



Kabusha Radio Remix

Your Questions Answered
by Pioneering Zambian Talk Show Host
David Yumba (1923-1990)

Kwame Phillips
Filmmakers without Borders
Remix Concept
Digital Editing
Sound Engineering
Remixed Answers

Debra Spitalnik Vidali
Emory University
Fieldwork
Original Recordings
Transcripts & Notes
Questions

Press Play. Listen. Flip through the Transcript. Write a Letter

What is it like to break into the archive & activate a conversation with someone who has passed?

. . . to seek advice from the late sage of the Zambia radio airwaves?

What happens when you speak English and the wise advisor speaks Bemba?

What is lost and gained in translation?

This installation repurposes Bemba language analog material originally recorded in Zambia between 1986 and 1990 by Debra Spitalnik Vidali, and which has now been digitized for the development of a new initiative entitled the Bemba Online Project (BOP) as well as a book about one of Zambia's most famous radio personalities, David Yumba. David Yumba was the creator and producer of the Bemba language radio program, *Kabusha Takolelwe Bowa* (a Bemba proverb meaning "The Person Who Inquires First, Is Not Poisoned by a Mushroom" or "The One Who Asks Questions, Never Goes Wrong"). In the program, Yumba answered listeners' letters about politics, society, family, and current events, as they were read out aloud by his co-host Emelda Yumbe. The show ran for over 25 years on Radio Zambia and was one of the most popular radio programs in Zambian history, up to the time of Yumba's death in 1990.

David Yumba was completely unique and there is no comparison . . . but if analogies need to be made, one might imagine a jovial, compassionate, brilliant, and devout hybrid of Larry King, Michael Moore, Judge Judy, and Garrison Keeler, tinged with a bit of a Dear Abby and Doctor Ruth personal advisory tone, all overlaid by the characteristically Bemba oratorical style of a razor sharp griot and trickster.

What you hear is a remixed and reinvented *Kabusha* "radio program" which emulates the same format as the original 60 minute show. Excerpts of Yumba's answers from past programs are used to answer questions of the present-day Bemba archive workers about the politics and technicalities of archives, as well as new questions from "anonymous" letter writers about current Zambian and global politics. We recorded London-based Christine Matanga-Mukuka in November 2014 reading the new letters. In the mix of these new letters and Yumba's archived commentary, you will also hear the rich songs, colorful advertisements, and crisp announcements that animated the original *Kabusha* transmissions.

As the archived voice of the late sage David Yumba is activated to advise a new group of question-askers, the installation throws issues of subject agency, immortality, translation, wisdom, ownership, truth, and the media-democracy relationship into bold relief. Maybe the questions and the answers are for you, too. Remember, *Kabusha Takolelwe Bowa*, "The One Who Asks Questions, Never Goes Wrong."

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Kabusha Radio Remix Transcript^{1,2,3}

November 28, 2014 English version

Full Bemba-English version can be found at:

<http://scholarblogs.emory.edu/bemba/kabusha-remix/>

PRE-INTRO⁴ | 0:00 – 0:58

ANNOUNCER: (*In the Bemba language*)

. . . in the Bemba language. When the time is exactly zero eight - zero seven fifteen [7:15 am], we shall begin listening to the program called *Kabusha Takolelwe Bowa* [“The Person Who Inquires First, Is Not Poisoned by a Mushroom.” Or, “The One Who Asks Questions, Never Goes Wrong”]. After this program at zero eight fifteen [8:15 am], is the program from the *Ndola Urban District Council*, coming from Kitwe. At eight forty five [8:45], is the *Bwananyina* [“Humanism”] program. At nine fifteen [9:15 am], then *mukwai* [ladies and gentlemen] I myself will announce *Imbila sha Bulanda* [“News of Suffering,” i.e. messages of condolences]. At nine thirty [9:30 am], it is *Mapepo ya Kacelo* [“Morning Prayers”].

At nine fifty eight [9:58 am], then *mukwai* [ladies and gentlemen] we the Bemba people, that is where our direction will come to an end. Then we shall give the seat over to our Tonga language friends. This *mukwai* is what we have prepared for you today.

¹This Remix project and the Bemba Online Project are intended solely for non-commercial educational, research, artistic, and personal purposes. Commercial use, including unauthorized reproduction, retransmission, editing, or other uses are prohibited. Copyright of material utilized in the Remix project and in the Bemba Online Project remains vested with the original writers, artists, producers, and recording houses. More details at: <http://scholarblogs.emory.edu/bemba/>

²Deep appreciation for research support goes to David Yumba, Emelda Yumbe, Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation, University of Zambia, Emory University Halle Institute for Global Learning, Emory Center for Digital Scholarship, and the Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry. Special thanks to Musonda Chibamba, Mwamba Chibamba, Michael Chibulu, Jayne Kangwa, Alexander Raymond Makasa Kasonde, Chris Mfula, Liness Nkalamo and Chisanga Siame for transcription and translation work.

³Eight recordings of the *Kabusha* radio program were targeted as sources for this *Kabusha* Remix project. A total of 48 *Kabusha* radio programs were recorded during the period of primary fieldwork (1986-1990). We would be most grateful to readers and listeners for feedback, particularly as transcriptions and translations are being finalized for publication. Contact: debra.vidali@emory.edu. Further information, along with the digital transcript and audio can be found at: <http://scholarblogs.emory.edu/bemba/kabusha-remix/>

⁴Taken from the August 20, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show, primary transcription and translation by Alexander Raymond Makasa Kasonde. Timestamps indicate time on the Remix tape.

