready to be harvested, are spoiled when the rains are almost ending. Rains that come with strong winds push the maize stalks down at the end of the season, and it is impossible to salvage them all while they are still fresh.

Nsoselo 163

Malinso ukontela akasuba nipabakulu

Taulipo icishi ukuba weka. Ciweme ukwipusha abantu abapitamo pakuti bakwafwe. Mu cine tatwafyalwapo na mano, eco twalinga ukwipusha ku bakulu. Mbo abapitamo mu mafya nomutali, banga kupako amano nga. Nci pakuti cibombe, nku kwishibana bwino nabo kulingile ukuba ukwakosa.

The house lizard sunbathes near the elders

You are not an island. Do not stay away from elders who can share their knowledge with you. The truth is that we are not born with knowledge; we learn it from elders. Having experienced both favourable and unfavourable situations, they are able to share their wisdom. For this to be effective, our relationship with them must be strong.

Nsoselo 164

Ubucushí bupa amano

Ngatapali icilekokushupa, tatukwata ukutontokanya ukucilile palya pantu fyonse fili bwino. Icalo ca Zambia caba pakati kafyalo ifingi elyo nobukwebo bwafintu tukabila sana bupita muli ifi fyalo. Kununa uku ifipe fyesu fyalikupita mu Southern Rhodesia (lelo Zimbabwe) mpaka Ian Smith aishile poka icalo ku maka. Apa pene nokumfwana kwalipwile, kanshi nomba Zambia atontonenye inshila shimbi ishakubomfya pakuti ifipe filokufika muno calo. Pa nshita imo ine Zambia alikwafwako nokulwila ubuntungwa bwa calo ca Southern Rhodesia. Kanshi ukucula kwa Zambia kwalengele ukukwata umupaipi wakuleta amafuta ukufuma ku Tanzania, babikapo ne njanji Tazara.

Poverty gives wisdom

When nothing is troubling you, you do not need to employ your wits as much, for all is well. Zambia is a landlocked country, and all its cargo must pass through the neighbouring countries. Previously, all our imports travelled through Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) until Ian Smith declared a Unilateral Declaration of Independence for that country. From that point, the relationship deteriorated. As Zambia suffered greatly, a plan for an oil pipeline from Tanzania and the Tanzania-Zambia Railway was implemented.

Nsoselo 165

Nine menso twende, matwi shala

Lyonse boneni mu bumi ifinene ukucilapo ifinakwe.

Bacibulu banga bomba imilimo ikosele pantu bakobona ncito ili pantanshi yabo.

My eyes say: let's go. You, my ears, remain behind

Always consider which things in life are more important than others.

Deaf people can do physical work because they can see the work ahead of them.

Nsoselo 166

Icupo musana

Uilengule ukubona ulo utangacita.

Tekubapo penka mucupo. Nakambi cikupapusha ukwebati mu cupo mwaba ifya kukumana nomwanakashi. Ipushanyapo naba mfunda wafyupo mbo bakakweba ifyo bakasubila kubonamu cupo. Napo uka kwanisha ukusansamusha mwina move inshita yakuba mu cupo nankwe? Nci cakuba cimo pafingi bakukweba.

Pa kuya mumpanga mukwipaya nama, longanika fyonse ififwaikwa pantu tawa kakwatepo inshinta imbi iya kubwelela kumushi. Kati ekwamba, pokako amalamuno kuli mbo aba fibombapo akale.

Marriage involves the waist

Make sure you're prepared before you act.

You don't just get married. It shouldn't surprise you that marriage involves sex. Contact marriage counsellors who will discuss with you in detail what is expected of you. Are you fit to satisfy your partner during sex? This could be one of the issues explained.

If you go out to hunt, gather all the requirements, as you may not have time to collect them by returning home. And if it is your first time, seek advice from those who are familiar with such ventures.



Nsoselo 167

Cungulo alapeteke/alanasha

Epa kunaka nomba. Icintu conse caliba nakashita apo cikesa kupwila. Akasuba kalafuma akacelo nokuwa icungulo.

Tulingile ukwishiba ukuti nangu twingacita icilishani, kuntanshi cili nokupwa. Kwaliba abana bashumfwapo kubafyashi babo. Mukasanga atumpa nokubutuka ukufuma pananda. Abafyashi tabasakamana, beba fye ati akobwela. Nomba ulo kawa akasuba, yakwana inshita yakulala, ulya uwabutwike amano esamo kubwelela ku nanda, apa nomba anaka. Nomba ninshita ya mufyashi ukumufundako panono kuka bwembya pakuti eshibe ati ifyo acitile filubo.

The evening makes humble

Time will tell. Everything takes its time to come to an end. The sun rises and, at some point, it will set down.

Whatever we do, we should remember that one day it will come to an end. There are children who are very naughty with their parents. They tend to run away from home thinking that it is over. Parents do not worry because they know that time will come when the child returns. When the sun sets down, the guilty child comes back humbled, and the parents treat him with a few strokes so that he realises the wrong thing he did.

Nsoselo 168

Ubunga bupelele noko tabalyamo

Tekuti ucetekele uli onse ukucila ulupwa lobe angula ifibusa ifinga kusunga.
Umufyashi umwanakashi abaka abana bakwe pakubalilapo. Iwe kati teba noko tabaka kupe
icakulya bapekenye.

Mealie meal prepared by the mother will not be shared with others

You cannot expect anyone other than your family and close friends to take care of you.
A mother feeds her children first, so, if she is not your mother, she won't feed you.

Nsoselo 169

Ako tutalya tukalila mukanakwe

Nangu wingayumfwa kukwata maka pa fintu fimbi, telyonse wingafikwatila.

Ifyo 'tatulya' limbi tungalila kupitila mu fyakulya fyaibela.

Ifishimu, kwati nina munsungwe nsungwe, fyakulya libe fitula ku fipempele ifyo tutafwaya ukulya. Nakambi tatulyapo imyambo nombamba isabi ilyotulya lyena lilalya.

Nangu tungaseka abantu abalya imyambo yangula ifipempele, kuku lekekesha bonse tulalya imyambo ne fipempele.

"We don't eat that", but we might do so through other forms of food

No matter how much control you think you have over things, you don't always have it.

What we believe "we don't eat" we may consume in other forms. Some caterpillars are eaten, but they originate from larvae that most people would rather not consume. Similarly, we don't eat worms, yet the fish we consume may have eaten them.

Even though we might laugh when people eat worms or larvae, ultimately, we consume them.

Nsoselo 170

Kalulu tapusuka mpya shibili

Nci cila labilwa umo casangwa nokupwisha bwafya pantu usangilwemo talikukwata ishuko ilya kutekatwa.

Mu mpanga amwapita umulilo, kulaba ukuteya utululu pakukwatako umunani. Nga mwateya pamo apendela akalulu, elyo mwaya kuteya nakumbi, nangu acabashani, pambi kakoisa kwikatwa.

Ecimo cine nangu kati ulu mung'o, bumbi bushiku ukekatwa.

A hare will not escape the fire in two places

This is said of a situation which will eventually be resolved, as the person involved will not always be fortunate enough to avoid capture.

When a piece of forest is burnt, people typically set animal traps, particularly for hares. If traps are put in two different places, at least one trap is likely to catch an animal.

The same applies to thieves; one day they will be caught.

Nsoselo 171

Akanika kupota bwino nipa mabwe

Ifintu fyaikatana tafilekanapo.

Tulomfwa uko utunika tupota bwino nico panshi apa ponena amenshi paliba amabwe.

Nangu bafyashi abakwata abana balamoneka bwino pantu balaba tangata mukubafwailako ifyakufwala ne ndalama shakubomfya ku milimo iyalekana lekana kwati bulimi.

Imfumu nayo pakuti baite ati mfumu kano ili nabantu mu calo.

Ne mfumu ilingile ukusunga abantu baiko bwino.

The sound of a waterfall in a river is nice because of the stones

Some things are inseparable. When something is the result of two or more factors, we cannot simply point to one of them as the cause.

When you hear a pleasing sound coming from a waterfall, it is because the water drops onto the stones.

Parents do not only care for their children. Once the parents grow old, they will depend on their children for support, such as providing decent clothing and money to use for various projects, such as farming.

A chief, to be considered a chief, must fulfil the duty of looking after the people in his chiefdom.



Nsoselo 172

Musekela nama emulya cifupa

Ukuba uwaipelesha mukubomba imilimo kuntanshi kuti twalambulwa.

Ulo bacibinda baya mu mpanga, bambi abantu balaipelesha ukuya nabo pakuti baya bafwako ukusenda inama pakubwela. Aba ebo na cibinda alambula pa mulimo babombela. Nomba ulya uushala mu mushi pakuti ese alyeko bwaka tapali ico asangamo, tei nao asubile ukukwatako icipinwa.

Helping to pick up the meat ends in eating a bone

When you volunteer to help, at the end you are likely to be rewarded.

When hunters go out hunting, some people volunteer to accompany them so that they can help in carrying the meat after the hunt. These are the people the hunter rewards for the work done. But those who remain in the village waiting to partake in the eating should not expect a good share.

Nsoselo 173

Sontwa minwe mwana takula

Umwana ncita fibi balamusontaula, teti abe neshuko.

Abantu balatasha iciweme mukwita amashina nayambi abacitile. Nomba nduno kati bakusonta lelo na mailo weka we, tawakakwate ishuko mu bumi bobo. Umwana kati lyonse nincita fibi lyonse kusontwa nangu wakula ukaba umuntu umubi.

Umwana pakukula, abafyashi bakwe eba mubona imisango yakwe no kwishiba kati akaba bwino yangula iyoo. Nga wacumfwila balamutemwa sana, nomba ngatomfwapo yonse nshita kusontwa iminwe, imikulile yakwe taiba bwino pambi alemana mukutangalapo bwino ngali temenwe ukulwa naba nankwe.

A child who is constantly being pointed at will not develop well

A child who is always pointed at may not be blessed.

People praise what is good by naming those who achieved it. However, if you are pointed at today and again tomorrow, you may not be lucky in life. When a child frequently does bad things and is therefore often pointed at, he will also, as an adult, be a bad person.

During a child's growth, parents observe all their behaviour and know what type of person they will become. If well-mannered, parents love him dearly, but if ill-mannered, with fingers always pointing at them, their development becomes unstable; they may become lame due to fighting with friends.

Nsoselo 174

Umwana wandi afyalila mukwenda

Ukuta konka bwino muli fyonse kunga lenga nolupwa lobe ukuta konka bwino. Abanakashi balacindikwa ukusala ukukwata cupo cimo umo bonse abafyashi bakapela ifunde liweme ku bana babo. Abana baba nabawishibo abapusene pusene tabakakwate ukucindika bawishibo bali nabo. Icupo cacine cileta insansa nomutende ku lupwa lonse.

My daughter has children by different fathers

Instability in any aspect of your life may affect your family's stability. Women are respected when they choose to marry within a single union, where both parents discipline their children well. Children with different fathers cannot be disciplined by their current father. A proper marriage can bring happiness and stability to the whole family.

Nsoselo 175

Imfinshi tailya, icilya cintu cenda mumfinshi

Abantu ababi bomfwa bwino ukucita ifibi kwabula ukubabona, mumfinshi.

Kanshi kano lyonse mwaba abakucenjela kufyo musosa palwelele, pantu abantu babi bakakwata apakwingilila nokucita nco cilubo kunuma yobe. Bonse abaumfwileko kufyo walabile bakesa kweba bwaka ati niwe.

Icilangililo nipa buloshi. Awa eba muntu ati nkakulowa! Bancita fibi ebakacita nabonse bakalanguluka ati niwe wacitile. Mukwipifya, ifintu fibi ficitwa mu mfinshi.

Darkness itself does not harm, but what moves within it does

Bad people feel it is always good to perform their actions unseen, in the dark.

Therefore, you need to be careful about what you say openly, as bad people may take advantage of it and act behind your back. Everyone who hears you speak will conclude that you are the one responsible.

An example is that of witchcraft. Imagine you said to a person: "I shall bewitch you!" Now, the bad people will carry out the bewitching, and everyone will think of you as the one who did it. In short, bad actions are done unseen, in darkness.

Nsoselo 176

Umungu wambuto ni Lesa wabika

Fimbi fintu, tatwalinga nokwipusha ifyo fyatampile, kufisenda ngefyo fili.

Lesa ewapangile fyonse fintu. Nokuta twishika alibikilemo ne mbuto.

Kubana kufyalwa, abakulu balalondololapo utwamalyashi utwakale pantu bali pitilemo nokubona. Tapali nshila iyo mba banakufyalwa benga shininkishishamo muli nga malyashi kati acine. Ubwasuko nimbu: Tamwaliko, fisendeni fye.

The seed for this pumpkin, Lesa put it there

With certain things, we don't have to ask ourselves how they came to be; we should take them as they are.

Lesa created all things, which obviously included seeds for plants.

To the young, elders tell stories of the past simply because they experienced what was there.

There is no way for the young to verify this information. The answer is: You weren't there, just take it.

Nsoselo 177

Uwaingila mu mushitu tomfwapo inswaswa

Ukuba uwashipa ne ncito twasenda.

Kwaba incito ishipusene pusene nomba cili ukuipima fwebene ukusala incito tukofwaya ukubomba.

Muli buсібinda balaya, mu mpanga umwaba ifiswango ifyo ifinga twipaya. Kanshi tulingile ukushipa ukukana ba no mwenso. Incito yabu malukula, yakusunge fitumbi fyabantu abakofwa ku malwashi nangu mu masanso apa musebo. Nomba ngataushipile tekuti uyi bombe ilya ncito.

Whoever enters a thicket in the wild should not fear the rustling of dry leaves

In for a penny, in for a pound.

Before embarking on any work or activity, you must ask yourself if you are prepared to see it through.

In hunting, one ventures into the wild knowing there are beasts that may kill us if we are not careful, so we must be courageous and unafraid. The work of being a mortuary attendant, checking and tending to dead bodies resulting from illnesses or from road accidents, also requires courage. Without it, one cannot do that job.

Nsoselo 178

Amenso abwene ing'ombe, lelo ese atambe imbushi?

Ukwishiba nokukwata ifyaliko e kafundisha wacine pantu alelula ifyaliko. Kati walibwenepo ing'ombe ku ncende imo, tekutipo ikucimfye kwebati ni mbushi wabwene. Kuti baesha kukweshwa, elo ungabomfya nji nsoselo.

Abantu balafwa, nge cilangililo, kumulandu wakuteshiba imiti. Ulo njimiti yabwangu ('mbushi') yatampile ukubomfiwa, abantu balikwete nshila ('ngombe') yakucimfishishamo amalwele. Lesa eka ewaishibe ifyo yakobomba nokubomba bwino. Lisambililo kubana kufyalwa ukupokelela nokubomfya amano akale mukuyasumina nokweshwa ukuyabomfya.

Eyes that once saw cattle now see goats?

First-hand experience is the best teacher, as it reveals what was truly there.

If you saw cattle somewhere, you will not be convinced you saw goats. However, others might try to convince you otherwise, and then you can use this proverb.

People die, for example, due to a lack of knowledge of herbs. Before scientific drugs ('goats') were introduced, people had methods ('cattle') to overcome illnesses. Only Lesa knows how it worked, but it worked nicely. It serves as a lesson to the young, to sometimes take 'old' advice with the full belief that it is worth trying.



Nsoselo 179

Akasuba walya impwa tashikola, pamo fiya

Uuli onse anga lubapo limo nomba ukukonkanyapo ukucita cimo ceka, cinga kubipila. Pasopo!
Mulandu obe.

Impwa shalikhwata ifikola mukati, nomba nga walya muku umo, tapapo ifi citika. Ngakulya imiku
nemiku umubili ulatampa kumfwa ububi.

Impwa won't intoxicate you the first time, but if you keep eating it, it will

Anyone can get away with one mistake, but if you keep on doing dubious things, it will harm you.
Beware! It will be your fault.

Impwa (a type of capsicum) contains intoxicating substances, but if taken once, there is no effect.
If taken repeatedly, the body starts reacting negatively.

Nsoselo 180

Lwimbo lumo talwipaye nama

Tefyonse fintu fya tambalala angula ukunaka ukucimfya.

Imisango inji angula amaka yangafwaikwa ukulingana nenshita.

Kuli ukubomfya muti ikali pakwipaya insofu, iyo mutangabomfya pa kwipaya kalulu.

Saleni amashiwi nokucita bwino pakulanshanya nabantu aba pusana pusana.

One song doesn't kill game

Not everything is straightforward or easy to achieve.

Different methods or efforts may be needed depending on the situation. It takes a powerful gun to kill an elephant, something you wouldn't use on a rabbit.

Choose your words and actions carefully when dealing with different people.

Nsoselo 181

Amenshi ni noko, tabipa

Wikanapo ifintu ifikankala kuli iwe.

Pafintu tufwaisha sana sana ku mubili, menshi. Ulo waba ne cilaka ca menshi, ufwaisha sana ukunwa amenshi nangu limbi tayakobonekapo ukwela, ukanwa. Eico umufyashi obe mwanakashi nangu aboneke umbi pa menso, ni noko walinga ukumupa umucinshi. Kuti abanobe balanda ifibi pali ba noko, iwe tekuti ufishumine.

Water is like your mother: neither can ever be bad for you

Don't deny the things that are important for you.

Of all the bodily needs, water comes first. When you are thirsty, there is a great desire to drink water, even if it may not be clean. Similarly, even if your mother appears unattractive, she is still your mother and deserves respect. If some friends speak ill of your mother, you will not join in.

Nsoselo 182

Kanshi ishamo limonekela nakutulo

Tuli bantu na mano. Iyo tucili abomi, libe natubuka yangula tulilele, tubomfya amano mu kwikala bwino nokwafwa bambi.

Limbi limbi kuti fyacitika ulo ulele walota ukusangwa ne shamo munshila utenekele. Elo, apapita utwanshiku, iwe, yangula umbi umwina mupalamano, wasangwa bu bwafya ubukulu. Tekubapo fyeka ifyo walotele mbulya bushilu, lelo mu musango umbi uwakukusha, yangula muli ngulya mu musango we shamo.

Misfortune may reveal itself during sleep

We humans are endowed with wisdom. As long as we live, whether awake or asleep, we will use wisdom to order our lives and help others.

It may occasionally happen that during your sleep you dream of experiencing misfortune in an unexpected situation. Then, a few days later, you, or someone else close to you, find yourselves in dire straits. Although it is not necessarily what you dreamt that night, something has led you into an unfortunate situation.

Nsoselo 183

Inanda tabaibwena kumutenge ubune

Te fintu tubona ku menso efingalenga ukushininkisha ati eflyo fyaba.

Ulo tubona abantu abaikala mu cupo kunse yananda bali abansansa, tekwebapo ati fyonse fiweme mu nanda. Ifilandwa mukati ka nanda fimbi yangula ifitawemepo ifingalenga icupo ukupwa.

The value of a house cannot be seen from its roof alone

What we see is often insufficient to conclude that something is good or always that way.

When we observe married couples appearing happy outside their homes, we cannot assume all is well. What is said and done inside the house may be rather different and could ultimately lead to divorce.



Nsoselo 184

Mungulube tabuka bwaka, kubona ici mubusha

Icintu ngaca citika ninshi kulipo icalenga.

Mungulube mukasuba tendaukapo, nomba amwasanga akobutuka ninshi pali abamubusha afwayepo ukwakuti akafisame.

Na bantu bene, tekutipo ukalipe bwaka apatapo nangu cimo, kano bakukalifya nawe epakulalipa.

The bush pig does not wake up for nothing; something must have roused it

Something happens for a reason.

