

**Black Liberations Movement Mosaic**  
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Oral History Interview  
with  
Mr. Sandizo Mayedwa  
By Atandi Anyona  
King William's Town, South Africa  
August 12, 2008

Interview with Mr. Sandizo Mayedwa

Interviewed on August 12, 2008

Location: King William's Town, Eastern Cape, South Africa

Interviewer: Atandi Anyona

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Atandi Anyona: Ready? Okay my name is Atandi Anyona I'm from Dickinson College, and I'm interviewing Sandizo. And I'll begin by asking you just to introduce yourself, your names, and where you live and where you study.

Sandizo Mayedwa. Okay. My name is Sandizo Mayedwa. I live in King William's Town in the Eastern Cape in South Africa, I study at Dale College. I'm doing my final year there which is matric, grade 12. And, yeah, small is it.

Atandi Anyona: Okay, just basically okay we know this is sort of the region where Steve Biko was born and he did his activities. And... so how much of Steve Biko and Black Consciousness Movement do you know?

Sandizo Mayedwa: I don't know much about that because I wasn't born in that era of Apartheid, you know, I was still very young. I don't know much about Steve Biko and, you know, all I know is what I read from books and I study at school, which, and I've been to his burial site before, you know, and where he used to stay in Ginsberg and, just yeah that's just the usual facts you know I wasn't alive to see the things happening and the... other things.

Atandi Anyona: But do you know anything about, like, his philosophies or anything like that?

Sandizo Mayedwa: Philosophies? Um.. nah, nah, nah.

Atandi Anyona: Okay okay. And right now I know there is a big issue about the creation of new monuments in either King William's Town or East London. How do you think would be a good way to remember people like Steve Biko and all they've done?

Sandizo Mayedwa: A good way would be... the v-... no, um, is to... have a more foc-, focus more on him at schools you know like, in the history instead of us learning about things like Bolshevings [*sic*] and all different things from Russia and American history you know we should focus more on South African history, you know and learn more about Steve Biko and our heritage and you know, cuz I as a person don't know much about Steve Biko and all the other people who are fighting for us in Apartheid I just know the, what I get from news and books you know, just in general, you know I don't have a

deep... in-depth view on what happened and... stuff like that so we, they should actually have it more in schools you know... more teachings about them.

Atandi Anyona: And with regards to things like museums, you know. For example the museums around really have a lot about, let's say, the Afrikaaners and all that. Do you think it would help at all to have things that are dedicated to more black heroes like Walter Sisulu, Biko, Mandela?

Sandizo Mayedwa: Yes, that would be nice you know, because you know when you look at... as, when I was still in junior school when I went to the museum I never really found anything interesting you know because there was nothing about our African heroes who... in Apartheid you know. You could hardly, especially in King William's Town, you can hardly even see things that were Nelson Mandela in the museums, nothing like that, that would also help.

Atandi Anyona: Okay, okay. And, also with regard to the anti-Apartheid struggle, like, of course for you you are the younger generation, can you be able to associate to the Apartheid times, or only your parents can be able to do that... or does it affect you in any way?

Sandizo Mayedwa: It doesn't really affect me in any way. It's more my parents you know because all I know is what I hear and what I read, so... there's nothing much.

Atandi Anyona: Okay, and... one of the important things about the liberation struggle was song. We heard a lot of liberation songs. In your current generation do you usually listen to liberation songs, or are you more into popular music or what do you listen to yourself?

Sandizo Mayedwa: It's not that I listen to them you know, we... we have certain times we just sing those songs you know because we... they inspire us you know they... you have those songs where you just feel good and they sound right you know, and you sing them as friends you know and we just laugh about them you know. We don't have the (inaudible) that our parents were in pain and you know our grandfathers were in pain when (inaudible). We see those songs as joyous songs, we enjoy them. We don't usually listen to them but we sing them from time to time. I'm a person who listens to, how can I say, the popular music most of the time when I'm at home you know – popular music American, South African, mixture of all the different kinds of music.

Atandi Anyona: Has the liberation songs had any influence on contemporary music like, let's say, Kwaito (inaudible), or is it something very different?

Sandizo Mayedwa: It has in your hip-hop. You have people like HHP and... that's someone I actually know of who actually sings about Apartheid you know and he raps about it you know and the different things about it you know he... he actually touches a spot you know he... he raps well.

Atandi Anyona: And in terms of let's say people who did a lot of... or did, played major roles in the liberation struggle, let's say like Biko. If, do you think, like, if he came back to present day South Africa and saw how it is among the youth and among the older generation, do you think he would be pleased or he would be disappointed?

Sandizo Mayedwa: He would probably be disappointed. Very disappointed cuz... the general youth isn't doing anything you know youth here... people have to be begged to study, people don't wanna study, people don't wanna work, people just wanna sit at home and do nothing. We as a youth have become lazy. South African youth has become lazy you know we're, there's nothing we wanna do, we want everything to be served to was, you know we want everything to be done for us, we don't wanna do anything so he wouldn't be pleased at all.

Atandi Anyona: So what do you think is the best step forward for the youth to sort of develop themselves, what do you think is the best thing, what can be done?

Sandizo Mayedwa: Best thing for the youth. The youth needs a huge wakeup call. The youth needs some wakeup call you know because... it is just not doing anything, they just, you know, lounging around after (inaudible) their matric, they just do nothing. They just sit at home, they need some kind of wakeup call, I don't know what, but they need something big. I can't think of it right now, but they need something big.

Atandi Anyona: Yeah, and now would you like to share any last comments about either BCM or music or would you like to, any last comments from you?

Sandizo Mayedwa: Any last comments from me? Um... no, I'm alright.

Atandi Anyona: Alright, okay, thank you very much Sandizo.

Sandizo Mayedwa: Thank you.

Atandi Anyona: Yeah.

[End of Tape]