Zambia National Broadcasting, Radio and Television Network, the time now is exactly at zero seven fifteen [7:15 am]. It is time for us to listen to the program called *Kabusha Takolelwe Bowa*.

PROGRAM THEME SONG⁵ | 0:58 – 1:35

SONG: “*Chitimukulu na Mwamba ee!*” by Lemmond Chileshe⁶

PRE-RECORDED PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT⁷ | 1:13 – 1:26

(in Bemba; Announcer Edward Bwalya): Zambia National Commercial Bank in conjunction with the broadcaster Radio Zambia bring you the program you like so much, that of *Kabusha Takolelwe Bowa* [“The Person Who Inquires First, Is Not Poisoned by a Mushroom.” Or, “The One Who Asks Questions, Never Goes Wrong”].

INTRO⁸ | 1:35 – 4:35

EMELDA YUMBE: Yes, *mukwai* [ladies and gentlemen] it is true. It is *Kabusha Takolelwe Bowa* [“The One Who Asks Questions, Never Goes Wrong”]. It’s me, Emelda Yumbe, who will be reading the letters that you wrote here to the broadcasting station. Like always, the one to reply is *This Man, Big Brain*,⁹ David Yumba. Good morning, grandfather.

DAVID YUMBA: Oh! *Too much*. Good morning, Mama Yumbe.

EMELDA YUMBE: How is the *voice*?

⁵Taken from the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show, primary transcription by Liness Nkalamo, primary translation by Michael Chibulu.

⁶David Yumba in interview with Debra Spitalnik Vidali, March 30 1989 (at Ridgeway Bar, Lusaka Zambia): “The song is by Lemmond Chileshe from Kasama. The song attracted me. It is in the style of a royal praise song for the Chitimukulu [Paramount Chief of the Bemba people]. It talks about a European man named Tom in Kasama who was very rude to Africans [during the colonial period]. The customers organized to boycott the shop. So they had to close up the shop. The song says that Chief Chitimukulu and Chief Mwamba were afraid to act.”

⁷Taken from the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁸Taken from the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁹Numerous English words and phrases appear in the Bemba language *Kabusha* program. These are characteristic of urban varieties of Bemba (Spitalnik 1998) and they are demarcated in this transcript with italics.

DAVID YUMBA: Oh dear, mine is not very good. You know when there is a football [soccer] match, especially the one that was there between Zanaco and Power Dynamos . . .

EMELDA YUMBE: That is where you went, grandfather?

DAVID YUMBA: *Oh Lord, coward me.* That is where I went to see how young men shake their thighs.

EMELDA YUMBE: And kick the hide [leather soccer ball].

DAVID YUMBA: *My Lord coward.* Yes it was very entertaining. As for Zambia National Commercial Bank Limited, I have to go there and . . . my little money. *Mukwai [sir] (laughing), Ba [Mr.] Manager, yes mukwai [sir]* refund me the little money I paid.

EMELDA YUMBE: Yes, you were not happy.

DAVID YUMBA: Aa I was happy. But they must pay me. Because even today I brought . . . *(laughing) Ba [Mr.] Nyakando. (laughing)*. You must square me up.

Good morning *mukwai* [ladies and gentlemen] dear listeners, *mukwai* where ever you are. Like I heard last week that some were asking "What time is the program?" We have now entered a new phase. What are you saying now?

EMELDA YUMBE: *Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation.*

DAVID YUMBA: *You see!* And you are, you are saying *Network*?

EMELDA YUMBE: Yes, *Radio and TV Network. (laughing)*

DAVID YUMBA: It is wonderful. We have outstanding personalities here now, you can hear how the counting is. We have our *director*, the *Managing Director, Director General Chintilya*, an outstanding personality. Because there are some directors of a lower caliber *(laughing)*, who want to show what they're not. Not here! Yes, we have Dr. Stephen Moyo. He is the one leading this complex. The complex from the beginning of the month, you know that it is now wonderful. The man has come! Now let us think. Here we are still celebrating and jumping. But time will come for more jumping. Is that not so, Mama Yumbe?

EMELDA YUMBE: Yes, *mukwai [sir]*, yes.

DAVID YUMBA: There is a wonderful world. Let Mansa C.M.M.L. [Christian Missions in Many Lands] Church choir tell us about it. *Ba* [Mr.] Bisswell, start the song.

HYMN #1¹⁰ | 4:35 – 7:00 *Kwaba Icalo Icabengeshima* [“There Is A Very Bright World”]

EMELDA YUMBE: Yes, *mukwai* [ladies and gentlemen], there is a world where we shall go and live. Where there is just the soul continuing [eternal life]. Where there is no suffering.