During the day, the bush pig does not run about. So, when you see it running, just know that something made it wake up and run for safety.

The same goes for people. You don't get angry just like that; something will have provoked it!

Nsoselo 185

Uko tauli imbwa yobe taibutuka/taikata

Bambi abantu balasankanya malyashi, nakuli mbo aba bafwako.

Ilyo umuntu aashima imbwa yenu mukulunga, bali ishiba ati ilabutuka nokwipaya inama. Nomba kubucenjeshi bwabo pantu tabakofwayapo naiwe we mwine bakulumbeko, besa mukubeba ati teyopo ikete inama. Nakambi akesa kwashima mbwa imo yeka.

When you are not there, your dog suddenly fails to run/catch

Some people make up stories, even for those who help them.

When a person borrows a hunting dog, they know it is a very good dog at running and killing animals. Because they think they are too clever and do not want to share the spoils with the dog's owner, they cheat the owner by saying the dog failed to run after/catch the animal. Still, they will borrow the same dog again next time.

Nsoselo 186

Inshiku tashicela mumo

Ifintu kuti fyayaluka fimbi, tuleba abakusubila.

Ificitika umuye nshiku filapusana.

Nga wali cula, telyonse ukabelelela, bumo bushiku bamo bakesa kwafwa.

Days do not dawn all the same

Things can change; we should remain expectant.

What happens daily varies from day to day, or over periods of days.

If you are poor, it does not mean that you will be like that forever; one day people may come and help you.

Nsoselo 187

Umweni acindamina ku mukaya

Abanga cindika umulwendo nimbalya abo aya atandalila, te bantu bambi abatamwishibilepo iyoo. Umuntu kati afuma ku mushi ukuya ku tauni mukubona ulupwa, mbalya abo asanga nkulya bamwishiba eba kumusansamukila ukulanga bambi ati ulya muntu mukaya wabo. Nabambi abaibelele bakakwata ukucindika ngulya muntu. Amwa mupufya, cingapela kwisa ku bantu bambi?

A visitor is treated with respect by the people who know him well

It is normal to expect that when you visit people who know you well, they will show you respect. However, you cannot expect this from those who do not know you. When you leave home and visit towns to see relatives, those you find there who know you well will receive you with respect. They also do this to prompt others to give you respect. If you show a negative attitude towards someone you know well, what will you do towards unknown people?

Nsoselo 188

Iciiba mutima, iminwe taibapo

Fwailisheni fili ku mutima ifilenga fimo ukucitika.

Umutima ku muntu ekampingu wafintu akofwaya ukucita. Ulunkumbwa nalo ilyo amenso abona lulenga umutima ukufwailisha inshila yakukwatilamo cilya cintu.

Icikonkapo kutemwa ukubula cilya cintu nangu ukwiba pakuti ba mutima basekelemo. Mwabona nombona, iminwe eyisenda ncilya cintu. Kunuma nku, kabwalala bali kumuputula amaboko pakuti bonse bamubone. Iminwe yaculilamo, libe umutima wikele tondolo.

Fwe bantu ilinji line bambi balafwaya ukutubomfya pakuti ngawaikatwa bonse bakaseka iwe. Kanshi tube abaibukila pa fintu abantu bambi bakofwaya fwe tubacitile.

The thief is the heart, not the fingers

Try to understand what lies behind a certain action.

The heart in a person decides what to do. The desire for something after having seen it, prompts the heart to seek ways to act. What follows is the desire to obtain that item through theft. Now you can see: the hand picks that item, but the decision was made by the heart. Long ago, a thief had his hand cut off so that everybody could see! The hand suffered while the heart remained untouched. Often, ordinary people are the ones who are being used in evil acts so that, in the end, they will be blamed instead of the real perpetrators. So, let us be careful to check what assignments they want us to undertake on their behalf.



Nsoselo 189

Kasolo afulila pa lubwebwe tekuti akelepo

Kufintu fikoboneka mungeshiba icikonkapo.

Kasolo uwaimbila ifuli pa mabwe, kwishiba bwaka ati taikalepo apa nshita itali.

Nabantu bene pakwimaka umushi, balabala babona incende ilingile apali umushili wa filyo, apa tekalilwa amenshi ne miti yakutemamo utwakwimakila.

If a mouse digs a hole where there are many stones, it won't stay there for long

From what you see, you can tell what will come next.

When a mouse digs where there are many stones, you know that it will not stay there for too long because the hole will not go deep enough.

This is also applicable to people who want to establish a new village. The first thing to do is to see if the soil is good enough for crops, the area is not waterlogged, and there are enough trees. If you do not look for these signs, you might be surprised and leave sooner than you want.

Nsoselo 190

Mwipika umo alashatisha

Cikankala ukukwata ifyakupusana pusanako mu bumi bobe.

Ngatakuli ifyakupusanako, ukulya kukaba ukwacepela elyo nefikashalapo mu mpoto fikalala.

Ukwipika nako kuti kwacitwa mu nshila ishapusana. Ngateifyo, cikapela mbo abakolya ukutendwa nemipikile yenu. Nge cilangililo nci, kati ni cilemba, natumbi tulingile ukusanshwako pakuti iboneke kubati niyimbi.

Nci tekwebati niku cakulya ceka iyo cili nakufintu fimbi kubati kwikala mu ncende ishipusene pusene nokumona nafimbi yangula ukufwala ifyakufwala ifipusene pusene.

Always the same recipe makes the pot burn what is inside

It is important to have variation in your life.

Without it, there will be less enjoyment, and the food remaining in the pot will be burnt.

Cooking can be done in different ways; otherwise, those eating your food will become bored. For example, if it you are cooking beans, something should be added to create a balanced and appealing meal.

This principle applies also to other aspects of life, such as changing your residence to experience something different or wearing different clothes.

Nsoselo 191

Ifitenge fibili filefyanya

Amabumba alekene kuti akwata ulupato ku inankwe. Amabumba abili tayakwata amalangulushi amo ene.

Ngamwali belela uku kumana nabantu bamo bene mwibumba limo pa ncende imo ine yakutushishapo, tekuti ukwate kususha kwabula umwenso kufyo bacita nokukonka ifya mwi bumba apo bakumanina libili libili mu ncende shimbi.

Ico bakonka ca bantu ukupanga utubungwe ututafwaya kufwailisha ifilenga tumbi utubungwe ukusela.

Two groups despise one another

Separate groups may dislike one another. Two camps often do not share the same views.

When you are accustomed to meeting with the same group of people in one resting place, you may not be open to the practices and considerations of another group meeting regularly in a different resting place.

The tendency is for people to form groups that are reluctant to explore what motivates other groups.

Nsoselo 192

Icatwala iise, nga mupini ngatwakula umbi

Calyanguka ukufwailapo fimbi fintu, lomba calyafya uku pyanikishako fimbi.

Kwaba fimo ifyo twingomfwana fwe bene palwesu elo fimbi kwipusha kuli bambi.

To lose a hoe! If it were the hoe handle, we could make another one

Some things are easy to replace, while others are difficult.

There are matters that we can resolve ourselves and matters for which we need the involvement of others.

Nsoselo 193

Kwenu ni kwikoshi

Ukwishiba no kwibukisha intuntuko yobe calilinga pantu ukaluba ukwakuya nga wapelelwa uko waya.

No muntu nawo ilabako inshita ekata kwi koshi, kanshi epa fuma ne nsoselo nji.

Umuntu mwalalume ngaima ukuya mukupa, alasha ulupwa lwakwe nokuya ikala ku buko. Nomba nangu angekala ifyo, alilinga ukuloku tandalila ku mushi wakwe pakuti akoishiba ifikocitika nkulya, tekulabililako iyoo.

Your home is like the back of your neck

It is advisable to know and remember your roots, because when confronted with major problems, you will hesitate to go back to your village if you haven't been visiting it.

Touching the back of the neck is a habit of many, especially when they want to think carefully.

When a man leaves his home to go out and marry, he makes a new home elsewhere, leaving behind his relatives. It is wise to frequently visit your home so that you remain updated, instead of forgetting it completely.



Nsoselo 194

Ing'anda utalalamo baikumbwa umutenge

Tekutipo wishibe ukuloleshafye pa cikopa ce buku.

Cili icamano ukuipela akashita kakulu ulo utalaishiba ifya kucita.

Ungakumbwa mutenge muku ubwena kunse, nokuteshibati ulaloka! Nomba nipesa munga ukumbwila?

You admire the roof of a house you don't sleep in

You cannot judge a book by its cover.

It is wise to give yourself plenty of time before making a big decision.

You can admire the roof from the outside, not knowing that it leaks! And what is there to admire then?

Nsoselo 195

Mutima e muntu wine

Ubuntu bweka tabwa pwililikapo.

Tulafwaya amano akubwena bambi mu micitile yabo. Twalibatemwa paficitwa fyabo ifiweme nokubapata pa ficitwa fyabo ifibipile.

Amano alasokolola buciine bwa bantu kupitila mu micitile yabo. Tekutipo fibombe fyeka, ukwabula ukwikatana.

The heart is the human self

Human beings alone are not complete.

We need wisdom to see others as they are through their actions. We will love them when they do good and hate them when they do evil.

Wisdom will reveal people's true nature through their actions. It cannot function in isolation, without social interaction.

Nsosele shaku Bulaya

European proverbs

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 23

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder

Everyone has their own opinion about what or who is beautiful. Different people have different ideas of beauty, and discussing these opinions can be rather difficult and sometimes futile.

Chibale: Have you seen Kalale's new baby? He looks ugly to my eyes.

Chipolo: You can say what you want; beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Chabala: Personally, I can't understand why Mupeta finds him attractive, but they do say beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Ubulombe bwaba ku menso amwine

Cila muntu alikwata ifimusekesha ifyo eta ati fiweme elo tafilingile ukumu bona ati taishibapo ifiweme.

Chibale: Napo ulimubwene mwana wakwa Kalale uwabwangu? Akoboneka mubipile ku menso anji.

Chipolo: Ungalabila fyonse ukofwaya, ubulombe bwaba mu linso lyamwine.

Chabala: Palwanji, nshumfwilepo mulandu uwo Mupeta amubwena uweme, eco basosela ati ubulombe bwaba no mwine wabuko.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 24

Cleanliness is next to godliness

It is not a personal choice but a moral obligation to keep yourself and your home clean. Maintaining personal hygiene is very important.

Mulenga: Why do I have to take a bath, mother?

Mother: Cleanliness is next to godliness. I think Kapenda, who was sitting next to me in the shelter, never heard of it ...

Ubunyino bwakonka ukwishiba mibele iweme

Tacili cakusala we mwine pantu mubele uweme uwakuisunga we mwine ubusaka napa nanda yobe.

Cikankala ukuisunga ubusaka we mwine.

Mulenga: Nindo nali kusambila bai bama?

Banyina: Ubunyino bwakonka ukwishiba mibele iweme. Natontonkanya ati Kapenda uwaikela mupepi nanebo mu nsaka tatala umfwapo ...

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 25

Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today

Each day has its own work to be done, and so it is better to finish what you have started today. Tomorrow you will have a lot of work, and you may fail to complete it all.

Kabinda: I had such an interesting conversation with Chikoloma, but the result is that my work is not finished at all. I will do it tomorrow morning.

Changwe: Bad idea; tomorrow morning you already have all your morning duties, you cannot combine them with this unfinished work. Don't put off for tomorrow what you can do today.

Wileka ukuti fibe fya mailo ifyo ungabomba lelo

Cila bushiku bwalikwata imilimo yakubomba, kanshi calinga ukupwisha ifyo utampile lelo pantu mailo imilimo ikafula iyakubomba nokufilwa ukafilwa ukupwisha.

Kabinda: Nalikwete ukulanshanya kuweme na Chikoloma nomba imilimo yandi tayapwile iyo. Nakuibomba mailo akacelo.

Changwe: Amano ububi, mailo akacelo uli nefyakubomba cila kacelo, tekuti ufibikepo pamo nefitangashila. Wileka ukuti fibe fya mailo ifyo ungabomba lelo.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 26

A bird in the hand is worth two in the wild

Something is better than nothing.

Mwenda: If only some of the traps hadn't failed, I would have had four rabbits instead of one.

Kalunga: That may be true, but a bird in the hand is worth two in the wild.

Akoni kali muminwe kawamapo kucila tubili utuli mu mpanga

Cawamapo ukukwatapo cimo ukucila nangu kamo.

Mwenda: Ngacakuti ifiteyo tafyacifilwapo, nganakwata utululu tune ukucila kamo.

Kalunga: Cacine, ekwebati akoni kali muminwe kawamapo kucila tumbi tubili ututi mumpanga.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 27

Don't count your chickens before they hatch

Don't rely on something you are unsure about.

Your plans might not work out, so don't start thinking about what you'll do after you succeed.

Wait until you have succeeded, and then you can think about what to do next.

Musonda: You might be able to get a loan from the bank, but don't count your chickens ...

Ngosa: When I win this card game, I will buy a blanket with the money won. This is good, as I have to return a blanket to Chibuye before tomorrow.

Kabamba: I warn you not to count your chickens before they hatch.

Tababelenga nkoko ulo tashilatotwa

Tekweshwa ukushintilila kucintu mutashininkishepo.

Ukupekanya kwenu angula tekuti kubombepo, kanshi tekulangulukapo ifyo mwakucita amwapwa. Lindileni mpaka mwapwisha epakwishiba ifyakucita kuntanshi.

Musonda: Mungaba neshuko lyakwashima indalama ku banki, nomba mwibelenga inkoko shenu ulo tashilatowa.

Ngosa: Kati ngwine pano nakushita ilangeti mu ndalama nawina. Nci cawama pantu nakubweshwa ilangeti kuli Chibuye ulo mailo tailafika.

Kabamba: Nkokucenjeshako ukutabelenga inkoko ulo tashila totwa.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 28

If it ain't broke, don't fix it

We humans seem to have an urge to improve things. However, if something is working adequately well, please leave it alone.

Don't try to improve something that already works well enough; you'll probably end up causing more problems than already existed.

Mushili: Why does your family arrange these matters in this peculiar way?

Mambwe: We are quite content with it; why fix something if it isn't broken?

Ngatacikonekelepo, wilungisha

Ifwe, fwe bantu twaba namano akuwamy a ifintu. Nomba kati ncilya cintu cikobomba bwino, cilekeni ceka.

Tacawama ukwesh a ukulungisha icintu icikobomba bwino. Kuti pakulekelesha wasanga ati caba na mafya na ambi ukucila ayo cakwete.

Mushili: Nindo ulupwa lobe lupekanishisha mfi mu nshila iyibelele?

Mambwe: Efyo tubona bwino, nindo wingalungishisha icitakonelepo?



Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 29

Never look a gift horse in the mouth

If someone offers you a gift, do not question it.

Do not examine a gift, such as looking at the length of a horse's teeth to determine its age, especially not while the giver it is still present.

Chinguwa: I prefer light shirts, but my uncle gave me some dark ones. Well, I shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth and will joyfully try them on.

Wiloleshapo pa bupe kabalwe mukanwa

Ngaumo akupela ubupe, wifumbapo.

Wilolesha pa bupe, kubati kubona ameno aku kabalwe nga atali, kati yana nangu ikote makamaka nomwine akupe epo acili.

Chinguwa: Mfwaishapo utwa mashati utupubile nomba bayama bo kabampa ilitikeme.

Cisuma, nshilingile kulolekesha pa bupe bwa kabalwe mukanwa elo nensansa nkesha fyonse.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 30

Old habits die hard

Existing habits are difficult to change. People generally find it very hard to change their behaviour.

Mwape returned from town after retiring, but he still gets up rather late, as he used to while working in town. Old habits die hard.

Imibele yakale taifwa

Imibele ilipo nduno ikosele ukucinjishiwa. Abantu mubwingi basanga ati calyafya ukucinja imibele.

Mwape elo abwelele kufuma ku tauni ulo alakele incito, nomba nanomba abuka mukucelwa kwati ngefyo alikucita ulo ali pa ncito. Imibele yakale taifwa.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 31

Fortune favours the bold

People who bravely pursue what they want are more successful than those who try to live safely. Opportunities are not for everyone; they are for those who are determined to seize them.

Chisenga: Why must my life be so miserable?

Kunda: Sorry, Chisenga, but when did you ever venture to take a risk, and I don't mean reckless behaviour? Fortune favours the bold.

Ishuko lyatemwa abashipikisha

Abantu abashipa mukufwaya ico bakofwayaisha, ilingi balafisanga ukucila mbo abekala umo bakofwaila.

Ishuko talyabapo kuli onse, liba kuli mbo abaibokako mukulifwaisha.

Chisenga: Nindo ubwikashi bwanji bwabela mukucula cula?

Kunda: Cabipa, Chisenga, nomba nilwisa ulo waeshako ukucisenda muli kaya kaya, na nshikososa ati mukuilekelesha? Ishuko lyatemwa abashipikisha.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 32

Birds of a feather flock together

People tend to spend time with others who are similar to them.

Like-minded people flock together.

Kapenda: Why do you believe Mwewa is dishonest?

Muyinga: All his friends are dishonest. Birds of a feather flock together.

Utuni twa masako apalene twendela pamo

Abantu batemwa ukuposa inshita nabantu ababa nganibo.

Abalya cimo cine bapanga ibumba limo.

Kapenda: Nindo ulangulukila ati Mwewa tabapo uwacine?

Muyinga: Bonse abanankwe tababapo abacine. Utuni twamasako apalene twendela pamo.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 33

The road to hell is paved with good intentions

Good intentions alone have no merit. People may intend to do good deeds but nevertheless fail to carry them out. In such cases, the well-intentioned plans can lead to harmful consequences.

Chola: I really intended to help you resolve the issues with your girlfriend.

Kaluba: Yes, thank you so much, and in the process, you fell in love with her; the road to hell is paved with good intentions!

Nshila yaku ncende ya kuculilako yalitantikwa na mabwe na mapange ayawe

Takwaba cilambu mukukwata amapange aweme. Abantu kuti bakwata amapange yakucita ifintu fiweme nomba balacelwa ukutampako. Amapange mukwete limbi kuti yapwa bubi bubi.

Chola: Mpekenye ukuti nkwapwe mu mafya ukwete no mutemwikwa obe mwanakashi.

Kaluba: Ina, natotela sana nomba munshita mukotwafwa wasuka wamukumbwa; nshila yakuncende yakuculilako yatantikwa na mabwe na mapange ayaweme.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 34

No man is an island

You cannot live completely independently. Everyone needs help from other people. No one is self-sufficient; everyone relies on others for survival.

You are not alone in this world; your actions will always affect someone else.

Chibolele: I did not realise that I would hurt you when I decided to go to my aunt's for a few months.

Chikoloma: You did, as I had prepared a nice surprise for you, but then suddenly you were gone.

Chibolele: Yes, I will try not to be an island in the future.

Takwaba muntu uwaba eka palwakwe

Tekuti wikale weka umupwilapo. Cila umo umo afwaya ubwafwilisho kufuma ku bantu bambi.

Takwaba uwaikwatila fyonse, cila umo ekalila muli bambi pakuti apusuke.

Takwaba weka muli ncino calo; imicitile yobe ikakuma kuli bambi abaibela.

Chibolele: Nshaishibe ati kuti wacenekwa ulo nafwaile ukuya kuli ba nkashi-tata pa myeshi inonofye.

Chikoloma: Calincena pantu nali pekenye icaku kusungusha nombamba fye pantu waliya.

