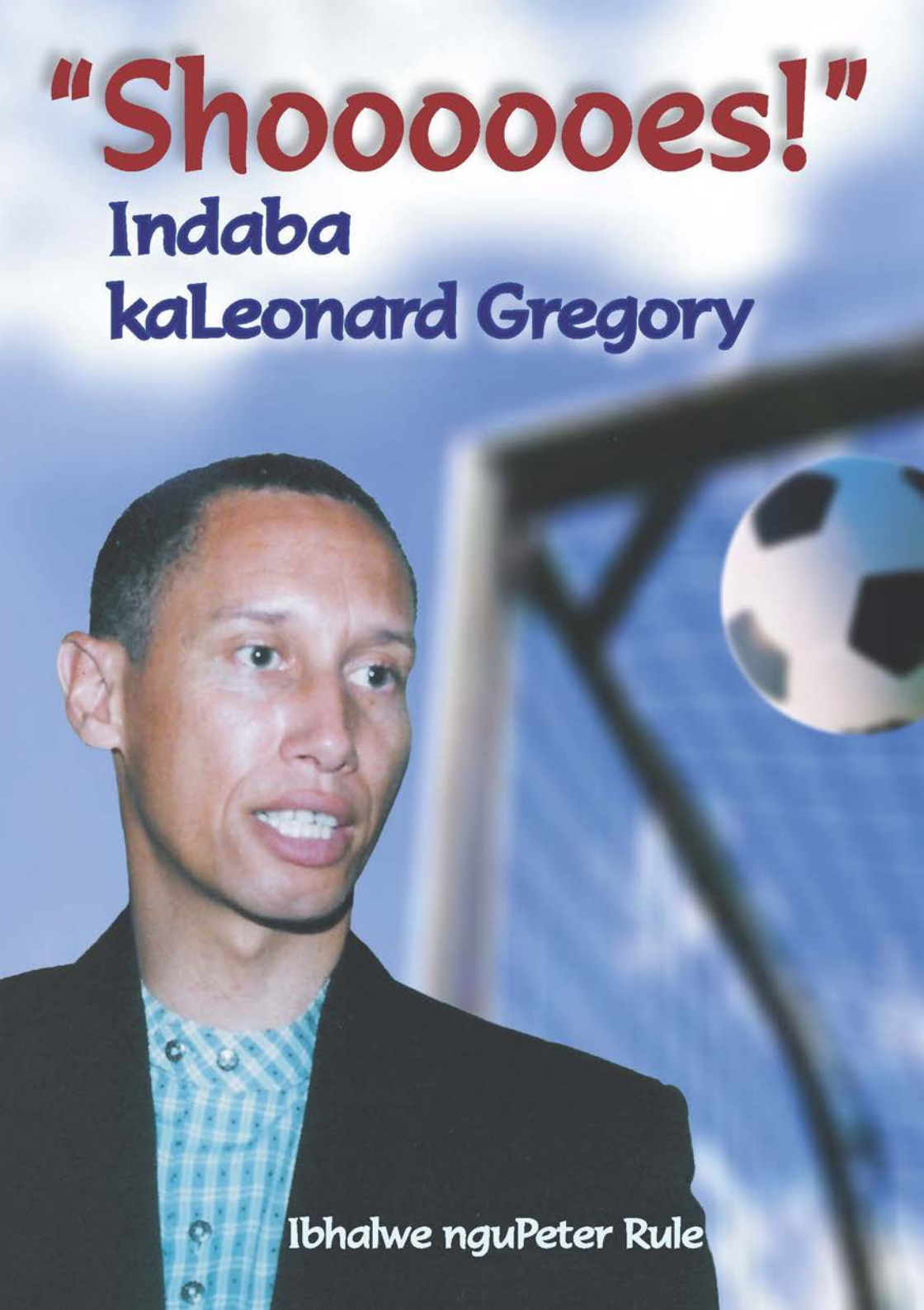
"Shoooooes!"

Indaba kaLeonard Gregory



Ibhalwe nguPeter Rule

“Shoooooes!”

Indaba kaLeonard Gregory

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Iqembu lebhola iDangerous Dinosaurs Football Club yaseThekwini.