DAVID YUMBA: You people. There is no suffering like here. All of you people, what would stop you, what would stop you to go without a *ticket*, the *ticket* is believing in the one who created us. *Many thanks.*

LETTER #1 | 7:00 – 9:37

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Our first letter today is from the Bemba Archive team, writing from Atlanta, Georgia in the USA.¹¹

DAVID YUMBA: What you do is a waste of time. Those letters are thrown in a different box. At the same time we are informing you that we do not want you to tell falsehoods. We do not want lies. Put your names. If you do not want your name to be mentioned in this program, you should say “*Mukwai* do not mention my name. Now, the name you can mention with regard to this letter is this, my true name and address are these.” We will keep that. We will not reveal your identity. No. It is just like the *newspapers The Times* and *The Daily Mail and so forth*. It is the same with us. Now if you would be give us false information. Oh! You will be surprised.¹²

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: They write, in Bemba, “*Kuli Ba Mba na Ba Mbe*,¹³

¹⁰Taken from the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

¹¹**Bemba Online Project** <http://scholarblogs.emory.edu/bemba/> and <https://www.facebook.com/BembaOnline>

This letter was composed by Debra Vidali, based on extensive conversations that the archive team had in May 2014 about the politically charged nature of focusing on one Zambian language. Many of the specific lines in this letter are verbatim utterances of archive contributors who wish to remain anonymous.

¹²Taken from the first letter of the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

¹³This was a popular nickname for the program’s hosts, a kind of play on words which creatively elides the common first syllable of the two hosts’ surnames, *Yu-*. The expression *Kuli Ba Mba na Ba Mbe* was a common form of address, especially for letter openings. It literally means ‘To Honorific (*Yu-*)*Mba* and Honorific (*Yu-*)*Mbe*.’

DAVID YUMBA: Get out!¹⁴

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: An archive is an institutional record. It is also a way to preserve and transfer material. We are dedicated to this work. But we are worried.

DAVID YUMBA: So now the person goes into English. (*laughing*)¹⁵

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: If we are spending all of our time to build up an archive of Bemba language materials, what's to prevent people from judging us as tribalists?

DAVID YUMBA: Nothing.¹⁶

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Will the project backfire? There are dozens of languages in Zambia.

DAVID YUMBA: Yes.¹⁷

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: How do you create unity ("One Zambia, One Nation") when you choose to support one language over all the others? Thank you for your wisdom on these matters."

DAVID YUMBA: Uh! I have understood. The problem is how it turns out to be this way? I know. Many people complain. No, this and that! You should begin by calming your heart down. We, we believe in equality. Each person, he is respectable in this country. That is why, my friend, do not be crazy, saying, "No, we, we did not fight for liberation. " You did fight.¹⁸

You are saying, "These people, maybe they come from Lukwesa, from Kaputa, or from Kawambwa." That is discrimination. You are all just the same. What about those who come from Lukwesa, and from Kawambwa and from, from, from Kaputa, how do you differ with them? I am finished. *Thank you.*¹⁹

¹⁴Taken from the second letter of the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

¹⁵Taken from the first letter of the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

¹⁶Taken from the third letter of the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

¹⁷Taken from the first letter of the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

¹⁸Taken from the second letter of the August 6, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show, primary transcription and translation by Alexander Raymond Makasa Kasonde.

¹⁹Taken from the fourth letter of the August 6, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

LETTER #2 | 9:37 – 13:03

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: This letter is from *Mwina* Zambia [Lit. "Citizen Zambia"]²⁰

DAVID YUMBA: *Yes*²¹

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Writing from P. O. Box 260260²²

DAVID YUMBA: You are treating me like a *bloody fool*. (*Laughing*) *I am telling you.* (*Laughing*)²³

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: I can't read the name of the city here on the envelope.

DAVID YUMBA: *Come on.*²⁴

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: *Mwina* Zambia says, "I read on the Internet, in the comments section, on an article about Independence Day, that somebody said that you and Mama Yumbe would be shocked to see the current state of Zambian politics.²⁵ Is that true?"

DAVID YUMBA: *Yes*. This question is not - - is not the first question. Even last time it arose. You write and we follow the matter closely.²⁶

Don't belittle the work of the nation. These are the people we don't want to go to the National Assembly. In the House of Parliament, we haven't said, the person who goes to Parliament goes to - - goes to uproot the trees, the trees - - what? The stumps, the big trees, tractor, man! Even to go and dig a mine in the Parliament? Oh, no! The requirements are

²⁰This letter was created by Debra Vidali as a way to activate a conversation with an internet newspaper comment board where the late David Yumba and the late Emelda Yumbe are invoked.

²¹Small utterances like "yes," "mmhmm" and "many thanks" were taken from a number of recordings and are representative of the shorter responses Yumba would give during letters.

²²260 is the international dialing code prefix for Zambia.

²³Taken from the sixth letter of the October 16, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show, primary transcription and translation by Alexander Raymond Makasa Kasonde.

²⁴Taken from the seventh letter of the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show, primary transcription and translation by Alexander Raymond Makasa Kasonde.

²⁵<http://www.lusakatimes.com/2013/10/21/hhs-statement-on-independence-day-celebrations-very-irresponsible-and-unpatriotic-government/>

²⁶Taken from the sixth letter of the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

of different types. These days, age in itself is not the only issue, at all. There are people who are being retired and those who are being declared *redundant*. Don't forget that. Don't think that the person who is retired is finished. *You are making a mistake*. This is one thing, even the government needs to be -- to be told about it. *We must re-train some of those people*. Those who have got the capacity. It is not the same as killing the old folks. Those who actually went and hid their own fathers. And then the King was encircled -- the snake encircled around the neck, in the absence of the man, the old man who had given wisdom to his child. I wonder how the story ended? *This is what you are doing*. Go together. Yes, yes! You should retire! With shoulders? But you will find me, an old man. He said simply, who is this little man? This is the person who is going to give the wisdom. And indeed, what he is going to tell you, will turn out to be true. But *you!* The *retirement* which you are bent on, it is for uprooting a stump. When a person fails to uproot a tree, then he decides to go to Parliament. In Parliament people don't go there to drink tea. That is disrespect? Be respectful, man!

