

TO: MAKHULU NOMZAMO WINIFRED MADIKIZELA-MANDELA

I am filled with sombre as I write to you during the time when you have transitioned. Your passing came as a huge shock to me and the most painful I have ever experienced. I am still fortunate to have my biological mother alive however, your loss has been the closest to experience to that of a loss of a mother.

I have watched and studied your life for almost two decades, which is slightly equivalent to my age. I can comfortably say that your life was well lived. Your passion and dedication to the struggle for my liberation and that of our people, is admirable. Your strength and resilience are beyond the scope of this letter. Your roar to the injustices of our people due to the evil and criminal act of apartheid intimidated the enemy and patriarchy. Hence, they tortured, humiliated and butchered your name in every way possible.

The inconvenience of putting you on trial before the TRC just when you were going to be elected the first black female Deputy President of South Africa is questionable. They deprived us of your radical leadership. When you quarrelled with them right at the negotiation table for over-negotiating, they side-lined you, for you believed that our struggle was that of land and the return of the land to its rightful owners.

Anyway, that is all water under the bridge. My heart bleeds for you Mama. Your own ANC wronged you, South Africa used you and dumped you like rubbish. Even at death, the racist white man continues to throw stones at you, so much for reconciliation. Rest assured that we will not allow them. Since you have passed on, some have come forward with the truth. The beauty of the truth. *Akho nanye eyenzeka ebumnyameni ingezovela ekukhanyeni*

I am proud of you Zami and I thank God that you have lived amongst us. You have fulfilled your purpose on Earth and for that I am deeply grateful. My future children and grandchildren will learn about you Mama, for your legacy will live on. Although our roads will never cross during this lifetime, I find comfort in knowing that our souls are intertwined.

Phumla MaNgutyana. Msuthu. Madikizela. Umzamo omhle uwuzamile, unqenkqeze phambili watsho walufeza ugqatso. Side sibuye sihlangane.

Ahhh Nobandla!!!

S. YENA

06/04/2018