Isahluko 1

Usuku Lwamalungelo Abantu, 31 Mashi, 2000

ULeonard Gregory uhleli eduze nenkundla yebhola iBhongweni Stadium eKokstad. ULeonard ungumGriqua oqhamuka e-East Griqualand endaweni yaKwaZulu-Natal. Ubukela iBush Bucks yaseMthatha idlala neqembu elimenyiwe labadlali baseKokstad. Izethameli zizile ukuzobona lo mdlalo oyingxenye yemigubho yosuku lwamaLungelo Abantu.

Lo mdlalo wandulela umdlalo omkhulu phakathi kweDangerous Dinosaurs yaseThekwini neVukuzenzele yaseBhizana. Lona ngumdlalo owehluke kakhulu. Ngumdlalo wabantu abahamba ngezinduku. Labadlali bakhubazeke emizimbeni futhi badlala behamba ngezinduku. Izethameli zalomdlalo zimangele ukuthi labantu abahamba ngezinduku bakwazi ukudlala ibhola lezinyawo. Abakaze bayibone into efana nalena. Bashaya amakhwela nezandla bekhuthaza abadlali.

ULeonard Gregory uyena ongumgqugquzeli walolusuku. Njengoba ebukela abadlali begijima enkundleni ngezinduku zabo, elalele izethameli zibabungaza uyamamatheka ngokwaneliseka. Icebo lakhe lisebenzile.

Uyazi umphakathi usuzokwamukela ukuthi abantu abakhubazekile bayakwazi ukuzenzela izinto ngokwabo, hhayi ngoba bengenamsebenzi. Likhulu iqhaza abangalibamba emphakathini, njengaye uLeonard Gregory.

ULeonard Gregory ukhubazekile. Usebenzisa iwheelchair. Uma ehamba usebenzisa izinduku njengabadlali abasenkundleni, kodwa akazalwanga ekhubazekile.

Kulendaba uzothola kabanzi ngoLeonard, impilo yakhe, ukholo lwakhe, nemisebenzi yakhe nabantu abakhubazekile emphakathini waseKokstad.

Isahluko 2

“Shoooooes!” Umdlali webhola oqavile, 1976 – 1991

Ngesikhathi uLeonard Gregory eneminyaka eyishumi nanhlanu wayengumdlali oqavile webhola lezinyawo. Wayedlalela iqembu eliholelayo iZulu Royals. Leli kwakuyiqembu elidume kakhulu KwaZulu-Natal, nelabuye lashintshwa igama laba-AmaZulu.

Maningi amagoli aphumelela ngenxa kaLeonard. Wayedlala indawo ephakathi enkundleni. Nguyena owayewungqondongqondo ekwakheni ibhola emdlalweni. Wayelisusa ibhola phakathi nenkundla asebenzise ikhono lakhe elihle lebhola ukuledlulisela kwabanye abadlali beqembu lakhe.

“Shoooooes!” izethameli zazihlokoma ngesikhathi uLeonard ephethe ibhola.

ULeonard wadlalela amaqembu amaningi KwaZulu-Natal kanye naseTranskei. Ukusuka kwiZulu Royals wadlulela kwiDurban Bush Bucks, lapho wadlala iminyaka emine kwiNational Professional Soccer League, wabe esedlalela iqembu le-Aces United elalikwiFederation Professional League.

Ngesikhathi sobandlululo ibhola lezinyawo lalihlukaniswe ngokwebala. Kwakunamaligi ahlukaniswe ngokwezinhlanga ezahlukene. Ubani owaziyo ukuthi wayeyofikaphi uLeonard ukuba kwakune Premier Soccer League engabandlululi ngebala ngalesosikhathi?

ULeonard wabe esethuthela eMthatha, wadlalela iLiverpool United kwiTranskei Professional League. Wayengomunye wabadlali abavelele kwiligi futhi abuye adlalele iqembu laseTranskei ngenkathi lidlala neBophuthatswana. Wabe esedlulela kwiThembu Royals lapho uBantu Holomisa, oseyilungu lasephalamende, wayengumphathi.

ULeonard uyakhumbula ukuthi uBantu Holomisa wayevame ukuthi, “Zinsizwa ihora lokugcina selifikile!” esho eqenjini ngaphambi kokuqala komdlalo.

ULeonard “Shoes” Gregory noDorrington Webster kanye nabalandeli beReal Taj eNorthdale Stadium (1986).