The reason why we go to Parliament is to see to it that the country is well led. That the country should follow the laws. That the country has development. We don't say that we are going to Parliament to uproot the stumps? On, no! There are many things in there. All the ministries which govern the country, or which work for you, they are in Parliament. But how can you know? Please, a person can only work with a hoe? The mouth doesn't work? Be -- be courageous. Yes, in fact it is early in the morning. Go to cultivate. If you are tired, then get away from there.²⁷

AD #1²⁸ | 13:03 – 14:26

ADVERTISEMENT FROM SPONSOR (*in Bemba*)

AD SONG INTRO

DAVID YUMBA: Why are you looking sad? And looking bad on the face? What is wrong?

MAN: The thing is grandfather, thieves have completely overcome me. Even today, they have stolen from me, these crooked robbers.

DAVID YUMBA: Oh dear!

MAN: How unfortunate I am!

²⁷Taken from the sixth letter of the October 16, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

²⁸Taken from the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

DAVID YUMBA: No! No! That is not misfortune. That is your own fault. Tell me you -- yourself, what is your bank? Where you keep your money?

MAN: It is simply in my home. Just in a small can.

DAVID YUMBA: What?

MAN: But I have always kept the money safely.

(coughing)

MAN: But now that the thieves have discovered the place where I hide it, now I am completely helpless!

DAVID YUMBA *(laughing)*: Don't tell me! You are lost. You should save your money with the famous bank Zambia National Commercial Bank Limited. This bank is really reliable. Any thief will think twice before getting near it.

AD SONG OUTRO

LETTER #3 | 14:26 - 17:03

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Now we have a letter from someone who does not want to give their name.

EMELDA YUMBE: Gosh, the next one, no, they say we should not reveal the identity.

(laughing together)

DAVID YUMBA: Yes, yes! As long as they have written something underneath.

EMELDA YUMBE: Yes, they have written on it.

DAVID YUMBA: That is alright, we will receive that.

EMELDA YUMBE: Yes, they say do not reveal the name.

DAVID YUMBA: That is alright we are not going to reveal your name.²⁹

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: The letter starts, “*Kuli Ba Kabusha* ['Dear Honorable (Mr.) Kabusha']³⁰

DAVID YUMBA: *Yes.*

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: I hope you are well.

DAVID YUMBA: *Many thanks.*

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: *Twatasha nganshi* ['We thank you profoundly'] for everything that you have done in the name of honest journalism.

DAVID YUMBA: *Many, many thanks.*

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Every country needs to have more Kabushas on the airwaves.

DAVID YUMBA: *Too much!*

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: A lot of people are afraid to talk about politics in public.

DAVID YUMBA: Mm hmm

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: And there are many cases worldwide where journalists get locked up, for the stories they report. Or the questions they ask.

DAVID YUMBA: *My Lord, coward me.*

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Even me, I am not giving my name here.

DAVID YUMBA: Oh dear.

²⁹This exchange is from the thirteenth letter of the July 16, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show, primary transcription and translation by Alexander Raymond Makasa Kasonde.

³⁰This letter was written by Debra Vidali as a way to pay tribute to David Yumba's courage and the fundamental function of the *Kabusha* radio program as voice of the people and as a place where political leaders might be criticized.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: So my question to you, *Ba Yumba*, is: What is it going to take for people to feel like they can talk to their governments without fear?

DAVID YUMBA: Mm.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: What is it going to take before journalists are really able to do their jobs, to help our societies work better? To help our governments really serve the people, instead of serving themselves? Thank you."

DAVID YUMBA: That is true. That is true, my dear. What you have said, with any doubt is true. But you know in this world, in this world, and then a person is a person. We can not say that there is -- here in -- there is a person, each person is a complete person. There is always a handicap somewhere. (*coughing*)

A fool on one side -- Those very people you trust saying maybe they are to protect the country, those very ones are the enemies, those very ones are the dangers. That is why it is very hard. And in addition, it is hard to know an enemy more especially if it is a person. A lion you can tell, but a human being is very clever. That is why even when killing, the human being kills very quickly. More [quickly] than the lion. Because a lion, sometimes it can roar. Or you notice it from a distance. But a human being with whom you eat, you can't be smart enough. Because you, you think that is your friend. And yet it is an enemy.³¹

We are not going to say much. If at all what has been said here is true, look around you officials. And you too, start looking around. We don't like cheating. That is what we have always said, ever! Even when they go to insult, they leave that behind. Myself and ourselves, we shall not stop. We want the people to live in freedom. But if something is untrue, then that can be discovered. But the matter of causing troubles for the people, that is not good. Ah! It's too much.³² That is very bad. Thank you very much, *mukwai*.³³

AD #2³⁴ | 17:03 – 18:16

ADVERTISEMENT FROM SPONSOR (*in Bemba*)

AD SONG INTRO

³¹Taken from the sixth letter of the August 20, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

³²Taken from the second letter of the October 16, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

³³Taken from the sixth letter of the August 20, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

³⁴Taken from the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

DAVID YUMBA: You just wonder, what is happening today? Today in this home there is pandemonium.

EMELDA YUMBE: There is even a guitar? There is definitely something big happening.

DAVID YUMBA: Yes, yes?

EMELDA YUMBE: Grandfather, there is plenty of joy. The wife is literally trying to jump on the fire, because of excitement.