Chibolele: ee nakulaesha ukutekala palwandi neka mu nshiku shikoisa.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 35

Beggars can't be choosers

If you are asking for a favour from someone else, you must accept whatever they give you. People who are in great need must accept any help that is offered, even if it is not a complete solution to their problems. When you cannot have what you want, you must accept whatever you can get.

Kalale: I asked Mukosha to lend me his bicycle, and he gave me this old, rusty one. But beggars can't be choosers.

Katumpa: Let me wear your green dress; I don't like the blue one you lent me.

Mangala: Beggars can't be choosers.

Abapushi tabasalapo

Kati ukofwaya bambi bakwafweko, walinga wapokelela icili conse bakupa. Abantu abali mukufwailisha balingile ukusumina bonse ubwalisho bapelwa, nangu line tebwingapwisha amafya abo. Ulo utangakwata ifyo ukofwaya, walinga wapokelela ico conse wasanga.

Kalale: Naipwishe Mukosha ukungashimako incinga yakwe, nomba ampele iyakale ne ndalabwa. Nomba abapushi tabasalapo.

Katumpa: Kamfwaleko ilaya lyobe ilya katapa katapa; nshatemenwepo lilya ilya bulu wangashimeko.

Mangala: Abapushi tabasalapo.



Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 36

A leopard cannot change its spots

People cannot change who they are; they cannot change their fundamental nature.

What the proverb suggests is that you shouldn't *expect* such a change. Fortunately, it does happen that people change bad habits for the better.

Maseya: After his first marriage ended because of his cheating, he has now cheated on his new wife as well.

Mondwa: Though it is said a leopard cannot change its spots, he could make different choices.

Imbwili tekuti icinje amabala aiko

Abantu tekutipo bacinje ifyo baba. Abantu tekutipo bacinje ifyo bafyalwa.

Umo calola nimukweba ati taulingile *kusubila* nci ukucitika. Muceshuko cila citika abantu ukucinga imisango ibi ku iweme.

Maseya: Ulo icupo cakubalilapo capwile kumulandu wa bufi, elo nomba aibepele umwine mubwikashi bwakwe bwa bwangu.

Mondwa: Nangu baeba ati imbwili tekuti icinje amabala aiko, kuti akwatapo inshila imbi.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 37

You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs

You must give up something to gain something. When you try to do something great, you will probably annoy a few people. Like many other proverbs, this one is often used ironically. Few people would argue that it does not matter what you, or others, lose as long as you gain.

Chabala: My plans to go and settle somewhere else met with a lot of resistance from my wife's parents.

Kapenda: You can't make an omelette without breaking a few eggs. It's just your parents-in-law who don't want to be one of these eggs.

Tekuti upangepo munani wamani akubobaula ukwabula ukuyatoba ngale

Ulingile ukipelesha pakuti unonkelepo cimo. Ngokofwaya ukucitapo cimo icikulu, angula wakukalifyapo abantu bamo abanono.

Kubati ni nsoselo ishing, nji yo yibomfeshiwa muma nkumanya: banono bafwaya ukushininkisha kweba ati temulandu ifyo we, angula bambi, unga lusa we cikulu wanonka.

Chabala: Amapenge anji akuya ikala kumbi ali mukukanishiwa no lupwa lwabakashi bandi.

Kapenda: Tekuti upangepo umunani wamani akutobaula ukwabula uku atobapo amo. Beka bena buko ebatakofwayapo ukuba nge lino limo.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 38

No news is good news

Not hearing about a situation suggests that nothing bad has happened.
Having no information implies that bad developments are unlikely.

Chipolo: I'm worried about my sister. She hasn't called me for weeks.
Kalunga: No news is good news, isn't it?

Takwabapo ilyashi ukuba iliweme

Amutomfwilepo ifili fyone kweba ati tapapo ifiilubene.
Ukutomfwapo ilyashi nako kweba ati kuti kwaba ifyalubana.

Chipolo: Ndi sakamene pali nkashi yanji, tantuminapo foni pa milungu yapita.
Kalunga: Takwabapo ilyashi ukuba iliweme, tefyo?

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 39

Too many cooks spoil the broth

When too many people try to lead and offer their opinions, it becomes confusing and leads to poor results. Jobs and projects should have one or two clear leaders.

In our area, not many people own guns, so we use dogs for hunting. These dogs are called by whistling. Now, if many people whistle at once, it confuses the dogs, making them unsure where to go!

Kunda: Something's wrong here. They spend more time conferring than acting.

Kasubika: Munsele and Chisenga seem to be too many cooks, spoiling the broth.

Bakewipika abafula balonaula umuto

Ngakuli abantu abengi abakoresha ukutungulula nokupela amalangulushi, cilapusaula nokutapwishapo bwino. Imilimo yonse ikwate umu angul babili abakutungulula.

Umu twikala tebonse bakwata imfuti, kanshi tubomfya imbwa mukulunga. Nshi mbwa shitwa ku miloshi. Nomba ngacakuti bafula abakolisha imiloshi, imbwa shilafulungana nokuteshiba ukwakulola.

Kunda: Pali ifyalubana pano. Baposa nshita ikulu mu twakulabila labila ukucila ukubomba.

Kasubika: Munsele kubikapo na Chisenga, baba kubati nga; abakwipika bafula, ebonaula umuto.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 40

Strike while the iron is hot

When you have an opportunity to do something, seize it before the chance is lost.

A blacksmith heats iron in a fire until it softens. Once soft, it is easily hammered and bent into the desired shape.

Pande: Hey, I just saw Mwewa; she's in a good mood. Perhaps this is the time to ask her for a favour. Mushili: Oh, I'll hurry to her and strike while the iron is hot.

Chibuye: It may happen that you are offered some work one day. It is not good to postpone, because the person offering you the work might give it to someone else. Strike while the iron is hot.

Pomposha ulo icela cicikabile

Ngawashukila akashita kakubomba, bomba ulo taulalusa ndilye shuko.

Bakapomposha babika icela mu mulilo pakuti cinake. Ngacanaka ninshi calyanguka ukucipeteka mumusango mukocifwailamo.

Pande: Mwebo, nasakubona ba Mwewa, bakoboneka ukuba bwino. Pambi ekashita kenka aka ukubepushako bwafwilisho. Mushili: O kanyendeshe kuli ye nokupomposha ulo icela cicikabile.

Chibuye: Kuti caba kwati lelo elo bakupapo akacito. Tacingawama ukutantalisha pantu ngo uwakupela nkalya kacito kuti apela umbi. Pomposha ulo icela cicikabile.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 41

When the going gets tough, the tough get going

Strong people do not give up when they encounter challenges. They simply work harder. Challenges separate the resilient from the feeble.

While digging for semiprecious stones, one can come across all sorts of problems. The tough will keep on going, even if heavy obstacles have to be removed or if it takes many days to find what they want.

Bupe: I didn't expect Changwe to be the one to help us out when things got chaotic.

Mulenga: Yes, it turned out that our quiet Changwe was the tough one who got going.

Ncito iya afya kubomba, mu kwafya kwine ninshi incito ikoenda

Abantu abashipa nokukosa tabalekelesha ngabasanagamo ubwafya. Balakonkanyapo ukubomba. Ifili kuntanshi ifyakosa fipatula abashipa kubafila.

Pakwimba amabwe aba nobukumu kuti wapita mumafya apusanapusana. Kukaba ukukonkanyapo nangu kwingaba ifikolesha angula cingaposa inshiku ishingi pakuyasanga ifyo bakofwaya.

Bupe: Nshasubile ukwebati fyonse fintu ngafyalubana Changwe ewunga nokwafwako.

Mulenga: Ina, casangilwe ukweba ati ngu uwatalala Changwe ewali ukwakosa noku konkanyapo.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 42

Nothing ventured, nothing gained

If you are hesitant, lazy, or afraid of disappointment, you will achieve less than some others. Just go for it and see what the results will be.

Kabamba: I keep doubting whether I should start with that new crop. I think about it a lot, but I can't make a decision.

Bangwa: Come on, just try it out: nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Apatali kubomba, tapabapo icakunonka

Ngawaba uwakuibwelamo, umukatashi nangu wamwenso ukutasekwa, lyonse tapali ico ukakwata kubati bambi. Bomba bwaka incito pakuti ukabone ifyo wakunonkamo.

Kabamba: Nshiko shinkishapo kati ningatampapo nanjo mbuto iyabwangu. Nkolangulapo sana elyo nshilaishiba ifyakucita.

Bwanga: Webo, wesheko bwaka pantu apatali kubombamo tapapo icakunonkamo.



Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 43

Two wrongs don't make a right

If someone makes a mistake, it is not an open invitation for you to make one as well.

Your mistake is not neutralised by another person's mistake.

When someone has done something bad to you, trying to get revenge will only make things worse.

Chibale: Why did you pinch that peanut?

Kunda: Ngosa already had pinched one.

Chibale: Aha, so two wrongs make a right?

Ifilubo fibili efiinga kupanga icilungeme

Kati umunobe akubifya, ukubwekeshamo nawe kulenga ifintu ukubipilamo.

Ukulufyanya kwenu tekushilapo necilubo umbi angacita.

Umunobe nga akucitila icilubo, we ukwesho ukubwelelamo kukalenga ifintu ukubipilako.

Chibale: Nindo wasa kulilamo imbalala?

Kunda: Ngosa ewubalilepo ukulyamo.

Chibale: Ifilubo fibili tekupangapo icilungeme.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 44

A watched pot never boils

If something takes time to finish, do not watch it too closely, as it will seem to take forever. Time flows much more slowly when you give it too much attention.

Mwape: Why does it take so long for her to just change clothes?

Muyinga: We all want to go to the party, so while waiting, time flows slowly. A watched pot never boils.

Mpoto yakulolela tayipya bwangu

Icintu ngacilasenda inshita ikulu pakuti cipwe, tacialinga ukuilolela pantu calaposa inshita. Akashita kaboneka ukukokola nganamwabikako amano.

Mwape: Nindo cikoposela akashita akakulu pakuti afwale fyakufwala fimbi?

Muyinga: Bonse tukofwaya ukuya mukusefya, ngatukololela akashita kaboneka ukwenda panono panono. Impoto yakulolela tayipya bwangu.

Icipande III – Nsosele ishilemene

Part III – Deep proverbs

Ifya kusunga mibele ne fyakucita

How to behave and what to do

Nsoselo 201

Bwela kabwa kanji, kutanda kwa nshiku shonse

Ulo icintu cakanga ukucitika mbulya bushiku, kwesha nakambi pantu ngawaleka ukwesha ninshi ukafilwa.

Cibinda ewalokwita akabwa kakwe, ati bwelako, apo wafilwa ukwikata inama lelo, wakwisa kwikata lumbi inshiku shinji.

Ulo umuntu aya mukulunga mu mpanga, ela mwi shuko ngaya kwipaya inama. Kati tendelepo bwino tekuti alekepo ati nomba capwa! Akesa kuyamo bumbi bushiku mu kwesha.

Come back, my dog, there are so many more days to come

When something does not work out, try again. You only fail if you stop trying.

The hunter is asking his dog to return because there was no success in hunting that day; at the same time, he wishes the dog well for the coming days.

When a hunter goes out hunting, he does so with the hope of a kill. If not successful, he will continue trying until one day he is successful.

Nsoselo 202

Insala ni ndiminwa te mpulifwa iyoo

Nji nsoselo ilabomfeshiwa lyonse ulo inshita imilimo ya bulimi yafika ku mpelo. Ikotwibukishako ukwebati tatulingile ukulolesha pali bambi ukutufwaila ifyakulya mukuya mukulomba lomba. Calinga tukoicimfya insala muku bombesha na maka mu mabala nokufumya ifingi. Ukulomba cilanga fye ukuti tatwakwetepo amaka akuilimina fwe bene no lupwa.

Hunger requires farming, not begging

This proverb is used at the end of each farming season. It reminds us that we should not depend on others to provide for food by begging.

You must overcome hunger by working hard in the fields to produce more. Having to beg shows that you have been too inactive in farming, for yourself and your family.

Nsoselo 203

Mwalya imo mwashika no bucinga

Mwati ukulya inama imo, elo mwashika no bucinga mwaliba nokulokesha ifya mupepi mu fintu kucita nokuta languluka ifya kuntanshi.

Ciba kubati amwa ikata nama mubucingo bwenu, peka apo mwashika mbo bucinga kubati empela yafyonse. Mulingile ukulanguluka fyaku bomfya bweka mbu bucinga nakuntanshi.

You have eaten one animal, and you have buried the trap

You are being short-sighted in your dealings and not thinking about the future.

It is like after trapping an animal and then burying the trap, as though it is the end of everything.

You need to think of using the same hole for further use.

Nsoselo 204

Nawe, uli ne mangala kupena!

Uwa mutima ubi ku bantu nokufwaya ukutinwa.

Umuntu utafwaya kumwalula bamwebati ubukali bwakwe bwa cibanda pantu tomfwapo ku bantu, abyata kwati kampeshi.

As for you, you have a headdress that flashes like lightning!

This is said about those who want others to fear them for their hard hearts.

A person who refuses to take advice is referred to as acting like lightning.



Nsoselo 205

Akatili kafwa kulushinga lwakako

Ukuba abaibukila nefintu tusosa nangu ukucita. Ukubebeta ukumona ifingesa pantanshi pali fwebo.

Epamo nakatili, kesa mukufwa ku lushinga, pantu umwando bapyata ufuma ku mpapa yakako. Abapanga amafunde bantu abene, nomba ciboneka kubati yabantu bambi maka maka ngauli necifulo capamulu. Ku ceshamo palya pa cifulo ngawafumapo, wakusanga ati amafunde mwapangile akukosela.

A steinbuck dies by its own bow string

Be extra careful with what you say or do, and consider the long-term effects.

The steinbuck dies from being shot with a bow, the string of which was made from its own tendons.

People themselves, especially those in positions of authority, make laws that others are expected to follow them. However, when they leave those positions, they find the laws to be difficult to endure.

Nsoselo 206

Nkaka ku maboko, ku molu ndokwenda

Tulokukwata umutima wa luse ku banesu pantu nafwe limbi tungasangwa mu mafya amo ene. Umuntu ilyo aba na mafya, niku bantu tubutukila pakuti batwafwe. Nomba kulaba inshita imbi wacelwa ukubwasha ico wapokele. Umwine nga aisa mukufwaya, tweba ati, unkake ku maboko pakuti ndokubomfya amolu ukwenda mu kufwaya icipe cobe.

Tie my hands so I can go, using my legs

Let us give our debtors some breathing room, allowing them time to find the money or item in question.

When we are in trouble, we rush to our neighbours for help. But once we are late to repay a debt and the owner comes to ask for it, we say: "Tie my hands so I can go, using my legs to find your item."

Nsoselo 207

Ndi mumbulu nshilangwa mabinda

Mu milimo naishiba sana tekutipo unange ifyakucita.

Imimbulu ninama shimo ishaishiba amabinda ampanga, elyo shenda ishingwi. Shalishibikwa mu musango shumfwaninamo pa kulunga nokubesha. Ngecilangilo pakusowa inama, shicita iyasunako kunama ikobutuka kushala ikolya.

I am a wild dog; don't tell me how to hunt

This is my specialisation; I don't need anyone to show me how to do it.

Wild dogs are animals that know all the hunting grounds of the wild and they move in large numbers. They are well known for their hunting prowess and organisation. For instance, when chasing an animal, the one that tears a piece from the running animal remains behind to eat.

Nsoselo 208

Cimbwi afwile ntangalilo

Cimo cimo pakashita kamo. Tubombe imilimo apo amaka esu angatupesha.

Imilimo ngayafula tulingile ukubomba umo umo ukutasendela pamo yonse. We muntu umo wine ulokufwayako ukuya mukutema icitemi elyo nakambi pamo penka utekepo inshima!

Ngawalabomba shani? Lekelako bambi nabo babombe.

The hyena died for wanting to go down two paths

One thing at a time. Let us do our work according to our possibilities.

When there is too much work to be done, let us do one thing at a time. If you plan to go out to cut trees and at the same time you want to cook food, how are you going to do that? Leave other works to be undertaken by others.

Nsoselo 209

Noko wamunobe tekatilwa pa lwino

Ubusunge bucililepo buya ku ba kuifyalila.

Walinga ulokupusanya imibombele nabafyashi ba munobe. Takwaba mufyashi unga kusunga ngabanoko.

Mu lupwa, abafyashi baleshiba ifya kusunga cila umo umo. Lelo teti basunge cimo cine aba mu lupwa bonse.

Your friend's mother will not allow you in the kitchen

Good care will be given to the first-degree children.

You must change your behaviour when dealing with your friend's mother. No other woman takes care of you like your own mother.

In a family, the parents know how to treat each member. However, they cannot similarly care for all the children in the extended family.

Nsoselo 210

Uwawa taimina

Cikotukonkomesha ukuba abakwafwana na banensu.

Abena mupalamano ebesa mukwafwa umo nga aba mubwafya pantu takwete amaka. Ilyo we muntu waba namasanso nge cililo, abo wingasubila ukukwafwa bena mupalamano.

Fallen and unable to lift himself up

Be helpful to your neighbours.

Neighbours always help each other out when one of them is powerless. When you have a funeral, the people you expect to come to your aid are your neighbours.

Nsoselo 211

Shimucita panini panini, apokele mwikalafye umukashi

Ukunonka mukubomba akumulimo nangu kaceshe, pa kulekelesha ukakwatilamo amalipilo ukucila ukwikala fye.

Telyonse wingakwatilamo ishuko lyakukupako uto ukabila mu bumi bobbe. Mu cine ngataukobombesha teti usubile akalusangu ukufuma kuli onse. Iwe ngawaikalafye tapali neco ucita, umwanakashi uwa upwa kumunangani kuti afumako nokwisa upwa kuli iwe pantu ulabombako nokusanga utufwaikwa mu bwikashi bwa muntu.

The man who worked little by little gained the wife of the lazy one

Working, though little by little, will eventually bring you rewards. Sitting idle will lead to loss. Life's essentials are not always given as gifts. If you do not work, for sure, do not expect gifts from anyone. If you spend your time lazily, eventually the woman married to you will seek a divorce and marry a laborious man, where life will be easier and its essentials more readily available.



Nsoselo 212

Ubukala bwa mbwa bwingila pacepace

Ukupoka icintu ukofwaya ukufuma ku bantu bambi walinga wapelako akashita/watekanya ukutatwala mukasaku. Ukucita nangu njebe ukwimaka inanda, kulaba ifyakukonka. Icibalilapo kutama injelwa, ashauma elo mwaishiba apa kwimakila. Boneni nakambi mwapekanya ifi fwaikwa fyonse. Fyonse ifi fibe umo fikonkanina. Nga ni kunanda, umutenge eulekelesha. Ensoselelo imo kalwila wa buntungwa umuyashi Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe atemenwe ukubomfya ukullosha ku basungu. Ilyo baingilefye muno calo, bakwete ululimi uluweme pa umulandu wa mukuba wesu mpaka batampa ukututeka ngefyallo ifi: Nyasaland, Northern na Southern Rhodesia. Kwali kulwisha sana mpaka baisa tupa no buntungwa. Ifi eflyo Kapwepwe aumfwile pantu abaleteka tabafwaile ukupela ubuntungwa ku bantu bafita mu kwangufyanya.

The dog's penis enters slowly slowly

When you want to succeed in achieving something important, you must give it time and not be in a hurry. Consider building a house; there are steps to follow. First, bricks have to be moulded, and when they are dry, then you see where to build. Ensure all the requirements are on site, and so on, until putting on the pre-constructed roof. One of Zambia's freedom fighters, Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe, liked to use this proverb when referring to the whites. As they arrived in the early days, they used sweet talk, but because of the rich copper deposits, they eventually colonised the countries Nyasaland, Northern, and Southern Rhodesia. And they fought tooth and nail to remove them until independence was granted. This is how Kapwepwe felt because the colonisers did not want to grant independence to the blacks too soon.