Okwalandela uLeonard wathuthela eKokstad. Lapho wajoyina iKokstad Swallows eyamtholela umsebenzi esitolo sezipele zezimoto.

Wabe eseshada nesiphalaphala uSylvia Kroutz wabe esezinza, wathola abantwana ababili, uLee noLeandra. Waqhubeka nokudlala ibhola eMgungundlovu njengomdlali oqokiwe edlalela iReal Taj kwiFederation Professional League, ehamba njalo esuka eKokstad eya eMgungundlovu ngezimpelasonto emidlalweni. Izinto zazimhambela kahle uLeonard eKokstad. Zonke izinto zashintsha lapho sekwenzeka ingozi .

ULeonard noSylvia nezingane zabo oLee noLeandra ngosuku lokuzalwa lokuqala lukaLeandra (13 Novemba, 1990).

Isahluko 3

Ingozi, 8 Febhuwari, 1991

Ngonyaka ka1991, uLeonard wayengumphathi wesitolo sefenisha edolobhaneni elincane iMount Frere e-Eastern Cape. Zonke izinsuku wayeshayela esuka eKokstad eya eMount Frere. Njalo ebusuku nangempelasonto wayedlala ibhola lezinyawo eKokstad.

Ngosuku olwashintsha impilo yakhe, zingu 8 Febhuwari, 1991, wavuka ekuseni, walungiselela ukuya emsebenzini njengenjwayelo. Wayesesemgwaqeni ngehora lesikhombisa. Wayeshaya ikhwela kancane ngesikhathi esendleleni. "Ngehora lesishiyagalombili, ngiyobe sengiseMount Frere," ekhuluma yedwa. Umgwaqo wawubhizi kakhulu. Wonke umuntu ejahile, futhi zaziningi izimoto ezazimedlula.

Kwathi lapho ejika ikhona imoto yakhe yavele yaphaphalaza. "Nkulunkulu wami!" ememeza. "Kwenzekani manje! Sizani, ngicela ningisize, ngiyafa!"

Imoto yaphenduka naye yamjikijela ngaphandle. Lokho kwaba yinto yokugcina ayikhumbula ngaphandle kokuba ezwe owayemnyakazisa ethi, "Vuka! Uqhamukaphi? Ungubani igama lakho?"

ULeonard – imenenja yesitolo sakwaDan Hands Furnishers eMount Frere (1990).

Wavula amehlo. Umshayeli weloli owayemjamele. “Kwenzekeni?” wabuza uLeonard ngexhala. “Susa lemoto phezu kwami.”

Umshayeli weloli waphendula wathi, “Akukho moto phezu kwakho, ndodana. Sizokusiza. Ungubani igama lakho?”

“Uma kungekho moto phezu kwami, ubani ohlezi ezinyaweni zami. Liqhamukaphi lonke leligazi?” uLeonard wabuza esekhathazeke kakhulu.

“Ima kancane. Zama ukukhululeka ndodana,” kusho umshayeli weloli. “Sizokubizela i-ambulensi. Ngeke ithathe isikhathi eside, uzoba ngcono.”

Iqulu labantu lase lihlangene lapho kwenzeke khona ingozi. Umgwaqo wase uvaliwe. Wonke umuntu efuna ukwazi ukuthi kwenzenjani. Amaphoyisa afika atshela abantu ukuba baqhele lapho kwenzeke khona ingozi.

“Kube yini imbangela yalengozi?” kubuza iphoyisa. “Ubani obekhona?”

“Ngingufakazi, obone konke okwenzekile,” kuphendula umshayeli weloli. “Kukhona indoda elimele kabi. Angikakayazi kodwa igama layo.”

Iphoyisa lasondela eduze kukaLeonard.

“Ndodana usaphila?” labuza. “Uyangizwa? Ungubani igama lakho?”

“Yebo, ngisaphila,” uLeonard, waphendula ngokuphelelwa umoya. Kwakunzima kuyena ukukhuluma. “Igama lami nginguLeonard Gregory. Ngicela ningiphuthumise esibhedlela. Ngiyafa.”

Wayezwa abesifazane esixukwini bemthandazela. Ngale sisikhathi yayisifikile i-ambulensi. Bamqukula bamfaka kwi-ambulensi yamphuthumisa esibhedlela eMount Frere.