DAVID YUMBA: What?

EMELDA YUMBE: It is serious!

DAVID YUMBA: *(laughing)* These people, where have they found this excitement, comrades [friends]?

EMELDA YUMBE: It seems that, the head of the home himself, today went and withdrew lots of Kwachas from the bank where he saves his money.

DAVID YUMBA: What?

EMELDA YUMBE: The one that is Zambia National Commercial Bank.

AD SONG OUTRO

LETTER #4 | 18:16 – 23:55

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Now we are back to some letters with names on them.

DAVID YUMBA: Mm.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Back to the letters from some of the people working on the Bemba Archive.

DAVID YUMBA: Yes?

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: This one is from the director of the project, Professor Debra Vidali.

DAVID YUMBA: What is the problem?

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Professor Vidali writes, "*Kuli ba Kabusha*,

DAVID YUMBA: Mm hmm.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Please advise me. We worked together a long time ago, and I have very fond memories of our time together.

DAVID YUMBA: *Many thanks.*

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: I am really looking forward to finally publishing something about your legacy. It is long over due.

DAVID YUMBA: *Too much.*

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: My question to you is: How do you build an archive when you don't have support to do it? I imagine countless anthropologists are in a similar situation.

DAVID YUMBA: *Yes?*

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: I have over 150 hours of recordings from my fieldwork in Zambia, between the years 1986 and 1990. There are recordings of radio programs (including yours) and fieldwork interviews with native speakers of the Bemba language, including the royal councilors of the Bemba Paramount Chief Chitimukulu.

DAVID YUMBA: Wow!

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: The problem is that anthropology does not seem to reward archive development in a manner proportional to either the time investment required, or the historical and public value of such work.

DAVID YUMBA: Has she finished?

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: What would you say about this state of affairs? Thank you, and by the way, I do plan to persevere. Sincerely yours, Debra Vidali"

DAVID YUMBA: Thank you very much *mukwai*. No, regarding that matter there - In fact, it is not you alone who complains about it like that.

EMELDA YUMBE: Because of business.

DAVID YUMBA: No. It is not only you.

EMELDA YUMBE: *(laughing)*

DAVID YUMBA: It is many people who complain about such matters. I have received even yet one letter a short while ago.³⁵ What is in your heart? You haven't failed. You want to turn into something else.³⁶

Yes, allocate them time so as to make you happy, we are here, we are your workers we are not here to please ourselves. Even for records, make your own choices as you used to do in the past when sending greetings, choose your own records. Yes this thing annoyed me, Mama Yumbe. People want certain records to be played for them. What we used to do in the past is this: if for one record there are two to three people, who have sent letters of greetings, read all those letters and play the record they all wanted. *(laughing)*

EMELDA YUMBE: -- play what they all wanted.

DAVID YUMBA: Many thanks. Now are these things are going up. We must do things the correct way otherwise we may get into problems this year. That is what I wanted to tell you. *You see.*

People should think about such things. Did he choose to be what he is and did the one who laughs also choose to be what he is? So it may even be that the same person thinks better than you do. And *it is true* that in most cases the blind are better than us sighted people. We the sighted are fools, and then the fool laughs, if you laugh and because of your laughing you are a fool. Those who read the *Old Bible, Old Testament*, when Elisha escorted Elijah who was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire. Elisha was left with a *jacket*, when he was going back, he went through a certain village, when the children saw his bald head they started laughing at him and teasing him about his baldness and they even told him to leave the village. When Elisha thought about this he felt they had no respect, so he decided to show them something. He prayed to God for bears. Yes bears, you know bears, they came and chewed up as many as forty of the children who were laughing. If you laugh, you suffer the consequence.³⁷

³⁵This exchange is from the thirteenth letter of the July 16, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

³⁶Taken from the third letter of the July 16, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

³⁷Taken from the sixth letter of the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

DAVID YUMBA: Indeed *mukwai* [ladies and gentlemen], as always *number one*, the fist thing is to give praise. Let's not just stay like animals who don't know where they are going. There are two ways: One which is broad and another which is narrow and winding. That's the one that people disparage, but at the end, that's where you find happiness forever. "*There Are Two Ways*"³⁸

HYMN #2 | 23:55 – 28:20 *Kwaliba Inshila Shibili* ["There Are Two Ways"]

DAVID YUMBA: You've heard. We've heard.

EMELDA YUMBE: In the ears, it goes *mmmm*. [It was beautiful.]

DAVID YUMBA: Mmm. You take the broad road feeling proud of yourself. *Kutu, kutu, kutu* [Noise of strutting proudly]. Where are you going? It's to the fire, that's where you are going. That [road] which you disparage, at the end, that's where you will find happiness forever. We have been warned, *mukwai* [ladies and gentlemen]. Don't go near things which make you happy in this world without first considering. You say, "Yeah, no *mukwai* I'm happy." This is how you reach the final end. We have been warned. Thank you.

LETTER #5 | 28:20 – 32:00

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: This next letter comes from a person called Global Villager, living on Planet Earth in the year 2014.³⁹ There is no specific address, but I imagine that this person wanders about a lot and has a lot of experience.

DAVID YUMBA: Mm hmm

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: So, Mr. or Ms. Villager writes: "Dear Comrades Yumba and Yumbe,

DAVID YUMBA: *Mukwai*

³⁸Taken from the August 17, 1986 recording of the *Kabusha* show, primary transcription and translation by Musonda Chibamba and Mwamba Chibamba.