Nsoselo 213

Katili we kanama leka abakulu bakushile isaala

Ulo uli mwaice nabakulu epo bali, calinga waicefya mukucita ifintu pantu nawe akashita kobe takalafika.

Ukuba mwine mushi, kano waikala muli ngulya mushi pakashita akatali pakuti waishiba nabantu walikubonapo. Ukwishiba imisango yabo yonse nawe bakwishibe bwino. Kati mwine mushi afwa, elo bangatontokanya ukukubikapo kati walinga.

You, steenbok, little animal, let the big ones leave the place to you

When you are still young and elders are present, it is always good to humble yourself when undertaking things, as your time to act will eventually come.

To become a village headman, you need to reside in that village for a long time to become acquainted with the people you'll be leading; to become familiar with their behaviour and make sure they are familiar with yours. Only after the current headman passes away, can the elders consider appointing you as the new headman.

Nsoselo 214

Inama imakene ilalengesha ilele

Ukuba pa ntanishi mukucita ifya bipa kuti basuka abantu babifishishamo nabaikalile. Bwaba kwati bulwele bwa palupwa.

Palupwa ngapali baa bantu abashitekanya mukusosa sosa balengesha nokuti nabalupwa bambi babipilamo pa mulandu obe uwakuitakisha.

A standing animal also endangers the lying animals

Attracting the attention of others through negative habits has consequences for those related to you who do not exhibit such behaviour.

When a family includes talkative members who are not careful with their words, others may wrongly assume that everyone in that family is the same.

Nsoselo 215

Mumbwe ukulila kubona uko ashintile amatako

Mube abaipekanya. Umuntu pakucita cimo amona uko ashintilile amaka.

Calyafya ukupangila ukwipaya insofu ngata ulapekanya ifi fwaikwa. Nangu ukofwaya ukushita icintu, kano wabala wapekanya indalama shakushita ico.

Before the jackal makes a sound, it ensures it has a hideout

Be well-prepared.

When undertaking something difficult, one should know what is required, for instance, where to get help.

It is unwise to plan to kill an elephant without adequate preparation. Similarly, when you intend to buy something, ensure you have the money at hand to purchase it.

Nsoselo 216

Akafumbe kantu ufumbete

Sekela mu fintu ukwete.

Akafumbe ako wikete muminwe eko ucetekele ukulya, pantu utuli mumpanga te tobe iyoo. Napa kupekanya icakulya balinga umunani ukwete.

Na mu bwikashi bwesu pakukwata icuma, tulingile ukulinga napo tupelele amaka. Ciba namukufwaisha ifyo mungabomfya pa mananda yesu, uku kumbwa ifyo bambi bakwete tacawamapo, emwisa amano akwiba. Shiteni ifintu ukulingana ne ndalama mukwete, apa pelele amaka enu.

Stick to the little oily mouse in your hand

Be happy with what you've got.

The little oily mouse you are holding in your hand is what you truly have to enjoy as a relish, not all those large animals still in the wild or at the butcher's.

In the way we live regarding wealth, we should be content with what is available; let us not go beyond our limits. This includes the limit of what is to be used by the family. Do not be swayed by the lives in your neighbours' homes, as this may tempt you to steal. Buy what matches your budget.



Nsoselo 217

Tailowela ukutumene

Ukutaungu mu cilabile labile kunga leta amashamo.

Tecakwasha ukulanda ifintu ifyo utangacita we mwine pantu kuti wailetelela.

Ilingi line abantu balasumina mu bufwiti, kanshi ulo ukososa pa cintu bwingi wishibe ifyakusosa pantu kuti wailengesha.

Tacalinga ukusosa ifyo utangacita kwati kusosa ati: uyo onse uwaibile katondolo yanji, nkamulowa. Tawishibe pali lilya ibumba palipo naumo uwakwata amano abufwiti. Ena akesha ukucita elyo ngafyacitika, bakeba ati ni ulya alosele pacintu bwingi, libe teopo kwalifye ukutinya, kanshi ni umbi.

Do not harm yourself by being reckless in your talk

Reckless talking may cause misfortune.

It is not advisable to speak on matters you are not involved in or claim knowledge you do not possess.

Imagine claiming that you can bewitch someone: "I am going to bewitch the person who stole my sweet potatoes", when you cannot do such a thing. Others might then do it, and everyone will conclude that you did it, because you said so yourself.

Nsoselo 218

Mungulube alapaminwa pa ako alya

Ilyo tatula cita icintu conse, tulingile twashininkinsha ukusanga iciine, uku tacita mukasaku!
Munjili bali mupamine pantu ewali kwiba fyakulya mu cifwani.
Ngatwaumfwa ilyashi ili tatusekeshe pafya citika, twalinga twatekanya pantu limbi tukabepesha
no muntu ushacitile.

The bush pig is beaten for what he has eaten

Before deciding on what to do, we must find out the truth and not act in haste!
The bush pig is beaten because he was the one stealing food from the field.
If we receive messages that do not please us, we must take them lightly and discover their
meaning before accusing an innocent person.

Nsoselo 219

Uwapama nafyala, apamina limo

Tekwasha ukukwata mutima wa cifukushi.

Mulutambi lwa ciLala, umuko talinga kwikata banafyala, mulandu. Kanshi ulo kuli ukutosha pakati ka muko nabanafyala, pambi angabapuma pantu ukubekatamo bwaka naco clangs ukubapama.

Ukuba nji nsoselo yapela cilangililo umo taulingile ukushinshikila. Tekwebapo ati eflyo ungacita kupama banoko fyala.

When you intend to beat your mother-in-law, do it fully

Don't be half-hearted.

In the Lala culture, a son-in-law is not allowed to touch his mother-in-law; it is an offence. So, when there is quarrelling between him and the mother-in-law, he might as well physically beat her because mere touching her is already regarded as beating.

Of course, this proverb presents an extreme example of a situation in which you should not be half-hearted. It is not meant as an incitement to beat your mother-in-law.

Nsoselo 220

Nawe, uli icipekepeke icisabi ica mu Lubembe!

Ku mwana utatina balwendo.

Ici sabi cipekepeke bacilinganya ku mwana utatina abalwendo abo teshibe kwati alibeshiba. Ba mupalanya ku cisabi icipekepeke icisangwa mu nika beta Lubembe ici tatina abantu.

As for you, you are the big pekepeke fish in the Lubembe River!

This is said to a child who does not fear strangers.

Children who are not wary of strangers but approach them as though they know them are likened to the cipekepeke fish found in the Lubembe River, which does not fear people.

Nsoselo 221

Niwe pungwa, munshiponya isako!

Tekwasha ukuyumfwa. Umuntu alinga ukuba uwakwafwa abanankwe ilyo baba mu mafia. Pungwa alishibikwa ukukana ponyapo nangu isako limo panshi. Kwisatola onse masako akopona ulo akopupuka.

Mu mikalalile yesu tatwakwanishapo kukwata fyonse, eico ilyo wasanga ukuti cimo icintu pamo nga umucele, walinga ukuya pokako paba nenu. Nomba ngawaba nga pungwa, ukesa shupikwa kuntanshi ilyo ukabulilwa kamo.

You are the scavenger eagle, the non-dropper of feathers!

Don't be too self-centred. A human being should be helpful to others when they are in trouble. The scavenger eagle is famous for never dropping a feather to the ground; it picks up every feather that falls from its plumage.

In our lives, we do not always have the necessities we require. So, when you miss one thing, like salt, you have to seek it from your neighbours. Now, if you behave like the scavenger eagle, you will find it hard when you run short of anything.

Nsoselo 222

Peepe pabena wishí tasalapo

Tekutipo lyonse ukuibona palobe weka. Bonako naba kushingulukile apatali ukuta konka beka aba mumbali mupepi.

Ulo wafika muncende iyabwangu, calinga waishibana nabena mupalamano obe pantu ebakakwishiba amano obe, nokukwafwa ebakakwafwa.

The he-goat will not choose from his father's family

You cannot always be focused solely on yourself. You must consider everyone around you, not just your immediate circle.

When you visit a new area, it is better to get to know those next to you so that they understand your behaviour because once in trouble, they will be the ones to help you.

Nsoselo 223

Tabasala nkuni, nobuselekete bonse ninkuni

Tawalinga ukukana ico bakupela ngo bupe. Tekuba uwakusala, lyonse kufwaya fintu ifikulile, notunono nato tuli bwino kuli iwe.

Twaikala mu calo ca malanda ukushingwana no bucushi ubwalekanalekana. Ilyo umu uwa luse akumfwilo luse noku kupa cimo, iwe walinga ukupokelela, tekususha ati kano mwampela cakuti na cakuti. Ne nkuni shine kuteba ishili shonse.

Don't be selective about firewood; all wood will do

Receive whatever you are given as a gift. Don't be choosy, only wanting the bigger things; the simple ones are also good for you.

We are living in a world with all kinds of problems. Now, when someone is kind enough to give you something, you, as the recipient, are supposed to receive it, not to choose. Even firewood from other trees can serve the same purpose.



Nsoselo 224

Shikala no mwabo

Bikeniko onse amano kufintu mwapelwa.

Bomfyeni italanta mwaba nalyo ukucila kwesha ifyo mushapelwa ifyo mutali nokucita.

Nshimu shaishibikwa cipi cipi nomwabo, mubumi bwabo bonse. Takwabapo ukulekaleka ukwesha fimbi ukucila mukusenda mwabo wakupangila ubuci.

Bees with nectar

Focus on what you have been given.

Take advantage of your talents instead of trying all sorts of things you weren't meant to do.

Bees are always associated with nectar throughout their lives. That is their forte. They do not change their livelihood to anything other than gathering nectar to make honey.

Nsoselo 225

Niwe pungwa ukolelemba, nabashukile bakotola lelo!

Sumina kuli mbo abanga kwafwa.

Ba pungwa nangu ifyuni fimbi filangilila abantu apali icakulya/ maka maka inama. Ulo abantu ngabaya nkulya, cacine balasanga inama ilifwile. Nangu pungwa aba uwakuibwenesha, alafwa bambi kusanga buswete.

Incito shaba ishapusana pusana. Mbalya basambisha babomba bwaka, nomba mwenka mulya emufuma intungulushi shiteka. Abalengele nimbalya baba sambishe pakuti babe pali mfilya fifulo ifyo bataibukilepo.

You are a scavenger eagle hovering, and the lucky ones will pick the meat!

Recognise those who can help you.

Scavenger-eagles and other birds that hover in the sky signal to people that an animal has been killed there. And when people go there, they are sure to find a dead animal. So, even though the scavenger eagle is very self-centred, it helps others to find meat.

There are many different types of work. Teachers do their work of teaching the young, and others become leaders. However, the main reason they hold such high positions is their teachers. Will they be aware of that?

Nsoselo 226

Nawe, uli shikilwe taumfwa!

Nji nsoselo ilabilwa ku muntu uuli be miya ya kutomfwa nokukana sumina ifunde.
Ngataukoumfwapo ifyo abanobe bakososa ninshi mu buntu tawabamo.

As for you, you are resolute in not listening!

This is said to a person who is stubborn when it comes to listening and taking advice.
If you don't take good advice from friends, then you are not worth being a human being.

Nsoselo 227

Akanwa kobe kalalila bungoma!

Ukulabila kobe ukubipile kulomfwika konse konse.

Mwinji umo nji nsoselo inga bomfiwa. Ukupinta fyonse ati fyacine nokusalanganya konse. Sunga nge nkama fyonse ifya nkama. Wileta lupato pa bantu kufyo ukolabila.

Your mouth sounds like a drum!

Your loose talk is heard everywhere.

This proverb can refer to several things. You believe everything you hear and then tell everyone. You need to keep private affairs private. Do not create enmity between people through your talk.

Nsoselo 228

Imfwa ya kutali yakulilila mu muloshi

Nji nsoselo kuti yabomfishiwa (mu mfwa, ukufyalwa kwa mwana nabalendo mutenekele) uko balupwa bangaya mukubabona, nombamba ico kufiteshibikwa bangayako inshita imbi angula ukutayako.

Ukupokela mashiwi a cililo alakunta mitima. Tauipekenye noku kutwala mu malangulushi. Kulisha akumuloshi panini, ukuteshiba ifya kucita ndulya lweka. Apo cililo tacilapwa, ungesha ukuyako limbi. Angula kutumako akandalama kulupwa luli namasanso.

Death from afar is mourned by whistling

This proverb can be used in situations (a death, a newborn baby, an unexpected visitor) where people are expected to rush to come, but due to circumstances, they may arrive late or not come at all.

Receiving a funeral message from far away is heartbreaking. You're unprepared; it throws you into mental disarray. You whistle softly, unsure of what to do at that moment. But since the funeral hasn't taken place yet, you can try to attend anyway, or you can send some money to the bereaved as a contribution.

Nsoselo 229

Abakulu babwene ulukasa lwa nkalamo kabashikapo

Ukuba ngo mukulu uwa mano, kukwata amano aku shinshintila ifintu ifingaleta ulupato, nangu umwenso ku baice.

Umukulu ali nabaice mu mpanga elyo abwene apapitile ulukasa lwa nkalamo. Atontonkenye ukushikapo ukuteba abaice ico abona. Atinine ati nganabeba ninshi bonse balakwata umwenso, tatwaendepo bwino.

The elder saw the lion's paw print on the sand and wiped it out

A wise person always tries to avoid bringing out things to the public that may cause confusion or fear.

An older man went hunting with young people. He spotted a lion's footprint on the ground. He rubbed off the print and did not inform the young ones about it. He feared that if he told them, everyone would become even more afraid, and the hunt would not go well.

Nsoselo 230

Imbwa ngayatemwa ukusowa ba kolwe balafunda ibolo

Ubone ati tausangilwe muli fyonse ifinga kubika mu bwafya.

Ba kolwe baishibikwa ukutakwata uluse. Enco imbwa ingacenekwa apakulu.

Muno calo twaikala twalinga ukuibebeta ukubona amabumba akuba nayo mu malyashi anga kuleletelela ku mafunde a calo.

When dogs like to chase monkeys, they end up with a torn-off testicle

Be careful not to get involved in anything that could lead to trouble.

Monkeys are known for their ruthlessness, and a dog could end up seriously injured.

We live in a world where caution is necessary when joining discussions that might lead to legal trouble.



Nsoselo 231

Ako usulile, ekopa noko

Twilakwata ukusula pantu tatwishiba ifyakuntanshi.

Tacalingapo ukusula ilyo icintu tacilapwa, pantu ifyo tumona ku menso limbi filatubepa. Nelingi umo twaikala kuti wasanga ukuti ilyo banoko balifwilwa, teti wishibe abangabopa, namailo waisa mukubeta ukuti eba wiso, abo wasulile.

The one whom you underrate, may marry your mother

We shouldn't ignore or underrate others, as we don't know what lies ahead.

Judging solely based on your own criteria may lead you to be the loser. In our traditional way of living, a father may die, and the mother may then marry again at a later time. So, your stepfather might be one of those men you always see.

Nsoselo 232

Uluse lwalile nk'wale

Ukukwata uluse ku bantu abashitontenkanya bwino kulaletelela.

Kulaba limbi wakongweshwa umunobe ka ngwee pantu ali mubwafya ubukulu. Nomba inshita mwapangene ukuti abweshe yapita. Nomba we mwine ukuti uyeko mukwipusha, kusanga ifyo akoasuka tafilolelemo, nokwebati: kwati pali kandalama kabo! Nkakupa nganakabona. Unga lusa umunobe ... ne ndalama shobe.

Mercy may bring hatred

Being merciful to people can sometimes backfire.

Imagine lending money to a friend in difficult times. Now, when the repayment date arrives, she might mock you, by saying: "Are you coming for that little bit of money? I'll pay you back when I have it." You could end up losing both your friend and your money.

Nsoselo 233

Ni we fulwe amano ulibikile mu cikwambulwa

Uuli cenjele nomba taukobweneshapo.

Amananda alikwata nshila shaku pusukilamo ifinga ponena palya penka kwati ni nsala nokuya kwata indalama. Inanda icenjele ilasungako utwa ndalama. Ndulya ulu inshita yababipila bakonkanyako ukufwala ifyakale nokutaposaika indalama. Ndulya ulu icakulya cacepela enshita nanda ya mano ibomfya ndalama pakushita icakulya. Bonse mu mushi batampa ukulabila pali njilya nanda itafwaya ukwebako bambi pakusunga njilya nkama.

It is you, the tortoise, who has stored the wisdom within your shell

You are clever, but you do not show it.

Households have different ways to survive shortcomings such as hunger and lack of money. A clever household will save some money. So, while times are not bad, they still wear older clothes and do not spend much money. And then food becomes scarce, and that is the time when the clever household will have money to buy food. Everyone will be talking about that household not having shared this secret.

Nsoselo 234

Akabwelelo kalafya

Ukubwelela inuma kula twala mu mafya.

Abantu abaupana, ilingi balapusana mu mikalile batampa noku tosha nangu ukulwa.

Pa miku iinji lyonse kulwa, icishele balalekana, pakuti baya ikalila umo umo.

Umuye nshiku limbi umwaume nangu umwanakashi atemwa ukubwelela nakambi mu cupo.

Icikonkapo balya bantu kutampa nakambi ukushupana limbi mwaisa fuma nemfwa ya umo.

Epa fuma nanji nsoselo.

Retracing your footsteps may be risky

U-turning sometimes is dangerous.

Married couples may sometimes disagree in their homes, leading to arguments or even fights. If this persists, they might decide to separate and live apart. As days pass, they may decide to reconcile. However, they often revert to fighting which could tragically result in one of them losing their life. This proverb is based on this and similar scenarios.

Nsoselo 235

Icilonda cilonde nshiku

Mukupusana kwamilandile nomunobe ngakwali ukubi, kulasungwa mu mutima na munshiku shakuntanshi ishikoisa.

Umunobe nga akulufyanya caliba icishupile ukulabukilako, kanshi ciba ukwenda naco mpaka yangula akese kupapata.

A wound will haunt you for days

When you differ with a friend in words, the anger lingers for days to come.

When a friend wrongs you, it is difficult to forget about it until he or she comes to apologise.

Nsoselo 236

Cikonko mutima pamo no bwanga

Ciweme ukubelela uluse kuli mbo abakulufyenye kuta konkanya kukwata amalangulushi panshita ntali.

Wingililemo ngo uwo balufyenye ku munakwe talabukila ifyakale. Nomba ye akonkanyapo ukucusha cibusa wakwe mukwibukisha icilubo acitile kuli ye. Umukulu eulingile ukuleta mba babili pakupwisha mbu bwafya. Muku pwishisha ndi lyashi epo akulibomfya nji nsoselo.

Deep hatred in the heart rages like a witch's poison

It is important to forgive those who have wronged you and not to maintain a hostile attitude for too long.

Imagine someone angered by a friend who does not forget the past. Instead, they continue to mistreat their old friend because they keep remembering the bad thing that friend did to them.

An older person will be needed to bring the two together to resolve the issue. She will summarise the problem using this proverb.

Nsoselo 237

Iminwe taikata tufi

Mwilokulolesha ku milimo iya fiko.

