

# RE-IMAGINING DEMOCRACY: IN SEARCH OF SILENCED VOICES

## “The Battle for Africa”

By *Amukelani Masilela*

Not so long ago we had no rights

Not so long ago we had no choice, nor freedom of speech!

I am too young to remember yet I have inherited this, I played no part but I face a sorrowful load.

I am an innocent child but I face the consequences.

Our great-great grandparents were forced to speak an unknown language, something foreign from Africa!

It came from a ship and it took over our minds.

BANTU BENKOSI ASILWE, SITHOLE UNBUNTU BETHU!!!

Our freedom fighters were denied a bright future but luckily there was hope.

Blood was running everywhere

The air was polluted of gunshots

The sirens and teargas was music and

Slavery became their name.

For the cry of a black child was never heard!

They were crying for the spirit of UBUNTU but Justice was never served.

When peace was to be implemented, Apartheid took over.

I have realised there is more hunger for peace than for bread.

It was a time where enemies were caused by a white paper written in ink.

For white people were in the minority for a justification of how people think.

For I am a born-free, I will spark the brain that will change the past and undo the justice.

As they stood together waiting for MANDELA to go out of prison doors, they stood together in unity. The same unity we lack together.

But as a wise Khoi San quoted “xurxo marino kwadi sandwane handza nama num awani awati!”

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