³⁹This letter was written by Debra Vidali as a way to pay tribute to David Yumba's compassion and advocacy for the common man. As a Christian, as a Humanist, and as a Zambian nationalist who believed in the democratic principles and ideals of self-governance, David Yumba was a continual voice of moral reason and outrage concerning the realities of greed, inequality and political corruption.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: I am writing to you on behalf of 99% of the world's population.

DAVID YUMBA: Understood (*laughing*)

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Many of us are starving, and many of us are feeling like what we cultivate is being taken from us.

DAVID YUMBA: Gosh!

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Sometimes the leaders are taking everything for themselves. We look in our gardens and the vegetables are gone. Is the problem education? Isn't there enough for everyone in the world? Thank you for your wisdom.'

DAVID YUMBA: No, this has just brought sadness. This is hard-heartedness. Then how is it you are our friends, mm? We are all one. That is where being united [brotherhood] lies.

Oh dear, we do not see ourselves together when we find that you are feeling just fine with your lifestyle. When you are just fidgeting like a hen on eggs. Let us look after our friends even if they do not have this luck.

Even if this person is a *principal* I would not be amused by him. How can this person do it? He chased [after your things].

[To the thief] *You are no right* [you have no right].

And the owner of the house has come and then he collects some of your food. And you ask, "Bring what you cultivated." Then he is not selling whatever he happens to have.

(laughing)

This is stubbornness. I reject it. If it is true what the gentleman has written, it is stubbornness. I am not happy, and all of those who are listening have also seen that mmm it is bad. Everything you say here just like that is even at the *Ministry Headquarters*, there even at *Education* [Ministry of Education].

They have also experienced this suffering. It is a shameful thing. I can't talk and tell lies. Oh dear, if they give you a big post, you are a teacher, you person. Oh God, very well. But

you can't have *musuku* [plums] being eaten on your head, no.⁴⁰ I reject this.

You are fit, maybe it's the job itself. Do not die of slavery on account of work. You are free. Maybe the very one who is doing this will be chased out. You should complain to important people who have got bigger posts than he has. You will hear what they will say. If it goes too far you should just write or come and *report* to the *inspector*. Who is it, um? Who is it. You yourselves you call it *Investigator General*. You should go to the *Investigator General*. He is of great wisdom. He will know what to say to this person who is taking things.

It's bad. *Please*. You are embarrassing the government. The government is just saying "Oh we should unite, we should unite, we should unite." Coming from there, you go and eat someone else's vegetables. Ahh! Some things you just bring upon yourselves! ⁴¹ Stop!

LETTER #6 | 32:00 – 34:19

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: This next letter is from a young woman who worked with the Bemba Archive team in May this year.⁴² She currently lives in Lusaka.

DAVID YUMBA: Here in Zambia

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: She says, "Dear Mr. Yumba,

DAVID YUMBA: Yes.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: I really want to help you with the archive but I don't understand a word of what I am typing. It all seems like Greek to me.

DAVID YUMBA: Oh dear.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Anyway, I am happy to have contributed,

DAVID YUMBA: That is right.⁴³

⁴⁰Musuku tree is *Uapaca kirkiana*.

⁴¹Taken from the August 17, 1986 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁴²This letter was composed by Debra Vidali, directly using the comments of a young contributor to the archive project. It is approximately 80% verbatim.

⁴³Taken from the fifth letter of the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: But is it because I am young that I don't understand? Thank you for your answer, Mr. Yumba. I wish I could have met you in person."

DAVID YUMBA: There is nothing you can do. There is only need for openness, like you have written the letter. You just have to disregard it - -yes ⁻⁴⁴

TAPE FAULT

DAVID YUMBA: Please grandfather, if what has been said is true, stop it. Because the outcomes of this is not good. The outcome is disastrous. And you are troubling people, you neighbors and other people. And you will never be respected, your name will be someone who fondles his testicles. It is not good to be called such a name. Mwenya has spoken. It is *not good, this*. *Stop it.* We want people who are self respecting here in Zambia. This why we see that even other countries respect us. Now if we start making fools of ourselves? What would happen to you if you went to another country with that kind of behavior what would happen to you? They will be saying they Zambians! Aa! They are Zambians, that's how they are. *This is bad.* Do not tarnish the name Zambia, you have spoiled various places, including the places of chiefs. These, you have destroyed. Although your name has not been mentioned, you are a bad person. *Stop it.* That is not good behavior. *Many thanks.*⁴⁵

AD #3⁴⁶ | 34:19 – 35:33

ADVERTISEMENT FROM SPONSOR (*in Bemba*)

AD SONG INTRO

MAN: How's the work going?

WOMAN: Thank you, and you too, how's the work going.

MAN: Well, I felt that I should ask, from the time I deposited my money how much is there now? You know getting broke, it is going too far these days.

WOMAN: Please just hold on. Give me your passbook.

⁴⁴Taken from the fifth letter of the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁴⁵Taken from the fifth letter of the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁴⁶Taken from the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

MAN: Here it is.

WOMAN: Yes, yes, yes! Yes, yes, lucky you! You are very lucky, gentleman. Yes, yes! No, you are just fine, *mukwai* [sir]. They have even added a bit of money for you. Just look at the heap of money now how big it is. You are really lucky. This is how lucky people look like!