Ilyashi lyonse liweme lyaimewe ku minwe. Iminwe efibombelo fyakuku twala pantanshi. Ukunina nokufika pa mulu wa lupili kutampila panshita. Tekwasha ukuituntumba muku kana kubomfya maboko pantu paku lekekesha mukaipakisha pa milimo mwabombele. Kufuma mukubomba milimo yafiko emu keshila imbale nefyakulya fiweme.

Hands do not touch faeces

Do not look down on dirty work.

Every success story builds on hands; hands are tools for advancement. To reach the top of a hill, one must start from the bottom. Don't be too boastful to avoid using your hands because, at the end of the road, you will be enjoying the fruits of your labour. From dirty work comes a silver plate full of food.



Nsoselo 238

Umwana utomfwa apulikilwe umulemba mukutwi

Ngaba kupandako amano, walinga ukuyasenda bwino nokuya konka

We mwana wilayangala nabanakashi angula nabalalume abo tawishibile bwino, kuti walwalilamo amalwele a pusana pusana.

A child who did not follow advice got into trouble because of his ears.

Advice must be taken very seriously and adhered to.

My child, do not go about with people you do not know very well; at the end, you will contract different diseases.

Nsoselo 239

Ubwalwa ninsokolola twebu

Ukulabila pamuntu ukolelwe, alalabila ifingi ifyo atanga labila ngata nwenepo, ukushipa kubafye akashita akanono.

Shimbi inshita, ifyo mulabila kati mukolelwe fingamubika mu bwafya pantu limbi kuti fycena abo abakumineko mu lyashi mukolabila.

Beer is the revealer of cases

This saying is used when people, under the influence of beer, reveal more than they would normally dare to do, becoming brave for only a short time.

What you reveal when you're drunk, could lead to problems, as you may provoke people who are worried about the case.

Nsoselo 240

Icikulu pa nama matwi, ili nensengo kashimena

Cikankala ukumfwise nokumfwa kufyo bakupandako amano ulo ucili ukokula.

Nge nama mu mpanga ukufikapo pa mushinku, amatwi aka nkala ukubaka ulo uli mubwafya.

Twikala nabakulu abapitamo mu fingi. Milimo yabo ukulanshanya naba cikula bwangu mukuta cita ifilubo.

What is most important to animals are their ears; they will make the horns grow

It is important to listen as well as to be able to take advice when you're growing up.

Like animals in the forest growing to maturity, ears are very important for preparing for any danger.

We live with older people who have been through a lot. It is their duty to talk to the young, so they don't make big mistakes.

Nsoselo 241

Kosakosa talya utwabakulu, nakanaka eulya utwabakulu

Ngatawaba no mutima wa luse, ulingile ukusambilishiwa ifya kwikala nabantu mu mutende pakweba ati utemwikwe nokupokelelapo amalumbo.

Stubborn towards elders, you won't eat; respectful towards elders, you will

When you are not kind-hearted, you need to be taught how to live in harmony with others and be loved, so that you may receive praise.

Nsoselo 242

Tabasuula kalonde kakale

Ifya kale angula abakulu tababa ifinangwana no kusulwa. Ukupita nokwishiba ifyaliko efifwaikwa. Ukubomfya nangu ukusala ico waishibapo kale ukucila icabwangu. Mukusala ifibombelo ifyo bakuletela, walinga ukusala ico wabomfyapo kale pantu walicishiba nefyo cibomba, pantu limbi ngawasenda icabwangu ngatacaishibila ilya ncito, tapali ico ukacita. Nangu naukwatapo umulimo uko kabilwa ukubombekwa pabantu abalofwaya ukubomba, walinga wasendapo umo nangu abo ababombapo kale pantu uyu mulimo baliwishiba kale.

Do not shun using an old hoe

Old things or older people are not worthless; past experiences are valuable. From two or more items, pick the one you are used to, the one that has proven its worth. Of the equipment before you, it is better to pick what you have used before because you already know how it operates. If you pick a new one and are not accustomed to its use, you will fail. Similarly, if you have some work to be done, it is better to pick from the job seekers those who have the right experience for that work.



Nsoselo 243

Akanwa kobe ka cibanda!

Utunwa twesu twaba ne milimo iyingi, kuleta ifiweme. Ukutaibomfya bwino kuti kwaletela ifibi fingi. Ukupokela ukutashiwa kufuma kuli bambi, tulingile twaba abakumfwana nabo. Ukubomfya akanwa ku lulimi ulubi bakakweba ati abomfiwa ne fibanda.

Your mouth is that of a bad spirit!

Our mouths have many functions, usually for good. Misusing them can have negative consequences. To receive praise from others, we must maintain good relationships with them. When you use your mouth for unacceptable language, you will be considered influenced by bad spirits.

Nsoselo 244

Ulushimu lubi luntu luteele ku mwaabo

Imilimo yamu bwingi ciweme ukubombela pamo bonse.
Cikankala ukwafwana naba nobe kubati ni mufililo.

A bee that doesn't collect nectar is a bad bee

Communal work must be done by all.
It is important to help one another, for instance, during funerals.

Nsoselo 245

Akabale katushinguluka

Twali tumpikwa nokukana iluka.

Mwingililemo umuntu abomba naba nankwe ukukolanganika ndalama shaku bombomfya mu mushi mukusunga inkoko shamu mushi. Ukupwishafye ukushitisha uyo ena aleka ukumoneka pakuti akaibomfeshe isho ndalama umwine. Abantu bayafwileko uku kolonganika ndalama bakalanda ati twali shingulukwa na kabale.

The blind spot surrounded us

We were fooled and didn't realise it.

Imagine someone organising a fundraiser to raise money for village affairs by rearing village chickens. After the sale, however, the organiser disappears without a trace, having used the money for himself. The people who contributed to the fundraiser would then say they were surrounded by the blind spot.

Nsoselo 246

Uteka atekela bonse

Ukwakana caliba bwino. Ukusunga ifyakwakanya ciweme.

Ngawasunga ifintu, twebe ati icakulya, kwishibila limo ati nabambi bakafwaya ukubapako. Neci ngalenga ukuti besungapo icili conse nico tabaikwitepo.

Mubulimi bwa fyakulya, abali nefingi balakanyako nambo abakwete utunono. Tulokwibukile ati twalinga twayafwako nabambi. Ici cikumine naku masambililo, uulingile ukwafwa bambi abatakwete bwafwilisho bwakuya pa ntanshi mu masambililo.

Your keeping is the keeping for all

Sharing is normal. Keeping for sharing is good.

When you keep something, for instance food, just know that others will also want to take part.

The simple reason for them not having kept something is that they were not satisfied, while you were.

In farming food, those with abundant food share with those who have too little. We keep in mind that we must support others. This is also connected to educational standards; you will try to help others who have no support for further education.

I fyakucetekela nefyo fibomba

What to expect and how things work

Nsoselo 247

Bangoshe tabalala culu cimo/ lupako lumo

Taufwayapo kwakana nabambi. Napo niwe ngoshe nomba?

Insoka ishikali tashilala mu culu cimo nangu ulupako lumo pantu shonse shila yumfwa ukuwata amaka no bukali.

Naku bantu bene, ba fundi tabafwaya ukwendela pamo pantu kwalibako fimo fimo ifyo batangafwaya umunabo ukwishiba. Fyonse ifi ni bukaitemwe, tabafwaya ukupelako amano abo kunabo, kano beka ebaishibikwa.

Two black mambas will never share one anthill/ one hole in a tree

You do not want to share with others. Are you a black mamba, then?

Two big poisonous snakes will not share a single anthill or a hole in a tree. They need their own territory in which to display their strength.

This also applies to human beings. Hunters do not wish to go out hunting in large numbers, as they do not want others to discover their methods. They are unwilling to share their ideas.

Nsoselo 248

Nĩ lambwe mu nongo, mu mpanga mulume munobe

Ulo utushita twapusana, nafimbi mo filakwata ukwalulwa muku wamya.

Inama mpanga lintu tailafwa, kulaba ukuitina sana pantu ciswango lelo ilyo yaipaiwa nokwipikwa mu nongo, tapaba icaku itina pantu nomba munani.

Umuntu uwatemwa ukucusha abanankwe mu misango iyalekana lekana pantu alikwatisha amaka, inshita ikesa ilyo ayo maka akapwa icakuti nomwaice akakume.

A stew in the pot, a fierce animal in the wild

When circumstances change, things can change for the better.

In the wild, many animals are edible, but they are fierce. One needs courage to hunt them.

However, once killed, the fierce creature becomes a delicacy.

A person who habitually troubles others without apparent reason, a bully, will eventually change when they lose their power, for instance, due to injury or old age.

Nsoselo 249

Abenda ebaleta makasa a nkalamo

Abenda na makasa ebo bakapela mulandu kumulandu wakuba ne fitala uku tomfwapo. Ngatawenda nangu ukutandala, ilingi line teti twishibe ifikocitika muncende shimbi. Pantu mukwendauka emo twisa mukubela mu malyashi ashilingile we muntu ngatawaba bwino mu misango.

We muntu abantu ngabalikwishiba ku misango iibi, ifikacitika kumbi nimwe bakatunganya, tabakalole kumbi iyo. Kanshi twiluke ukuti twalinga ukuba abantu abenenene.

Travellers bring the footprints of the lion

Travellers are more easily blamed, especially when they are rude or vague.

If you do not visit other people, you will not know what is happening around you. But if you travel very much, you might eventually be suspected of any wrongdoing.

If you are known to be a bad person, whatever happens elsewhere, it is you they will suspect; not others. Therefore, we should all be very well-mannered.

Nsoselo 250

Abo ndoka ndabebelapo limo

Fyonse fitupela ukwiluka pa fikoisa ku ntanshi.

Pa kubomfya mfi ifilangililo, tulekala abaiteyanya.

Mfi filandwa ne Mfula yangula naba Lesa kupitila muli bambi. Ngawapanga icilubo pa kupapa imfula, kutampa kubomfya ifilangililo fyakweba ati imfula ikoisa ngo kucinkulwako.

I rain upon those whom I have already warned

Everything gives us a glimpse of what is to come.

By using these signs, we are better prepared.

This proverbial phrase is uttered by the rain or by Lesa. Once you have made the mistake of being surprised by the rain, you start using the signs of its approach as a warning.



Nsoselo 251

Icupo nimpwa, nangu shalula twalikuliyako

Mu cintu conse tukofwaya ukucita, mwaliba amafya ayo twingasangamo.

Mu cupo mwaliba amafya abaupana basangamo, telyonse muba insansa iyoo. Kanshi tulingile ukushipa sana pakuya cimfya.

Marriage is like an eggplant; though bitter, we shall continue eating it

With anything we get involved in, we will encounter difficulties to overcome.

It is not always that married couples are happy; problems are encountered there. We must stay strong to overcome them.

Nsoselo 252

Mwaume, kasembe

Efilandwa pa fintu ifyendela pamo.

Ukwitwa ati mwaume mu bumi bwakwe kano ali na kasembe lyonse, icilanga ukuti wamilimo.

Ukwikala kwesu fwe balala ne mitundu imbi, umuntu pakuya mu kupa kano asenda isembe ico iciba Icilangililo cakuti uyu muntu ali kaaba wa milimo, talipo umunang'ani.

Isembe lilanga ukuti kuti amupususha ulo mwaba mu bwafya bwakusanswa ne ciswango!

A man, an axe

This phrase is used for two things that are supposed or required to be closely connected.

In real life, a man needs his axe greatly, as he uses it for all kinds of purposes. Therefore, to be considered a man, one must always carry an axe, a symbol of being hard-working and capable.

In the way we live as Lala people, and in other regions: when a man goes out to marry, he should carry an axe. This symbolises his energy for work and his lack of laziness. Furthermore, as a weapon, the axe signifies that he will protect others when confronted by a wild animal attempting to attack.

Nsoselo 253

Amano afuma mwifwesa aya muculu

Tekwebapo ati bakulu beka bakwata amano akufunda. Angafuma kuli bonse.

Nomwaice kuti abafunda pantu amano mambulwa pambi eflyo umwaice aumfwile ifyo mwe mwebakulu muteshipo.

Umwaice ilyo ali ku sukulu, kulaba ifintu fimo ifyo abakulu bataishibapo ena aya fisambilila nowise fundako abakulu.

Knowledge comes from the small plain anthill and goes to the big anthill

It is not true that elders possess all knowledge; it can come from anyone.

A young child may teach the elders what he or she has been taught by others, perhaps having heard something the elders did not know.

At school, children learn all sorts of knowledge which they can then share with elders.

Nsoselo 254

Insoka kusuma bwimba kupela

Kusumwa ku nsoka ninshi ubwimba bwapela. Ukucita icintu ngatapali fimbi ifyakucita. Pamo nge nsoka lintu yabutukila ku bwimba, ifwaya ukupusuka! Nomba ngawakonkanyapo ukwimba naena amano alapwa ngo bwimba bwapela.

We muntu ngawa pelelwa amano, taukwete cimbi icakucita kulaba nomba kucita ico tawacilafwaya kucita mukupusuka.

A snake will only bite when it comes to the end of its lair

When people feel that they have no alternative, they need to act instantly without much further consideration.

When a snake flees into its ground hole, its intention is to escape the intruder. However, if the intruder persists, it will turn to defend itself by biting.

Whenever someone is in trouble and there is no other way out, they will do whatever they feel will save them.

Nsoselo 255

Mwana pabo tabifya masha

Abantu bafwaya ukulolesha sana kuli mbo bataishiba (bwino).

Ukutali kwenu teti usubile ukutashiwa nangu ucite ciweme shani.

Mwe ngomba sha fila ngamwaile kukumanina kumbi, balya abapali incende bakatasha fye ingomba shabo epela.

Your own people do not spoil the dancing

People tend to be more critical of those they do not know well.

Do not expect praise when you visit other places, even if you do the right things.

When dancers from different areas meet in a certain locality, those from that locality will be praised in comparison to the visiting dancers.



Nsoselo 256

Akanwa ka milandu keene kaitubufula

Ngoli no mulandu uulingile ukutekanya, ukuteka mutima pantu kuti wailetelela mufyo ukososa, nabantu baishiba ati niwe wacitile. Ukukana teka umutima kuti wailetelela.

Icintu icabipa nga nacistika pancende imo, we wacitile ngawatemwa utwakulabila labila, abantu bakeshiba'ti ewa citile, pantu tasungilepo akanwa kakwe.

The guilt of the mouth is revealed by what comes out of it

Matters may worsen if you are talkative on issues related to what you are accused of. Never be too loose-lipped in such situations.

When something bad has happened in a locality, never be at the forefront, taking a leading role in discussing it. People will suspect your involvement because you have not kept your mouth shut.

Nsoselo 257

Ishuko lya munobe tabalilalila panse

Enco bebela ati cila muntu alapelwa ishuko, tekwebati bonse nomba mwalikuli nama shuko. Kwaliba inshita imo iyo tunukulamo ubowa. Ubowa buntu bwayafya ukunukula nga cakuti tamulipo neshuko bulya bushiku. Kuti mwaenda imilundu iingi ukwabula ukunukulapo. Boneni, abanenu ukwisa kupita umu mwasa mukwenda, bo baisesa kunukula, pantu mwe mwasa mukupishapo bwaka amenso.

Your friend's fortune is not your fortune either

All people have some luck, but not all at the same time.

There is a time when you want to pick mushrooms. You will find it difficult to do so if it is not your day. See what happens! In the very area where you are searching, others have already picked the mushrooms; they are all gone. Their luck was not yours.

Nsoselo 258

Tabatana mucele munama, ngokalonga kwisa?

Kwaliba ifintu ifyaikatana, cimo cifwaikwa mu cinakwe.

Ilyo mwanakashi aipika inama mu nongo, pakuti iyi nama yumfwike bwino, kano babikamo umucele. Nomba kati taulungile ngu mucele wakulunga mwisa? Efyo umunani uuli onse ufwaya pakuti umuntu ukosa kulya omfwike bwino.

Why not add salt to the meat? What else would you use it for?

Certain things that form perfect combinations and cannot be separated.

When a woman is cooking meat in a pot, salt must be added for it to taste good. If you have no salt, what are you going to do? All relishes require it so that when a person eats them, they taste good. There is no meat without salt.

Nsoselo 259

Umwana wa munobe, mukulu munobe

Tekuti wishibe ifyo umwana wamunobe akesa kuba nga akula kuntanshi.

Mubwikashi bwesu, twaliba nefibusa ifyaba nabana.

Aba bana besa mukukula, limbi filya fine basela apo pancende nokuya ikala kumbi. Ulo papita imya iyingi, balya bana pambi balyupa nokufyala abana. Pali mbalya bana paisa kufuma umo nokupila mu nanda yobe. Ninshi ulya mwana wa munobe asanguka umukulu munobe, mwebafyashi babili mwalenga abana babo ukupana.

Your friend's child may become very close to you

Even when you know a person or a situation well, it is still hard to predict what will happen in the future.

For instance, you cannot know what your friend's children will become as adults. Some of these children may move away as they grow up. Many years later, those same children might marry and have children of their own, who, in turn, could come to marry into your family! That friend's child will then become very close to you through that marriage.

Nsoselo 260

Mwenka muli buno buno nemfwí nefishamena

Fyonse fintu fyalikwata munshila fipita. Kwaba mu fitentekwa ifya kukonka.

Cilangililo cakuti ngokofwaya ifibusa fimbi fingilemo muku kwafwa kupwisha bwafya. Muku pwishisha bonse bwafya, kano twaumfwa na malangulushi abo.

As the days pass one by one, grey hairs also grow

All things have a trajectory; there are certain steps one must take.

For example, when solving a problem, we may need to involve outside friends. This is a good, sometimes necessary, step on our way to a lasting solution, as we need their views.



Nsoselo 261

Icikupempula ecikulya

Ukucenjela nefibusa ifitupempula.

Abantu balipusana mumano. Bambi bafwaya ukonaula ifyupo nangu bucibusa pakati kenu.

Umunobe kuti akokutandalila libili libili ukwabula iwe ukuti wishibe amano akwe. Bambi batampa nokufwaya umukashi wamunabo, mukasanga ifyupo fyaonaika. Limbi mukutandala kwabo bali namano akwiba icipe cimo icabasekesha pananda yobe.

Those who visit you regularly, may break up your marriage

Be careful with people who visit you regularly.

People have different motives; some of them want to disturb marriages or friendships. You may receive regular visitors without knowing their intentions. One of them might propose to your wife, which could lead to a disbanded marriage. Others may plan to steal something from your house during their visit.

Nsoselo 262

Icikwanka bacibwena kumampalanya

Ku fintu ifyo umuntu acita mu bwikashi bwakwe emo bamumwena ifyo aba.

We muntu nga uli kape kape kuti abantu baishiba ati uyu muntu waluse, pantu taifinya iyoo.

The help you get is based on what they've seen you do

People will judge you based on what they have witnessed you do in their lives.

If you are fond of giving gifts, people will know you as that type of person, even if this is a simplification of your personality.

Nsoselo 263

Ukucenjela kwa nkoko, pungwa tasakamana

Icintu nga ukocifwaisha, nangu bambi bafwaye ukufisa, iwe kano ukacikwate pantu inshita tailafika iya kucikwata.

Inkoko ilyo yakwata utwana utunono, kwaliba icuni pungwa icifwaya ukusenda utwana no kulya. Inkoko ileeshako ukufukatila bwino utwana. Nomba kulaba inshita ilyo yalabako, elintu pungwa apona nokwisa ikatapo kano nangu tubili ngana twikala apepi sana. Kanshi pungwa alindila fye inshita yonse.

No matter how clever the hen, the scavenger-eagle isn't worried

Even if others or circumstances prevent you from getting what you want, you will eventually get it when the time is right.

