

It was a span of prisoners to which I was present in 1967 which was working on the sea-shore of the Atlantic Ocean on Robben Island. We were working not far from the house in which the Prof. was house-arrested. It was a great moment for young members of the Pan Africanist Congress like myself.

When the Prof. heard the sound of our voices he came out of his room with the spade and the rabe.

Immediately he appeared ^{simultaneously} we automatically took our caps off our heads having not been told by anybody to do that. He first made signs such as clasping his hands together and we understood to him to be urging us to unite and crossed his arms on his chest and that meant to us that he would be happy if we remained reconnected.

Matthew Mokoena started saying in Xhosa

"Xa kunje siye sikhumbule amazwi kaHoratius"

(When it is like this we remember the words of Horatius)

"Indoda incinda kakuhle njaniwa
(How good a man die better)

Before Mr Mokoena finished the stanza of that poem the Prof. responded saying in Xhosa.

"Live"
(Yes)

It was remarkable because Xhosa wasn't the home language of Mr Mokoena but because he came from Natal'spruit he didn't find it difficult to perfect his Xhosa on Robben Island. Many people from the rural areas of the Cape and some of whom were created working as migrant labourers in cities such as Cape Town made many Africans from Transvaal to learn Xhosa in order to be able to communicate with their fellow PACISTS who were illiterate.

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