MAN: That is why it is good to save your money in this bank, the Zambia National Commercial Bank Limited. Because this bank has even got a huge interest. I am very happy *mukwai*.

AD SONG OUTRO

LETTER #7 | 35:33 – 40:10

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: This is another one from the archive director, Debra Vidali.

DAVID YUMBA: *Mukwai*.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: She says, "Dear Mr. Yumba, The IT people are driving me crazy.

DAVID YUMBA: It is a mad person.⁴⁷

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: We are trying to build a website and it seems like every time we need to ask the IT people for something, it takes dozens of emails before something is answered.

DAVID YUMBA: Oh, dear!

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Sometimes it takes 15 or 20 emails for things that seem simple.

DAVID YUMBA: *Oh Lord coward me!*

⁴⁷Taken from the fifth letter of the July 16, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: And of course the bureaucratic tangle is fascinating and annoying at the same time. I never know who to write to for different types of requests. And often 2-4 extra people get added to the correspondence.

DAVID YUMBA: They seem to be excessive.⁴⁸

EMELDA YUMBE: Yes, it sounds that way.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: When I go the ECDS website there is no list of point people for different sectors of advice. And there is no phone number listed.

DAVID YUMBA: The loafers.⁴⁹

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: People don't seem to talk to each other much anymore.

DAVID YUMBA: Yes, it is a loafer.⁵⁰

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Just chains of emails. And if an email is not answered for 2-3 days, then apparently there is a need to resend the email.

DAVID YUMBA: Mm!

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: If it is not answered today, it may not be answered at all?

DAVID YUMBA: Mm!

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Anyway, in the end we did get a lot done. But it was very inefficient at times and also mysterious. What do you think? I am trying not to feel too impatient. We are really grateful for all the support."

DAVID YUMBA: It is *corruption*. When you are at work, it is time for work. We beg you. I know. It is really hard. But all of them? Then who is going to support the other friends if we all forget about doing the small jobs? Please let us try to be courageous in the things that are coming, the things which are tempting us. In our own jobs. You are left there, and they say "Guard this bank." You just go away. You come back only to find the bank has

⁴⁸Taken from the fourth letter of the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁴⁹Taken from the first letter of the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁵⁰Taken from the first letter of the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

been broken into. What will you say? "I went to the toilet." What about the [job] which you were entrusted with? Disrespect! Too much disrespect! What!⁵¹

We thank (you) very much. But these very loafers even if we tell them to go to the countryside, they will go to steal from the owners of the hoes who live at the countryside. Yes! You will - - hear suddenly there is, yes black market booming right there. The type which will shock (everybody) and even the farms which are existing now will close down.⁵²

Good. Those of you who have written maybe I can forgive you. I can say, you are - - you have written in earnest. There are two types of loafers. There is the *genuine* loafers. (*laughing*) Those [loafers] for whom you can just say, uh, uh! No, this one it has just been hard. And then there is lazy bones. He just sits down [on his laurels]. He does not want to work. He believes in stealing from people. You know, the Bemba language says: one bad *musuku* fruit tree - -

EMELDA YUMBE: Blames the entire forest.

DAVID YUMBA: *Yes.*

EMELDA YUMBE: Even a groundnut.

DAVID YUMBA: Uh, uh! You eat one from there, after eating good ones, then you throw in a rotten one, gosh! You spit the whole mouthful out. *It is very bad - - yes indeed.*

EMELDA YUMBE: Uh!

DAVID YUMBA: The Indian forgets about it.

(*laughing*)

DAVID YUMBA: That means he (or she) is very angry.

(*laughing*)

DAVID YUMBA: That is the badness. (*laughing*). In fact, I have felt pity on you even though I was castigating you. Whatever the case may be, those who bring problems for the loafers, the genuine ones, it is those loafers who are those thieves. The people will make it so that

⁵¹Taken from the tenth letter of the July 16, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁵²Taken from the first letter of the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

even the loafers who are genuine, according to my own judgment, they will be paying taxes. (*laughing*)⁵³

If you are reasonable people, stop all these stupid things. *Come on!* If you know that, there is no other alternative, look around. Nothing is impossible! How come the ant has beaten you? You will be astonished to find that an ant is busy the whole day. Without even any supervisor. But you who even has a boss, you are the one who is saying, "Uh, ah!" Stop that!⁵⁴

AD #4⁵⁵ | 40:10 – 40:51

ADVERTISEMENT FROM SPONSOR (*in Bemba*)

AD SONG INTRO

EMELDA YUMBE: We bring you bank service, to serve you at the doorstep of your home. And so now you must start saving your money in this bank. In addition, start even the preparations for your future life, by saving your money in the bank of the nation which stands for serving you. Zambia National Commercial Bank Limited.

AD SONG OUTRO

LETTER #8 | 40:51 – 43:09

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Oh dear me, *Ba Shikulu*, now we have something really interesting.

DAVID YUMBA: What?

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: This letter was just brought into the studio.⁵⁶

DAVID YUMBA: Mm.

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: You know King Cobra just passed away.⁵⁷

⁵³Taken from the second letter of the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁵⁴Taken from the third letter of the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁵⁵Taken from the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁵⁶This letter was written by Debra Vidali near the end of the Remix project, to build in some material about events that unfolded in Fall 2014.

DAVID YUMBA: *King Cobra! I'm very, very sorry.*⁵⁸

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: Yes, President Sata, our 5th President is now with his maker. So, this writer just brought the letter into the studio. The person is not giving a name.