When a mother hen has chicks, there is always a bird that wants to eat one of them. The mother hen does everything she can to keep the number intact, but there comes a time when she forgets that the bird is there, and she loses one or two. The bird is always ready to pounce.

Nsoselo 264

Utufi nga twacila umuni kunya

Tulokuli abacenjela mufyo tukososa.

Ngawapela lyashi ndyo lingakumana isonde lyonse, cishupile ukulifumyamo. Yambi amafumbo yafwaya fye amasuko ayepi: Ina angula iyo. Takuli ukulondolola. Kuba ukwishiba bwino cintu angula iyo. Mu cakulekesha takupo ifya kweshaesha: icilubo cinga kubika mu bwafya.

Once the stool leaves the anus, it is defecation

Let's be careful what we say.

When you give a speech that goes viral, it is hard to retract it. Some questions only require a yes or no answer. In such cases, do not elaborate. You are either familiar with something, or you are not. If it is the latter, do not attempt to answer; a mistake will get you into trouble.

Nsoselo 265

Pakuti amenso menda

Ube uwanaka kumalyashi atalingile ukukosa.

Ube uwa iluka kwishiba ifinga kuletelelela namalyashi ayashupile.

Tekweshwa ukusosa amalyashi ayashupile mu cintu bwingi ngatawishibe intulo. Kukulekelesha ngataukwete icishinka, ukalusa umucinshi pakubepa.

Because eyes are like water

Be cautious with delicate matters.

Eyes and water must be handled with care, as they are both very delicate.

You shouldn't discuss sensitive topics in public if you don't know the source. Ultimately, if you cannot prove something, you lose your dignity by lying.



Nsoselo 266

Kofwa tabalya, icibalya ni nyanje

Ulo mukosala pa fintu fibili ifiboneka ukupalana, mungasenda icitalingile. Calinga mwakwata inshita yakwipushanya icinga linga bwino.

Bakofwa, ifyana fya tushishi, bamunsunga munsunga, imititi ne fishimu finga boneka ukupalana, nombamba tefyonse filikwa.

They don't eat snails, but they do eat grubs

When two options seem similar, chances are you're making the wrong decision. It is advisable to take the time to inquire what is best.

Snails, grubs, larvae, maggots, and caterpillars may look similar, but not all of them are edible.

Nsoselo 267

E bucibusa bwaba pakati kaba mutantamfula naba cibelo

Nji nsoselo ilabilwa pali bucibusa bwakana.

Kati waicena ku kakumo kamo, ukomfwa bukali pabili: ku kakumo napa fimba apo icibelo calundwa ku musana. Pakuba no mutantamfula, icibelo cilomfwilo bulanda kuli ba kakumo kabuka kubati kwakaba ubukali. Mu bwikashi bwa lelo tulanga ubulanda kubena mupalamano ifibusa ngafyaba ne cililo.

That is a similar kind of friendship to that between thigh pain and the thigh

This proverb is used to describe a compassionate friendship.

If you have a cut on one of your toes, you will feel pain in two places: the affected toe and the protruding part where the thighbone joins the hip. By having this pain, the thigh is sympathetic to what is on the toe, as though it is sharing the pain.

In our lives today, you show grief when your friend in the neighbourhood has a funeral.

Nsoselo 268

Kalubula ukuswa nipa lulembo

Conse icintu caliba ne ntulo. Icishininkisho ci kankala sana.

Nangu uko cafuma kwati ngefyo amwabona kalubula ninshi mwishibe ati nipa kalonda nangu pa lulembo afuma.

Ngakulipo icikolangilila pa cintu, tacingabapo icacine, nomba ukushininkisha cawama ukubona ifipalileko.

Blood oozing is from an inoculation

Everything has a source from which it comes. Evidence is important.

Now, if you were to see blood flowing on a person's arm, it is coming from the inoculation that has just been set.

If there is an indication for something, it is not unlikely that it is true, but to be sure, it is better to first see the evidence.

Nsoselo 269

Akasha kalala apali mutima

Cita ifyo ukoumfwa ati cilungeme ukulingana nenshita.

Umuntu alikwata kampingu wakucita ico akofwaya, ngafilya tubona utuni ukwikala pa misambo apo tukofwaya utwine.

No muntu nao engila incito iili ku mano ukwabula ukumupatikisha iyoo.

The little duiker sleeps where its heart is

Do what you feel is right according to the circumstances.

People have their own feelings about what to do, just as birds choose which tree branches to sit on after a flight.

Similarly, a person decides on a profession without being forced.

Nsoselo 270

Akanwa kamo takomfwa bwalwa

Mu bwingi emuli amano. Umo teti asuminishe ukuti fili bwino.

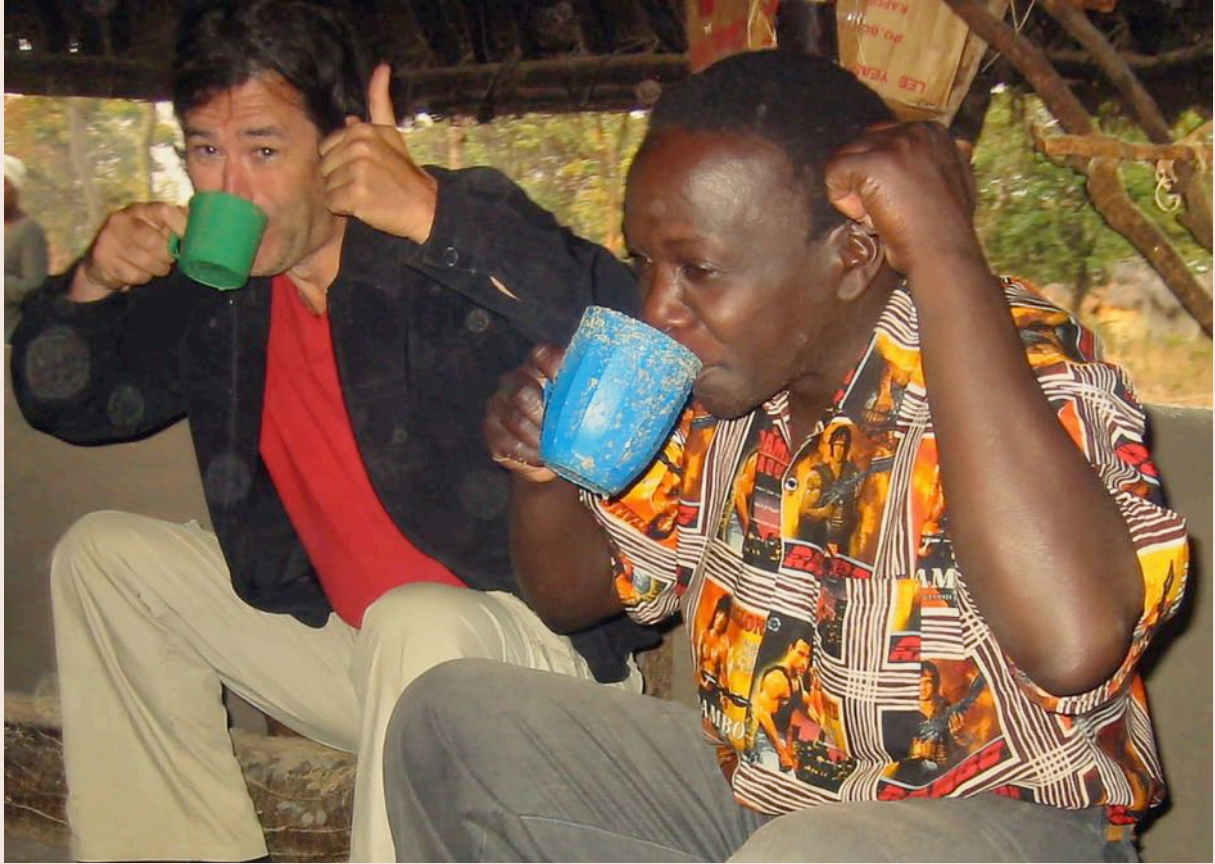
Iyakulya neyakunwa fimo fimo fyalinga abengi basoonda pakuti mukwate icishinka ukuti nafiwama pamo ngo bwalwa. Ukuwama kwa bwalwa bwingalenga abantu ukusansamuka kano utunwa utwingi twasoonda.

One mouth doesn't taste the beer

Wisdom is the product of many. The opinions of more people are needed to declare how good or bad something is.

Certain foods and drinks require more than one person to have foretastes before concluding whether they are fit –with sufficient alcoholic content, in the case of drinks, or palatable, in the case of food– or bad.

This is to ensure that visitors get value for their money. Good beer will make them happy and provide an enjoyable stay.



Nsoselo 271

Akalyo kamo takatoba citenge, icitobe citenge kanwa

Akalyo akanini kaba lukoso, ukulaka kulonawula.

Icitenge ni nsaka umo abantu bakumana pakulya inshima, nomba kati umo acelwa kufika nokusanga akashima akanini, tasakamanapo iyoo. Nomba ngacakuti palya paba ukulaka, ecingalenga ukutoba icitenge.

Little food does not break a company; what breaks the company is the mouth

The amount of food does not matter, but what comes out of the mouth does.

The communal eating place is meant for all to have their meals there. If one arrives late and finds a small portion of food, they will not mind; the company will remain intact. However, where there is quarrelling or backbiting, the company will break.

Nsoselo 272

Uwapupa nyina wapulila bonse abafwa

Ukwakana kwali cindama.

Ulo abantu bafwa baya babikwa pa ncende imo mukutusha. Kati waya muku pupila ku manda, amapepo enu onse alakwana kuli bonse abalele mpalya. Enshila yakwa kaninamo. Mu nshila imo ine ngo uwasunga icakulya ca mucungulo, asungila bonse mu kacelo pantu nabo bakafwaya ukulya nabo. Ekwebati: ngo uwasunga cakulya, asungila bonse.

Whoever prays spiritually for a deceased mother also prays for the rest of the dead

Sharing is important.

When people die, they are all laid to rest in one place: the graveyard. Therefore, when you perform your ritual at that location, your prayers will reach all those buried there. This is a form of sharing.

Similarly, a person who reserves food in the evening does so for everyone in the morning, as many will ask for a share. The one who reserves food, reserves it for all.

Nsoselo 273

Nibana kali mwitobo

Abatotela lwenka ndulya wabapa ubupe.

Ilingi line ngawapela umunobe icabupe, balatotela sana ukushimika nakuli bambi ati ulya muntu muweme, nangula icakulya inshita bakolya ukutotela sana. Nomba ngacapwa balalabukilako.

Those who thank you are still busy eating what you offered them

Those who thank you will soon forget about it.

In most cases, when you offer someone a gift, you will be praised, and they will tell others that you are a good person. They will also praise you as they eat your food. After that, they forget about it.

Nsoselo 274

Munshipaya alatola

Ishuko lishila munshila ishipusenepusene!

Telyonse ati abaya mukulunga ebepaya inama, iyo. Limbi kuti waima ati kanyendepo mpa pa mpanga mukunukula ubowa, ku ceshuko kusanga bwaka inama ili fwile iyo bambi abantu balashile. Nabendauka cabe mu mpanga kuti batola inama iyo inkalamo yashileko.

Non-hunters can come back with meat

With a little luck, people can achieve unexpected things.

It is not only hunters who return with 'the red thing'. Someone might venture into the wild to pick mushrooms and end up with game meat because an animal died at the spot where the mushrooms were growing. Similarly, those searching for masuku fruits might be lucky enough to find a leftover piece of meat left by a lion.

Nsoselo 275

Amano mambulwa

Amano twakwata afuma ku mano acifyalilwa ku benji. Tulapandashanya amano na banensu umo twaikala. Takwabapo umuntu ufyalwa namano, pantu amano twisa muku asanga panwe sonde. Ilingi line ngatatwishibe ifyakucita ne cintu cimo, twalinga twaipusha pakuti abacishibile batwebako ifyakucita. Yaliisa amasukulu umo tuya mukunonka amano, ayo nafwe tungapelako abanensu abateshibilepo ayo bakofwaya.

Ukukwata amano ayo utakobomfyapo ninshi na pindu tapapo, cimo nokutayakwatapo. Awayabomfya, nabanobe kuti bakutasha nokusambililako.

Wisdom is acquired

Each person's wisdom is the product and heritage of many. We share ideas and knowledge with those we know. No one is born with knowledge; we come to find it here on earth.

When we don't know how to approach an issue, we must ask so that those with the know-how can guide us. At school, we learn knowledge that we can pass on to those in need.

To be knowledgeable and not use this knowledge means there is no justification for having acquired it. When you use it for others, you are likely to be praised by your friends, and at the same time, they learn from you.



Nsoselo 276

Abang'o tabatulanapo

Takwabapo ukulabila pa fintu umunobe acita kati nawe eflyo ucita.

Incito itafwaikwa ku bantu abenji ilingi line icitwa ubushiku pamo ngo kwibila abantu nangu ukwipaya. Abacita ifi tabafwaya ukutula abanenu.

Thieves do not expose each other

There is no reason to point out what others do wrong when you yourself engage in the same types of activities.

Activities that should be hidden from others are typically done under the cover of darkness, particularly stealing and committing murder. Those who engage in these acts do not reveal each other's wrongdoings.

Nsoselo 277

Umukulu mupundu, ulatwalila mwi luba

Abantu abengi balikwata ubupe na mano afisama mukubweneka abaicefya, mubupina yangula ubukote.

Amafya esa pali ifwe, caisa sangwa aba bantu ebesa mukwafwa pali nga mafya. Lelo nangu bwafya bungeshila mu nshila ishupile, umukulu angesapo nenshila yakubomfya ubungo nangu amano abakulu bambi pakupwisa mbulya bwafya.

Insoselo imo yeka kuti yabomfiwa mu nshila abaice batanga fwaya kwakana naba byabo Kano ukubafwa bo ngacali bawamine: "Nga amano yapelwe nakuli we, nomba we wafilwa kupelako nabambi."

An elder is like the mupundu tree, which bears fruit beneath its flowers

Many people possess talents and knowledge hidden beneath their simple, poor, or aged appearances.

When problems arise, these individuals often prove to be the ones who help solve them. No matter how challenging a situation may be, an elderly person can devise a solution using their intellect and the collective wisdom of other elders.

This proverb can also be applied to situations where young people are unwilling to share their own knowledge but expect help when needed: "Wisdom was shared with you, yet you fail to share it with others."

Nsoselo 278

Umulwendo akokota amafupa ninshi uko ekala amina aatuntulu

Ekufilwa ukuilanga imisango/amabala yobe.

If visitors chew on bones, it implies they swallow whole bones at home

This is said when people do not show their true nature.

Nsoselo 279

Icikolokolo cikubepa, cufi munobe mukwanu

Umwana wabene mutaupilapo pamo angakubepa ukucila uo mwaikatana mu cupo.

Ulo waupila mu nanda, umunobe nao aisa kupilamo mweko mo, mwe nomba babili mwaba abanankanshi mu cupo. Ifyo angomfwa kubuko bakolabila pali we, akesa kukucenjeshako.

An outsider may cheat you, while a brother-in-marriage is your brother

An outsider, someone with no connection to you, might deceive you. However, those you are connected to through marriage will not.

Suppose a man marries into a family, and another man also marries into that same family. The two then become brothers by marriage. If one overhears what the in-laws say about the other, he will warn or inform the other accordingly.

Nsoselo 280

Ifyalula muntu bung'omba fyamipashi

Cilaposa nshita ikulu ukutabona pa muku yakwamba ukwishiba ngu muntu.

Umuntu angaboneka kubati ni mubomba bwa kwimba, kushana nokushika nyimbo nomba mukuya kwa kashita kaboneka ati takumako ku mipashi ya calo.

Cishupile kwishiba imibele ya muntu mpaka mwabona imicitile yakwe iya cila bushiku nokumfwa amashiwi alabila umwalekana lekana. Angula ngo uwaicefya ukwalula uwa bunkalwe naba taololoka ukulungama.

What changes a human being into an esteemed singer-dancer-composer are the spirits of ancestors and specialists

It takes more than first impressions to truly get to know someone.

A person may appear to be a talented singer-dancer-composer, but later it might turn out that they have no genuine connection with the spirit world.

It is difficult to ascertain a person's character until one has observed all their daily actions and heard their voice and words in a variety of circumstances. Perhaps then the humble turn out to be rough, and the crooked to be straight.



Nsoselo 281

Akana kabubele bunkumbwa

Icakubalilapo cila tentembwa sana. Ubwafya bonse buleta ubulanda ku bafyashi.

Umwana ibeli alatentembwa sana ukucila bambi, elyo ngakwacitike cibipile kuli ngu, cilaleta ubulanda sana.

The first-born is sorrow

The first-born is adored more than the children who come after. Every trouble this child experiences is felt as sorrow by the parents.

Utmost care is taken with the first-born child, and should something unfortunate happen to him or her, it brings great sorrow.

Nsoselo 282

Aka kubulile mfwa yaba noko, limo kalabile

Ilyashi libipile lilendesha kwenda; sumina ico wabalilapo ukupokelela.

Umuntu uuli pa lwendo, ngabamutuma ukutwala ilyashi. Lyakuti bacite nabacite mukabebe ati banyinenwe balifwile. Ifyo alabila pamuku umo mulingile ukufikonka.

Whoever informs you of your mother's death, will have only one thing to say

Bad news travels fast; accept what you hear first.

Imagine a man on a journey is asked to pass the message to you that your mother has passed away. He will not know more than this, so it is useless for you to start asking questions. Therefore, you must take what he says as it is.

Nsoselo 283

Ku mbonshi takuya ubwela

Fimbi ifyo mwalwile tafibwelelapo ifyo fyali. Mube nokwishiba ulo mukosuminisha pa lwakwalula.

Mu buntunse bwesu, abantu abafwa balabashika ku mbonshi ya mishi uko amatontonkanyo esu atupela ukulanguluka ati tabakabwele nakambi. Ku mbonshi kuba ukwatikama eco ne manda shabafwa eko babika.

From the west, no one returns

Certain changes are irreversible. Therefore, take care when making big decisions.

In our Lalaland, the west is regarded as unsuitable for living; people who die are buried on the western side of the villages. The west is dense, which is why cemeteries are placed there.

Nsoselo 284

Ubucilanshila tabwafya

Mubwikashi bwesu tamwafya amafya umo twikala.

Ulo twafyalwa tulasanga amafya ayo tuli nokupitamo. Mu calo mwaba naba tupata kanshi ubwafya bwalikwisa palifwe.

Crossing roads is inevitable

In the course of our lives, we cannot avoid facing problems.

From the moment we are born, we are faced with challenges that we must overcome. In this world, there will always be people who hate you, so be prepared for adversity.

Nsoselo 285

Abapalu tabendela mwiyaamba limo

Abantu bakwata imilimo imo ine tabafwaya ukubombela pamo.

Abapalu banama ilingi tabafwayapo ukwendela pamo pantu imisango babomfya pakwipaya inama yalipusana. Eico tekuti afwaye umunabo ukwishiba.

Master hunters will not go together on a hunting trip

People with similar special skills do not like to work together.

Master hunters do not like to go hunting together because their methods of hunting animals differ. They do not want others to know how they do it.

Nsoselo 286

Abapushi tabafwayanapo

Abantu abanang'ani abaikalila fye ukulomba lomba tabafwaya bantu bambi nabena ukulomba pa ncende bekalila kano nibofye beka.

Ukuiemwa ekulenga abantu uku kana fwaya ukuba pamo ukutontonkanya ati nakalimo tafyatukumane.

Beggars do not like each other

Lazy people who only want to lead an easy life would not like other lazy people in their village, because their presence could expose them.