Kwakunolayini omude esibhedlela. Abanye babelele phansi, abanye belele endaweni egcwele igazi. ULeonard wayebezwa bebubula besezinhlungwini. Umhlengikazi wambuka wanikina ikhanda. Wayopha kakhulu, kodwa abahlengikazi abakwazanga ukumsiza, ngenxa yesibalo esikhulu sabantu ababelinde usizo.

“Ingangithatha yini i-ambulensi ingiyise kwesinye isibhedlela?” wancenga ngezwi eliyisihosha. Umhlengikazi wambuka wanikina ikhanda. Ama-ambulensi aseTranskei ayengavumelekile ukuthatha iziguli aziyise ezibhedlela ezingaphandle kweTranskei.

Ngenhlanhla abahlengikazi bakwazi ukuthola imoto eyamthatha yamphuthumisa eGrey's Hospital eMgungundlovu. EGrey's odokotela bamxilonga. Kwakucacile ukuthi ulimele kakhulu, ngakhoke bamngenisa ngokushesha.

Isahluko 4

Ukwelulama

Elele esibhedlela, miningi imicabango eyayigijima ekhanda lakhe uLeonard. Wayekade engumdlali odumile webhola lezinyawo. Manje wayesezothembela kubantu ukuba bamqhube ngewheelchair. Kudala imilenze yakhe enamandla yayimsiza ukujabulisa izihlwele. Manje imilenze yakhe ayisakwazi ukuzinyakazela.

“Ngabe sekuwukuphela komsebenzi wami ebholeni lezinyawo?” ezibuza. “Ngoke ngiphinde nje ngizwe izihlwele zimemeza zithi ‘Shoooooes!’ uma ngithola ibhola phakathi enkundleni sengiqonde emapalini?”

Ngelinye ilanga udokotela owayemelapha uLeonard, weza wazokhuluma naye. “Mnumzane Gregory,” kwasho udokotela, “angazi ukuthi uzozamukela kanjani lezi zindaba. Ingozi yakho ikhomba ukuthi ngeke uphinde usebenzise imilenze yakho ngendlela obuyisebenzisa ngayo. Impilo injalo, Mnumzane Gregory, ngesinye isikhathi kwenzeka izinto esingazilindele, noma esingafuni zenzeke.”

Udokotela wathula elindele impendulo kaLeonard.

“Ngiyezwa Dokotela,” washo uLeonard ngaphandle kokungabaza, emamatheka.

Udokotela wamangala ukuthi Leonard uzamukela kahle kanjena lezi zindaba. Waqhubeka wathi, “Uzosebenzisa iwheelchair, impilo yakho yonke, noma usebenzise izinduku.”

“Ngikuzwa kahle, dokotela,” kuphendula uLeonard ngesibindi. “Ngiyazi uNkulunkulu uzonginikeza indlela yokubhekana nalesisimo esisha sempilo.”

Udokotela wabona ukuthi uLeonard usemukelile isimo sakhe. Wabe esemtshela ukuthi akaphumule, wabe esethembisa ukumbona ngakusasa.

Kwathi lapho udokotela esehambile uLeonard wacabanga wajula ngalezizindaba azizwile. “Kuchaza ukuthini konke lokhu ngami?” wazibuza. Wazithinta ukuqinisekisa ukuthi wayengaphuphi. Wazama ukunyakazisa imilenze yakhe.

ULeonard wayekhathazekile ngomndeni wakhe. Ngabe unkosikazi wakhe nezingane zakhe bayomamukela yini? Kuyokwenzakalani kubona njengoba engasakwazi

ukuhamba? Ngabe uyokwazi yini ukubondla, yena njengobaba nomkhwenyana? Le mibuzo enjena yayimqwashisa ebusuku.

Wayekhulele ekhaya lobuKhrestu kanti futhi nokholo lwakhe lwalunamandla. Wacabanga ugogo wakhe uLilly, owaba nomthelela omkhulu empilweni yakhe ngesikhathi esemncane. Ugogo wakhe wayekhubazekile emva kokulunywa yinyoka. Wayenesifumbu, futhi ephelelwa nawumoya, kodwa ukholo lwakhe kuNkulunkulu lwalumi njalo. Ukholo lwakhe kuNkulunkulu uLeonard, lwaba wusizo olukhulu ngalesosikhathi.