DAVID YUMBA: *Oh Lord coward me.*

CHRISTINE MATANGA-MUKUKA: The letter says, "What do you think, Mr. Yumba, about Zambia having the first white president in Africa, in 20 years? Do you think King Cobra would approve? And what do you think about the constitution that says Mr. Guy Scott cannot stand for election because his parents were not born in Zambia? Didn't they fight for independence too?"⁵⁹

DAVID YUMBA: *Cobra!*

EMELDA YUMBE: By chasing away the *blackmarketeers* from the *town centre*,

DAVID YUMBA: *Yes!*

EMELDA YUMBE: Those who sell goods are exorbitant prices, exploitative prices.

DAVID YUMBA: Oh! *King*, when he uncoils from his house.

EMELDA YUMBE: For you to buy a beer.

⁵⁷President Michael Sata died on October 28, 2014. His nickname was King Cobra. These comments are taken from the seventh letter of the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁵⁸In 1989 Michael Sata was Governor of the Zambian capital city of Lusaka. For the remix, we were able to locate *Kabusha* radio program material where David Yumba and Emelda Yumbe talked about King Cobra.

⁵⁹Guy Scott was the Vice-President under President Michael Sata, and he became the acting president following Sata's death in October 2014, to reside in office until a presidential election could be held. The Zambian constitution requires presidential candidates to be at least 3rd generation Zambians. Guy Scott's father was born in Scotland, while his mother was born in England. Scott's father Alexander Scott emigrated to Zambia in 1927 and was an ally of Zambian nationalists in the 1950s. He was a co-founder of an anti-colonial government newspaper, *The African Mail*, which was a forerunner of the current *Zambia Daily Mail*. During the 1950s, Dr. Scott was a member of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland Parliament, as an Independent Party member from Lusaka.

DAVID YUMBA: My God!

EMELDA YUMBE: King Cobra, *mukwai* [sir], help us.

DAVID YUMBA: That is right.

EMELDA YUMBE: We are in trouble.

DAVID YUMBA: These habits, these habits. Please when will you stop?⁶⁰

No, please that is what one cries for in the world. You know as a man you are supposed to be stretching yourself like the, uh, you see, they see the little bird *mutengu*. He stretches himself, that means he has eaten something. He then comes and sits down. Meanwhile, the big bird *pungwa* (hawk) is just doing nothing. That is it, the dignitaries. God the Great, let him keep you in good health. And by the way, since we are His creations, each and every time, we should not forget about that, when we have not yet started this job. It is a big one indeed this one of answering the questions from the citizens about the things which are troubling them, and those [troubles] which are in the hearts. So at first we ask the Creator; he strengthens us. He guides us properly. properly, that we may know properly, properly, how we can relate to people. That is why we are there.⁶¹

AD #5⁶² | 43:09 – 44:24

ADVERTISEMENT FROM SPONSOR (*in Bemba*)

AD SONG INTRO

(*Knocking*)

MAN: Hello?

EMELDA YUMBE: Yes! Who are you?

MAN: I am the father of Ngosa. My dear friends, we are in deep trouble. They have cut our water supply. Saying, you are not paying bills, not even a bit. In addition, and this is even

⁶⁰Taken from the seventh letter of the October 9, 1988 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁶¹Taken from the August 6, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁶²Taken from the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

worse, we have got no money at home. All has been spent at the tavern by the grandfather of Musonda.

EMELDA YUMBE: I am sorry about the bad news! This is a dead end. Keeping money in your pockets. When are you people going to wake up?

DAVID YUMBA: People, please save your money in this bank which has been brought for you. Your bank, with a big reputation everywhere, Zambia National Commercial Bank Limited. Because you will then simply withdraw bit by bit.

AD SONG OUTRO

CLOSING⁶³ | 44:24 – 44:38

EMELDA YUMBE: Dear Listeners, please, may God be with you, we shall meet you again next week in this very program *Kabusha Takolelwe Bowa*.

DAVID YUMBA: Peace be with you, for ever! Stay in high spirits, stay cheerful. It is your country. Myself and Mama Yumbe we are saying, "As long as it is -

EMELDA YUMBE and DAVID YUMBA (*together*) Dawning!"

PRE-RECORDED OUTRO ANNOUNCEMENT⁶⁴ | 44:38 – 44:56

PROGRAM THEME SONG⁶⁵ | 44:56 – 45:05

SONG: '*Chitimukulu na Mwamba ee!*' by Lemmond Chileshe

(*in Bemba; Announcer Edward Bwalya; voice under the theme song*): You've just been listening to the program, *Kabusha Takolelwe Bowa* brought to you by Zambia National Commercial Bank Limited in conjunction with Radio Zambia. The person who read the things that people asked is Mama Emelda Yumbe. The one who answered your questions is Mr. David Yumba.

END OF KABUSHA REMIX

⁶³Taken from the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁶⁴Taken from the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

⁶⁵Taken from the April 9, 1989 recording of the *Kabusha* show.

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(Broadcast continues for a minute or two with program from the Ndola District Council)

Kabusha Radio Remix

Your Questions Answered
by Pioneering Zambian Talk Show Host
David Yumba (1923-1990)

Kwame Phillips
Filmmakers without Borders
 Remix Concept
 Digital Editing
 Sound Engineering
 Remixed Answers

Debra Spitulnik Vidali
Emory University
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Kabusha Radio Remix
<http://scholarblogs.emory.edu/bemba/kabusha-remix/>

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