Selfishness draws people away from loving each other, as they believe there will not be enough for everyone.

Nsoselo 287

Ikanga ililele insala kumutwi mupupulo

Ngawa pusa icilefwaikwa cimo, nafyonse fimbi filakosa.

Ikanga litalile bushiku bwafumapo talilalapo ukufikapo pantu mutwi uba uwaipekanya ngakwa citikapo cimo ubushiku.

Umo twaikalila panshita imo, tukumanya amafya ngo afwaya ukuya bombelapo lwenkolo.

Mpakafye yabombelwepo, tatwaikalile. Yakula tupela bwafya bwakulanguluka. Mpaka ubwasuko buboneke epakuti amano ekalile.

A hungry guinea fowl may sleep, but its head is always on guard

If you are missing one important thing, everything else becomes a lot more difficult.

A guinea fowl that had no food the previous day will not sleep soundly, as its head will always remain alert in case an opportunity arises at night.

In our daily dealings, at some point, we will encounter a problem that needs an urgent solution. But until that solution is found, we shall not be at ease; it will give us headaches. Only when a solution is found will our minds be free again.



Nsoselo 288

Mwimbona mamba mu numa nine nafyele imbeka

Wikwata ubupingushi pafyo ubwene kunse.

Nangu ningaboneka uwafiko, lelo ifyo nabomba teti musumine ati nine nafibombele.

Kwaliba bana abanansungu abaweme sana icakwebati awabona banyinabo, tekuti usuminepo ati ebabafyele. Kanshi twilasula ifyo abantu bamoneka. Nibani beshiba ati uyu namayo akafyala kateka wa calo? Takwabapo.

Don't look at the dirt on my back; it was I who produced the beautiful one

Do not base your judgement on outward appearances.

I may look dirty, so you might not believe that I was the one who produced this beauty.

Consider beautiful girls whose mothers, when you see them, might amaze you. Therefore, let us not make conclusions based on how people look. Who can know which woman is or will be the mother of a president governing a country? No one can.

Nsoselo 289

Umukulu nga awa tafya kabepesho

Ulo twapanga icilubo, tususha abaibelele ukuba ne cilubo.

Fimbi fintu fipona bwaka nomba cilatukosela ngafya citika kuli ifwe.

Twalinga ukubomfya amano ambi nokusumina ati tungafilwa. Tepakuletela lyashi limbi ukufilwa kumfwisha ifikomo.

When adults fall or fail, they look for excuses

Whenever we make a mistake, we try to blame someone or something else.

Certain things just happen, but we find it challenging when they happen to us.

We need to change our mindset and accept that sometimes we'll fail. Don't make up stories or ignore the facts.

Nsoselo 290

Akanama wingishe ku bwimba, takakatashapo kwimba

Icicetekelo ne subilo filangusha imilimo.

Tatusakamana ukuti apa nkoimba akanama palikosa pantu tuleshiba ukuti ako tukoimba kali panshi apa, kanshi epa kukosa sana mpaka tukembe. Nci cilatupela ukukosa muku kutaibwelamo. Ulo twimba imbeba, shilafuma nokubutukila mu kwaingila ku memba ambi. Pantu wasakushibona ku menso obe, epa kukwata icicetekelo nokutaibwelamo.

The little animal that entered its hole while you were chasing it will not be difficult to dig out

It is easier to work when you have hope and expectations.

We do not mind even if the ground is very hard to dig. We continue the hard work because we know the little animal is there underground. This gives us determination and prevents us from despairing.

When you go out to dig for mice, they will come out running fast and enter other holes. Just because you saw them with your own eyes, you will have more determination and despair less easily.

Nsoselo 291

Ameno mafupa

Mu bwikashi bwesu, telyonse ungatetekela ukweba ati abanandi balintemwa ku fintu ubona. Ulo pakati kenu nabanobe kwalubana, nabakupata nabo bakulaisa pa nanda yobe nokulanga ukuseka sana. Nawe pakubona ameno abo ulo bakoseka, ukeba ati balintemwa libe balikupata. Ifili mukati kabo fimbi.

Teeth are just bones

Even though a person may smile at you, you cannot know what is going on in their mind. Even those who hate you will visit your home and enjoy laughing with you. When you see their teeth as they laugh, never conclude that there is mutual friendship when there is hatred. You never know what is inside of them.

Nsoselo 292

Ulushaba lumu lwaïmishe mfumu pa cipuna

Indupwa shilakwata inshita yakulilamo icakulya. Akantu nelyo kacepe shani, imbi inshita kalakwata umucinshi wakuka konkela.

Nomba palaba limbi ilyo mukolya, pakulya penka mwaponyapo cimo ico muli nokubomfya, tamwaikale fye, mwalaima mukubula cilya cintu pakuti mukonkanyepo ukulya.

Ngefyo nji nsoselo ikolabila, imfumu yalikulya kapansha nomba lumo ulubalala kalupona, elyo imfumu yaimine mukutola ndulya lubalala

One peanut forced the chief to leave his throne

Small cases can have big consequences. No matter how insignificant a thing may seem, at some point, you will be compelled to address it.

There are times when you are eating and something drops on the ground. You will not let it go; you will stand to pick it up so that you can continue eating.

The chief was eating some peanuts. One dropped, and the chief had to leave his throne simply to pick it up.



Nsoselo 293

Nafwe nsonso, lelo balokwisa abalwendó

Uku neng'ena kwa ncende imo iya mubili kulangapo fimo.

Kulaba inshita imo ilyo icipeni cisunkana libilibibili kwati kututuma, nangu mu minwe nangu mukati ka lukasa mwaneng'ena ninshi mwishibe ati twalapokelapo fimo nangu kwalacitikapo cimo.

I have a tingling in the sole of my foot; visitors are coming today

A tingling sensation anywhere in the body is a premonition that something is about to happen. There are times when, for instance, eyelids behave differently by shaking automatically. This tingling means something will happen at your place or elsewhere. This could be the arrival of visitors or another event taking place.

Nsoselo 294

Pacaabu, betapo uwo wishi

Ukubombela muli cilupwa nangu ifibusa pakubala.

Calyanguka ukupele cilangililo ca muntu waishiba ngokososa kwi bumba, ukucila umuntu umbi utakwishiba.

Nowabusha abantu pa caabu (apo abantu babukila inika) mwakusanga'ti aitapo abo eshibile ngale ukubabusha ilyo atangatampa ukwabusha bambi. Yonse nshita baba mu mano obe.

At the ferry point, they start first with friends and relatives

It is normal to consider family and close friends before others.

This is, for instance, seen at a ferry point on a river where the ferryman will start with relatives and friends before others are given the service of being ferried.

When using a name as an example when addressing a public meeting, you will use one of family or friends rather than a random name. They are always on your mind.

Nsoselo 295

Mukutu alí enka, taikutulá

Ngoli weka tapali ifyo wingafunguluka mu mano.

Ifingi ifyo tutwala pa nsaka abanensu balafiwamya. Nga walyupa elo munanda mueshupana naba kashi, ili lyashi ngawalitwala pansaka banobe kuti bamona umo bengakwafwilisha pakuti mwaikala bwino.

Self-reliance will not solve all problems

When you decide to do everything on your own, there is no way you will advance in wisdom.

Whatever affair we take to our family or friends, they help us solve it. If you are married and have marital problems, once this issue is brought to them, they will try to help solve it so that you restore your love.

Nsosele shaku Bulaya

European proverbs

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 45

God helps those who help themselves

A proverb emphasising the importance of self-initiative. Work or don't eat. Don't just wait for good things to happen to you; work hard to achieve your goals. God is there for the helpless, but you cannot depend solely on divine help.

Mwewa: I thought you asked me to help you move this heavy load.

Nunda: Yes, I did.

Mwewa: But you're only watching me as I do the work, so I'm stopping: God helps those who help themselves.

Lesa afwa abayafwako abene

Insoselo ikonkomesha ubukulu bwakuilengula. Bomba nangu wilyapo. Wilokulindila ifiweme ukuti fise apo uli. Bombesha pakuti usange ifyo ukokabila. Lesa abelapo kuli mbo abatangayafwa, nomba tekushintilafye kubwafwilisho bwa mupashi.

Mwewa: Nalanguluka ati angula ukofwaya nebo nkwafweko ukusesha nji cipe cilemene?

Nunda: Ina nkofwaya.

Mwewa: Nomba ulindoleshefye ulo nkobomba, kanshi naleka: Lesa afwa abayafwa abene.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 46

Don't bite the hand that feeds you

Do not act against those on whom you depend. If anyone helps you or does something for you, you should not harm them; instead, you should treat them respectfully in return. If someone is paying you or helping you out, you must be careful not to make them angry or speak ill of them. If you feed an animal and it bites you on the hand, you will probably not feed it again. If you forget that a person has been helping you and you damage the relationship, you are 'biting the hand that feeds you'.

Musonda: Maseya, we have been your best customers for years, and suddenly you treat us so impolitely? You should never bite the hand that feeds you.

Tabasuma ukuboko kukukulisha

Tekweshwa ukucita icipyu icibi kubo walimbamo. Kati umbi akwafwa angula akubombela, taulingile kubacena, walinga waba tentemba bwino no mucinshi mukubalabula. Kati umbi akokulipila nagu ukukwafwilisha, ube uwa cenjela ukutamukalifya angula ukusosa ifibi pali bo. Ngo kolisha inama nombwa elo yakusuma ku kuboko pambi tekuti uilishe nakambi. Kati walabukila ati umbi umuntu alikukubombela muku kwafwa elo waonaula bucibusa, ninshi 'ukosuma ukuboko kuko kulisha'.

Musonda: Mwamona, ba Maseya, ifwe twalikushita kuli we pamyaka elo penka mpa wakana ukutepa umucinshi? Tabasuma kuboko kukukulisha.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 47

Discretion is the better part of valour

Caution is better than rashness.

It is good to be brave, but it is better to be careful. Sometimes it is important to know when to give up and run away, instead of always acting brave and perhaps getting hurt.

Chola: Can I go hunting in Chisomo with my friends, father? Changwe: No.

Chola: But they will say I'm a coward if I don't go!

Changwe: Discretion is the better part of valour; I'd rather have them call you a coward than risk your life.

Ukusopeshiwa takuletapo ifyongo, kulawaminisha

Ukusopesha kwawamapo ukucila ukutasakamanapo.

Ciweme ukushipa nomba nokucenjelapo. Limbi cikankala kwishiba inshita yakuleka no kubutukako, ukucila ukushipa limbi wacenemwamo.

Chola: Napo nkaye kwa Chisomo mukulunga nabanandi, bata? Changwe: Iyo.

Chola: Nomba balikunjeba ati ndi wamwenso nganshileko!

Changwe: Ukusopeshiwa kwa wamapo, ningatemwa bakokwita fyekefyo ukucila ukulusa umweo obe.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 48

It never rains but it pours

Bad or good, things don't just happen one at a time; they happen in waves.

Mangala: This morning I had a flat tyre, then after walking to the field my hoe handle broke, and walking back I fell in the mud.
Kasubika: It never rains but it pours.

Chibolele: My sister informed me that she and her family are coming from town on Wednesday, then my aunt informed me that she and her family are also coming on Wednesday, and now it turns out my brothers are also coming on that same day. It never rains ...

Tailokapo, kwiitika itika bwaka

Ifintu ifiweme ne fibi taficitika ifinono pakashita kamo, fyonse fisa mukucitikila pamo akashita kamo kene.

Mangala: Lelo akacelo nacikwata iwilo ilipompolokele, nomba ulo nasa mukuya kwi bala umupini wa luse nawo wasa kutobeka, nakambi pakubwela nasa kuwila mumatipa.

Kasubika: Tailokapo, kwitika itika bwaka.

Chibolele: Bankashi yanji banjebele ati bo no lupwa lwabo bakafuma ku tauni pa citatu, nabo bamuka yama bakwisa nolupwa lwabo penka pa citatu, ukiumfwa nakambi ati bakwasu nabo bene bakesa pabushiku bumo bwine. Tailokapo ...



Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 49

If you can't beat them, join them

When you try to change someone's behaviour and it doesn't work, *you* might have to change instead.

If your adversaries are stronger than you, it is better to join them. The way to take over the opposition's strength is to adopt their positions and plan of action.

Munsele: Chibale, if you're trying to get your classmates to focus on studying, but they want to play, maybe you should just play with them.

Kati wafilwa ukubacimfya, nawe banabo

Kati ulo ukofwaya ukwalula imibele yakwe nomba taikobombapo, niwe walinga ukwalula. Kati amaka akucimfyanya akucila, cawama wakonka ayo mano. Mu nshila ungasendela amaka abale kucimfya kukonka amaka abo mufyo bapekenye.

Munsele: Chibale, ngacakuti ukofwaya abanobe babike amano mukusambilila nomba bo bakofwaya umusala, yangula icingalinga niwe ukusala nabo.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 50

People who live in glass houses should not throw stones

Do not criticise other people if you have similar weaknesses yourself.

If you are a person who is easily offended, do not go around offending people.

Ngosa: Chibale drank far too much at the beer party.

Mushili: I noticed you had quite a few beers yourself; people who live in glass houses should not throw stones.

Abantu abekala mu mananda ama kalashi tabalinga kuposa amabwe

Wilokususha abantu bambi kati nawe walikwata ubunake kubati nibo.

Ngolakalipa bwangu, wilokuya mukukalifya abantu bambi.

Ngosa: Chibale alinwine ubwala sana.

Mushili: Nawe nalibwene ati nawe walinweshe ubwalwa; abantu bekala mu mananda ama kalashi tabalingile kuposa amabwe.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 51

Hope for the best and prepare for the worst

Maintain a positive attitude, but be prepared for setbacks.

Chisenga: While my mother was in the hospital after she had gone unconscious, we hoped for the best but prepared for the worst and took what came.

Mambwe: Why not make the effort to try and solve the problem that way? You can always hope for the best but should be prepared for the worst.

Subila ifiweme nokuipekanyako ku fibi

Kwata amano akupokelela nokushininkisha ukuba uwaipekanya na ku fibi.

Chisenga: Ulo bama bali mu cipatala ulo batakwete amano, twakwete isubilo lyakuti babe bwino nokuipekanya ukupokelela ifyo fyonse fingacitika.

Mambwe: Nindo mutangakwatila amaka akwesho kupwisha amafya muli ngu musango. Kulo kukwata lyonse isubilo lya kuwama nokuipekanya naku fibi fyonse.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 52

Keep your friends close and your enemies closer

If you have an enemy, pretend to befriend them rather than openly fighting. That way, you can watch them carefully and discover their plans.

Mupeta: When we were in the bar, why did you make friends with that horrid Mumba?

Kaluba: You must keep your enemies close to get to know them.

Mupeta: Ah, but when you keep your enemies that close, how can you keep close to your friends?

Palamika ifibusa mupepi nabalwani ubapalamisheko mupepi

Kati uli no mulwani, mulange ati uli cibusa wakwe ukucila ukubalwisha mu cintubwingi. Muli nji nshila ukabamona nokwishiba ifyo bakopekanya.

Mupeta: Ulo twali mu nanda ya bwalwa, nindo wacibela bucibusa naulya mubi Mumba?

Kaluba: Ulingile ukuba nabalwani mupepi pakubeshiba bwino bwino.

Mupeta: Ah, nomba kati eflyo waliba nabo abalwani mupepi, nomba ukaba shani mupepi ne fibusa fyobe?

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 53

The pen is mightier than the sword

Trying to persuade people with ideas and words is more effective than forcing them to do what you want. More influence and power can be gained through writing than through fighting. A sword can only affect those directly in front of you, but a pen, depending on what is written, can influence the entire world.

Kabinda: They want to force us to abandon the area where we dug a ditch. They are becoming increasingly unfriendly.

Mukosha: Write to the chief with this complaint instead of resorting to conflict. The pen is mightier than the sword.

Icilembelo cakwatisha amaka ukucilapo pa cibeshi

Ukwesha ukushinina abantu mumalangulushi alabombapo bwino ukucila ukubapatikisha ukucita icintu ico we ukofwaya. Ukubasengula namaka cingakosa mukulemba ukucila mukulwa.

Ungakwanisha abantu ngoli nabo ne cibeshi, nomba nalo ungakwanisha isonde lyonse ukubomfya icilembelo mufyo ukofwaya ukusosa.

Kabinda: Bakofwaya fwe ukusha njino ncende apo twimbile cilindi. Balitampile ukutomfwanapo.

Mukosha: Lembeleni kuli ba Mfumu, abakulu be boma naba muputule, pakwebati musale ishina linga linga mpano mukuilishanya ukucila ubulwi. Icilembelo cakwatishapo amaka ukucila icibeshi.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 54

Don't put all your eggs in one basket

Do not risk all your money or time on one plan.
Keep your options open. Have a backup plan.

Muyinga: I have put all my spare money on one lottery ticket. If I win, I will make big money.
Mulenga: Yes, you will: *if*, but you have put all your eggs in one basket. Why didn't you invest the money in a few activities instead of in only one?

Mwisungila mani onse mu cipe cimo

Mwiposa ndalama shenu nangu akashita mubuteyanyo bumo.
Kwateni ifyo muteyenye fishibikwe. Kwatilenipo namabuteyanyo nayambi.

Muyinga: Nabikisha shonse ndalama mukwasha ukuwina pamuku umo. Ngana wina nkakwata indalama ishingi.
Mulenga: Ina mwakukwata: nomba nindo mwabikila amani onse mu cipe cimo. Nindo mutabikile shimbi ndalama ku milimo imbi ukucila muli imo?

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 55

The grass is always greener on the other side of the hill

A proverb about discontent, jealousy, and envy. People tend to desire whatever they do not possess, often believing they would be happier in different circumstances, frequently without fully understanding those circumstances.

Mwenda: I envy you, Mwape; you are successful.

Mwape: To be honest, I envy you. I always have people backbiting me out of jealousy, and if the smallest thing goes wrong, people react as if I have lost everything.

Mwenda: Thank you, I have never looked at it that way. The grass is always greener on the other side.

Icani lyonse caba icakatapa katapa kubwishilya lya lupili

Insoselo iya kutatemwa, ulupato nobukali. Abantu batemwa ukufwaya ifyo batakwete.

Abantu lyonse batontonkanuya ukwebati bangaba ne nsansa mu mibele ipusene pusene mukuteshiba ifyaba mulinjo mibele.

Mwenda: Ndakutina Mwape, walikwanisha.

Mwape: Mu cinenene, nawe ndakutina. Lyonse nalikwata abantu abandabilila kunuma nolupato elo akacilubo nangu kacepe shani bonse balangwela kubati nifyonse nalufya.

Mwenda: Natotela, tamuli mumusango uyo umu nkabwena. Icani lyonse caba ica katapa katapa ku bwishilya bwa lupili.



Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 56

Absence makes the heart grow fonder

The lack of something increases the desire for it.

You will like someone or something better if that person or thing is far away.

The time you spend away from one you love makes you love that person even more. It is the opposite of 'out of sight, out of mind'.

Kabinda: Does it bother you that your husband goes away on long business trips?

Kalunga: No. The time we have spent apart has been good for us. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

Ukutabonekapo kulenga umutima ukutemwisha

Ukubulilwa kwa cintu kulundapo ukutemwa ukucikwata.

Ukatemwa umbi nangu icintu cimbi kuwamisha ngulya muntu angula ncilya cintu ngacili ukutali.

Akashita wakwikala weka ukufuma kuli ngulya muntu watemwisha kulenga ukumutemwisha sana. Capusana nokweba ati 'afuma mu menso, afuma na mumano'.

Kabinda: Napo cila kusakamika ngacakuti umulume obe afumapo aya mukushitako ifipe panshita itali?

Kalunga: Iyo, akashita twaikala ukutabonana kali bwino. Ukutabonekapo kulenga umutima ukutemwisha.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 57

All good things must come to an end

You cannot have good luck or fun forever; eventually, it will cease. Nothing lasts forever, especially something good. Do not cling to the idea that what you have will last forever.

Mondwa: Come, we have to leave.

Chikoloma: But it is such a nice party!

Mondwa: Yes, it was good, but all good things come to an end.

Chibuye: If only I could be in love like this forever.

Kabamba: All good things must come to an end.

Chibuye: Ah!

Kabamba: If a good thing never ended, it wouldn't be a good thing ... it would become quite boring.

Fyonse ifiweme filesako mukupwa

Tekutipo ukonkanye ukuba neshuko nangu ukwangala lyonse bwaka, limbi limbi fikaleka.

Takwaba icibelelela, makamaka ngaciweme. Wikonenena mu mano akuti fikabelelela lyonse.

Mondwa: Isa, katulokuya.

Chikoloma: Nomba uku kwangala kuweme.

Mondwa: Ina kuweme nomba fyonse ifiweme filesa mukupwa.

Chibuye: Ngacaliweme nganali muli nci citemwiko calyonse bwaka.

Kabamba: Fyonse ifintu fyalikwata impela.

Chibuye: Oho ho!

Kabamba: Ngacakuti iciweme tacali nakupwa, naco ninshi taciweme ... cingakutendusha.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 58

Familiarity breeds contempt

The more you know something or someone, the more you begin to notice their flaws, faults, and fumbles.

When you are around people for too long, you grow tired of them or become annoyed by them. Unfamiliarity and respect appear to be linked. Therefore, it requires effort to respect the people you know well and depend upon! Something rare will generally be more respected.

Kasubika: That famous singer doesn't let anyone get to know him well, because he knows that familiarity breeds contempt.

Icishibishi cileta ukusulwa

Ngawaishibisha nokubelesha icintu nangu umuntu cileta nombamba ukusulwa, nokusanga ifilubo muli bambi.

Ngawaikala nabantu panshita ntali, kulaba ukunaka nabo nokukana bafwaya.

Ukutabelela no mucinshi fyalikatana. Kanshi kuba ukubikako amaka pakuti uba cindike abo waishiba bwino nokushintililako! Icitaboneka libili libili co cilafwaya ukucicindikisha sana.

Kasubika: Njo ng'omba yalumbukwa uwaishibikwa sana taifwayapo ukuti uli onse imwishibishe pantu yalishiba ati icishibishi cileta ukusulwa.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 59

You can lead a horse to water, but you cannot make it drink

You can make it easy for someone to do something, but you cannot force them to do it if they do not want to. People, like horses, will only do what they have a mind to do.

If you try to help someone, but they do not take your advice or offers, give up. You cannot force someone to accept your help. Many people resist the influence that 'help' has on them.

Ngosa: Why didn't you accept the help your older brother offered you?

Bangwa: He can lead a horse to water ... but I wanted to make my own decisions.

Ungatangilila kabalwe ku menshi, nomba tawamupatikishepo ukunwa

Kuti wacangusha ku muntu pakuti acicite, nomba tekutu ubapatikishe ukucita ico batakofwayapo ukucita. Abantu, kwati nibakalwe, bakacita ico bali naco mu mano.

Ngawaesha ukwafwa umbi, nomnba tabakofwayapo uku kumfwa, fileke. Tekuti upatikishe umo utakofwaya bwafwilisho bobbe. Abengi tabafwaya bwafwilisho buli palibo.

Ngosa: Nindo utasakusuminina bwafwilisho ndume yobe asa kukupela?

Bangwa: Tekuti utangilile kabalwe ku menshi nasa mukufwaya kucita ico nkofwaya.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 60

Necessity is the mother of invention

When you are really in need, you will discover creative solutions to your problems.

Need is the ultimate motivator. Difficult situations encourage inventive solutions.

Pande: I need an excavator to dig a trench for my garden.

Munsele: Can't you find another solution? Pande: No.

Munsele: Then your need may not be big enough; necessity is the mother of invention.

When the fan belt on Mumba's car broke in the middle of nowhere, she used her stockings as a replacement. Necessity is the mother of invention.

Ukukabilisha kulenga ukupangilisha

Ngo kofwaisha icintu, ukatontokanyapo ifyo wingapwisha nga mafya.

Ukufwaya ekampingu wakulekelesha. Amafya akosa afwilisha ukusanga apatali ifyakucita.

Pande: Nkofwaya ci masembe cakwimba icilindi mwibala lyandi.

Munsele: Tapapo inshila imbi? Pande: Iyo.

Munsele: Ubufwayo bobo tabukulile ukulingana, ukukabilisha kulenga ukupangilisha.

Ulo intambo ya mwela ku motoka yakwa Mumba yaputwike pa pakati kanshila, abomfeshe ama shitokeni aku molo. Ukukabilisha kulenga ukupangilisha.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 61

The proof of the pudding is in the eating

You don't know the quality of something until you have tried it or experienced it.

Kalale: They say that this is the best way to make the cattle grow fast.

Musonda: But it requires a lot of investment. How do you know it really works?

Kalale: It is written in the magazines.

Musonda: Then be careful; the proof of the pudding is in the eating.

Icishininkisho camu cakulya ni mukulyako

Tekwishibapo ukukosa kwa cintu kano ulo wacesha nokubona.

Kalale: Beba ati enshila imo iyawamishapo pa kwishiba ifyo ingombe shikula bwangu.

Musonda: Nomba kufwaikwa icuma icingi. Waishiba shani ati filabomba?

Kalale: Fyalilembwa mu mapepala.

Musonda: Kanshi cenjela, icishininkisho camu cakulya ni mukulyako.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 62

Da hedde en da kredde

This is a proverb from the cultural area of one of the authors: Brabant in the Netherlands. It means: "These things happen, and now they are happening to you." It is used when something really bad happens to a person, and it is meant to be partly consolatory, partly emphasising the inevitability of fate. A close Lala proverb is *Icili pa munobe, mailo nipali we*: What another person experiences today, tomorrow will be on you.

Mupeta: My mother has just become a grandmother and is only 42 years of age; why did she have to become so seriously ill? Mambwe: *'t Is sund, da hedde en da kredde* – Too bad, these things happen and now they are happening to you.

Ifyakucitikila fisa bwaka

Nji nsoselo yafumine mu ncende ya ntambi ba kalemba bamo, umwikala ba Jan IJzermans: itwa Brabant mu calo ca Netherlands. Ikososa ati ifintu ficitika bwaka nomba fyatampa ukucitikilwa kuli we. Baibomfya ulu icintu icibipile cacitika ku muntu elo baibomfya ukumuteka umutima ulu ai muli mbu bwafya. *Icili pa munobe, mailo nipali we*.

Mupeta: Bama pekapa baba ba mbuya ulu bali nemyaka amakumi ane na ibili, nindo balwalisha mfi?

Mambwe: *Icili pa munobe, mailo cili pali we*. Cabipa, filacitika nomba lelo fyaba pali we.



Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 63

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link

Imagine a chain with iron links except for one wooden link. This chain is no stronger than a chain made entirely of wooden links.

A message can travel from village to village quite quickly if someone in each village takes it over and immediately passes it on to the next village. The message will not spread as quickly as it should when, in one village, they wait until the next day to pass it on.

Chinguwa: We have some great players in our team, but we rarely win.

Chibale: Maybe you should look at the weaker players instead of the best. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link.

Umunyololo wakosafye kubati bunake bwauko

Langulukeni umwando wa cela uwakwata umwakulundila umuli fyela pamo epali kulundwa ne citi. Tapali ico ngu mwando wa cela ungacita ico ngu weka wakwata imilundo ya fiti.

Ilyashi kuti lyafuma mu mushi kuya mu mushi umbi mukwangufyanya ngacakuti cila mushi mukofuma umo ewatwala mu mushi ukonkelepo. Ilyashi tekuti lyendepo bwangu nga mushi umo imbi mishi ikololela pakweba ati lyashi likafike mu bushiku bwakonkapo.

Chinguwa: Twalikwata abaishibishe kuteya mupila mwibumba lyesu, nomba telingi tucimfya.

Chibale: Yangula mukuloleshapo napali mbalya abataishibisha teku bona benka abaishibisha. Umwando wa cela uba ukwakosa kubati nimpalya paba ubunake apa kulundila.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 64

Curiosity killed the cat

Do not be too inquisitive; it might lead you into risky situations.

Kaluba: Where did you get all that beer?

Mushili: Curiosity killed the cat.

Mukosha: Your former curiosity about drugs has led to your present state of destitution. Curiosity killed the cat.

Ukufwaisha ukwishibilapo nafimbi ekwaipeye ka pushi

Tacalinga ukwipushisha pantu kuti fyakutwala mu nshila ibipile.

Kaluba: Nikwisa uko wafunya bonse mbu bwalwa?

Mushili: Ukufwaisha ukwiishibilapo nafimbi ekwaipeye ka pushi.

Mukosha: Ukufwaisha ukwishibilapo palwa miti lwakukutwala mumubelo ubelelemo wakubulilwa fyonse, ukufwaisha ukwishibilapo nafimbi ekwaipeye ka pushi.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 65

One man's trash is another man's treasure

Different people have different ideas about what is valuable.

Chisenga: How can you eat snake meat? That's horrible!

Mulenga: I like to eat pythons; they are very nutritious. Your trash seems to be my treasure.

Icinangwa cingaba icuma kuli bambi

Mukupusana kwabantu emo bakwatila ukwishiba ifingalinga.

Chisenga: Nindo ungalila umunani wa nsoka, cintu icibipile!

Mulenga: Nalitemwa ukulya insato shiweme sana. Ishala lyobe nebo emuli icuma.

Nsoselo yaku Bulaya 66

You reap what you sow

Everything that happens to you is a result of your own actions.

Your today is the result of your yesterday, and your tomorrow will be the result of your today.

Watch the way you live your life, because you are going to reap what you sow.

Mambwe: Mumba is not well-loved because of her frequent backbiting; now they're backbiting her.

Kapenda: She reaps what she sowed.

Sombola ifyo wabyele

Fyonse ifikocitika kuli we fifuma mufyo ucita.

Bushiku bobbe lelo bufuma kufya mailo na mailo ifuma mufya lelo.

Boneni ifyo mukoikala mubumi bwenu pantu mukoisa ku sombola ifyo mwabyele.

Mambwe: Mumba tabamutemwapo umulandu wakushobaula ababye, lelo ewo bakoshabula.

Kapenda: Asombola ifyo abyele.

Icakubwenako pa kufwaya

Index of themes

Icakubwenako pa kufwaya

Ndo lyonse muko lolesha pa mitwi ya nsoselo, ifintu fisano fileesa mukubweneka, cimo cilakwata ibili angula isano na abili imitwe inini. Nji mitwe ikulu yilashinguluka ninshi ikobomba, ukwakanya nokubombela pamo, ukukonkomesha ukwikatana pamo, kupanga amano ne mibele iyinji abantu bangakwata. Muli nku kufwailikisha imitwe inini yibela panshi ya mutwe ukulu, pakonka ne nambala ya nsoselo nsho shiba munshi ya mitwe inini. Insoselo shili mu mitwe inini kuti shaleta ukuwamina imitwe angula, ukutafikapo, ukulanga ifitaweme po.

Ukuba uwakubomba

Ukuposuka, kano tube aba kubomba, ukuposako amano nokutantika icakubalilapo, pekanya nshita nafyonse bwino, ukwishiba ifya kusuminisha nokusunga mpaka fyapwa.

Ukucita kulafwaikwa: 56, 67, 105, 107, 111, 114, 121, 132, 135, 202.

Bikeniko amano nokufibika umo fikonkanine: 5, 30, 31, 38, 75, 125, 129, 223.

Icaku balilapo ne cakonkapo: 1, 2, 20, 22, 43, 138, 166.

Ishibeni ifya kusuminisha: 35, 40, 66, 86, 143, 154, 194, 208, 219, 260, 266, 269, 283.

Sungeni mpaka fyapwa: 93, 142, 162, 180, 203, 211.

Ukwa kana noku bombela pamo

Tungekala shani ngata pali ukwakana nokumfwana pamo?

Ukwa kana: 3, 7, 13, 17, 23, 61, 157, 192, 221, 225, 246, 247, 272.

Ukwa kana amano: 10, 24, 62, 73, 81, 118, 123, 163, 182, 229, 233, 253, 270, 275, 277, 285.

Ukukusha abana: 9, 12, 34, 39, 59, 64, 85, 122, 133, 148, 152, 173, 174, 181, 281.

Ukubombela pamo: 8, 14, 25, 48, 76, 82, 104, 139, 210, 244, 262, 295.

Ukukoselesha mu kwitana pamo

Tulafwaisha nabambi emulandu wine tukosesha muku bikako amano pa kwikatana. Panshita imo yeka, cikankala ukubona ati nibani abakubona pakubala.

Ukusungilila ukwikatana: 16, 19, 26, 42, 106, 116, 117, 120, 124, 128, 137, 140, 141, 146, 161, 213, 222, 226, 228, 232, 235, 236, 241, 291.

Abalupwa, ifibusa, nabakwishibana nabo tushaishibana abeni: 6, 27, 46, 50, 54, 55, 58, 63, 74, 109, 119, 144, 168, 185, 187, 191, 193, 209, 220, 249, 255, 259, 261, 267, 273, 279, 294.

Ukupanga amano

Pa kufika pa masuko ngo afwaya nabaibimbilemo mu kwasuka, cikankala ukwishiba mu musango twalaya pangilamo: ukupitila (ngacingalinga ku bene) ukulolesha bwino nama tontonkanyo ayaweme kupitila mukuba nabo nokuti yacitike mukufwaya inshila yakuyafwailamo. Fyonse mfi nokwibukisha ati mu kashita icine cikamoneka.

Ukulolekesha: 41, 44, 68, 71, 77, 78, 80, 165, 171, 178, 183, 189, 238, 240, 257, 280, 282.

Ne tontonkanyo luweme: 51, 52, 53, 60, 69, 70, 72, 83, 84, 126, 150, 151, 155, 159, 160, 172, 176, 184, 205, 224, 252, 254, 258, 268, 278, 292, 293.

Ukulabila (angula ukutalabila): 15, 18, 28, 33, 45, 79, 94, 113, 156, 204, 207, 217, 227, 239, 243, 256, 264, 271.

Icishinka cikafuma: 87, 88, 90, 115, 158, 170, 218.

Imibele na bantu bambi

Fyonse ifyalandwa pali ino nshita fikankala, nomba ne mibele yabantu nabena nailingana. Imibele iweme muli ukucingilila nokutalusha kubusanso, umutekatima, kukana kwata ukubutukila, isubilo kubomba kutwala kubune noku bwelela inuma.

Ukucingilila no kukana bika milimo mu mafya: 29, 36, 65, 91, 101, 108, 134, 149, 169, 175, 177, 215, 230, 234, 250, 265, 284.

Umuteka mutima nokufumyapo akasaku: 32, 102, 110, 127, 147, 212.

Isubilo lyakubombela ukulola muku muwamina: 4, 37, 57, 89, 186, 201, 245, 248, 263, 274, 290.

Ukubwelela kunuma: 49, 103, 112, 164, 167, 206, 216, 251, 287.

Imibele ibipile: 11, 92, 131, 136, 145, 153, 179, 190, 214, 289.

Kufumyapo ifikanya kulandapo: 21, 47, 231, 237, 242, 288.

Noku itemwa palobe: 130, 188, 195, 276, 286.

Index of themes

When examining the themes and subjects of the proverbs, five main themes emerge, each comprising two to seven subthemes. These main themes revolve around being active, sharing and collaborating, fostering social relationships, constructing knowledge, and the various attitudes people may hold. In this index, the subthemes are listed under each main theme, followed by the numbers of the proverbs that fall under that subtheme. The proverbs within a subtheme can constitute a positive expression of the theme or, conversely, reveal a negative expression.

Being active

To survive, we must be active, concentrate and prioritise the most important tasks, prepare well and time things correctly, know how to make decisions, and persevere until finished.

Action is needed: 56, 67, 105, 107, 111, 114, 121, 132, 135, 202.

Concentrate and prioritise: 5, 30, 31, 38, 75, 125, 129, 223.

Prepare and time things well: 1, 2, 20, 22, 43, 138, 166.

Know how to make decisions: 35, 40, 66, 86, 143, 154, 194, 208, 219, 260, 266, 269, 283.

Persevere until finished: 93, 142, 162, 180, 203, 211.

Sharing and cooperating

How could we live without sharing and cooperating?

Sharing: 3, 7, 13, 17, 23, 61, 157, 192, 221, 225, 246, 247, 272.

Sharing knowledge: 10, 24, 62, 73, 81, 118, 123, 163, 182, 229, 233, 253, 270, 275, 277, 285.

Raising children: 9, 12, 34, 39, 59, 64, 85, 122, 133, 148, 152, 173, 174, 181, 281.

Cooperating: 8, 14, 25, 48, 76, 82, 104, 139, 210, 244, 262, 295.

Fostering social relationships

We need others, and therefore we must make a real effort to maintain social relations. At the same time, it is important to prioritise certain relationships.

Maintaining social relations: 16, 19, 26, 42, 106, 116, 117, 120, 124, 128, 137, 140, 141, 146, 161, 213, 222, 226, 228, 232, 235, 236, 241, 291.

Relatives, friends, acquaintances, and strangers: 6, 27, 46, 50, 54, 55, 58, 63, 74, 109, 119, 144, 168, 185, 187, 191, 193, 209, 220, 249, 255, 259, 261, 267, 273, 279, 294.

Constructing knowledge

To arrive at solutions that take stakeholders into account, it is crucial that we understand how we construct knowledge: through (preferably direct) observation, by reasoning about those observations via association or cause and effect, and by deciding how to communicate the findings. All this with the realisation that ultimately the truth will always emerge.

Observing: 41, 44, 68, 71, 77, 78, 80, 165, 171, 178, 183, 189, 238, 240, 257, 280, 282.

Reasoning: 51, 52, 53, 60, 69, 70, 72, 83, 84, 126, 150, 151, 155, 159, 160, 172, 176, 184, 205, 224, 252, 254, 258, 268, 278, 292, 293.

Speaking (or not): 15, 18, 28, 33, 45, 79, 94, 113, 156, 204, 207, 217, 227, 239, 243, 256, 264, 271.

The truth will come out: 87, 88, 90, 115, 158, 170, 218.

Attitude

All points discussed so far are important, but people's attitudes are equally so. Positive attitudes include prevention and risk management, patience, avoiding haste, hope, working towards good fortune, and resilience. Problematic attitudes—those that disturb or harm others—include bad habits, prejudices, and self-centredness.

Prevention and risk management: 29, 36, 65, 91, 101, 108, 134, 149, 169, 175, 177, 215, 230, 234, 250, 265, 284.

Patience and avoiding haste: 32, 102, 110, 127, 147, 212.

Hope and working towards good fortune: 4, 37, 57, 89, 186, 201, 245, 248, 263, 274, 290.

Resilience: 49, 103, 112, 164, 167, 206, 216, 251, 287.

Bad habits: 11, 92, 131, 136, 145, 153, 179, 190, 214, 289.

Prejudices: 21, 47, 231, 237, 242, 288.

Self-centredness: 130, 188, 195, 276, 286.

Ibuku nombā lyashīla

And now the book is finished