ULilly, ugogo kaLeonard, owamnika ugqozi nodadewabo uSonia, kanye nomama wabo uFlorence emva komcimbi kaSonia weSidlo esiNgcwele sokuqala.

Emuva kwamaviki amaningi wafika umndeni kaLeonard ukuzombona esibhedlela saseMgungundlovu. Kwakuyibanga elide ukusuka eKokstad. Bajabula kakhulu ukubonana. Lokhu kwamkhulula kakhulu uLeonard.

Umndeni wakhe awumkhiphanga inyumbazane ngenxa yokhubazeka kwakhe. Batshengisa ukumamukela kakhulu nokumgqugquzela ukuba aqhubeke namacebo akhe. ULeonard waphinde wathola usizo oluningi, kubangani bakhe nasesontweni. ULeonard wathola ukugqugquzeleka ngokuvakashelwa abangani nomndeni wakhe.

Wabe esecela ukuba bamdlulisele esibhedlela esiseduze nasekhaya, ukuze umndeni wakhe ukwazi ukumvakashela njalo. Maduzane wayeseluleme ngokwenele ukuba aphindele ekhaya emndenini wakhe.

Kwathi lapho esephindele ekhaya esuka esibhedlela, uLeonard wazilolonga njalo zonke izinsuku ukuqinisa imilenze yakhe. Yize kwakunzima futhi kubuhlungu, wabekezela. Ngokushesha wayesekwazi ukusebenzisa imilenze yakhe ngosizo lwezinduku.

ULeonard noSylvia bevuselela izifungo zomshado futhi bemukela nesidlo esingcwele eChristian Fellowship Church (Meyi 2000).

Isahluko 5

Umqeqeshi

Ingozi yayikade iqede umsebenzi kaLeonard ngo1991 eneminyaka engamashumi amathathu nanye. Emva kweminyaka eyishumi nesithupha kade edlala ibhola eliseqophelweni eliphezulu, uLeonard wayesekwiwheelchair.

Wathandaza, "Nkulunkulu wami nginikeze isibindi sokubhekana nobunjalo bempilo ongibeke kubona." ULeonard wezwa isibindi esisha emva kokuthandaza. Wanquma ukubuyela ebholeni, endimeni ehlukile.

"Ngeke ngiphinde ngikwazi ukudlala futhi," ekhuluma yedwa, "kodwa ngisenawo amehlo futhi ngisakwazi ukucabanga. Ngizoba umqeqeshi. Ngizoqala iqembu elisha, futhi nginesiqiniseko ukuthi ngiyolenza libe yimpumelelo!"

Ngaphandle kokuchitha isikhathi wahlanganisa idlanzana labafana basendaweni, waqala-ke ukubaqeqesha. Wasungula iqembu elibizwa ngeYoung Swallows elalizothelela iqembu leKokstad Swallows. Wacabanga ukuthi iYoung Swallows, izolungisela futhi iqinise ikusasa leKokstad Swallows.

Ulwazi lweminyaka eminingi kaLeonard edlala ibhola lwaba usizo kakhulu futhi wazithola ekuthokozela ukuqeqesha. Wayesondelene kakhulu nabadlali bakhe. Baya ngokuya banda abafana abajoyina iqembu. Kwathi maduzane uLeonard wabe eseqeqesha amaqembu abadlali abasebancane.

IYoung Swallows yayingumthelela omuhle emphakathini kaLeonard. Yayibafundisa amakhono okudlala ibhola, umoya wobumbano, kanye nokuzimisela. Yayibanikeza into enhle abazoyenza ibasusa ebuqenjini bobugebengu, nasekwenzeni izinto

ULeonard nabafana bendawo mhla kudlalwa imidlalo yokuhlunga nokubunjwa kwamaqembu azophakela iKokstad Swallows (1996).

ezinobugebengu. Abaningi babadlali bakaLeonard sebaqhubeka bayodlalela izifunda zabo, futhi abanye babo babe nempumelelo njengabadlali abakhokhelwayo.

Yize uLeonard wayekuthanda ukuqeqesha iYoung Swallows wabona ukuthi ibhola akuyona yodwa into ayengayenza. Njengomuntu okhubazekile wazizwa ebiziwe ukuzosebenzisana nabanye abantu abakhubazekile.

Iqembu iKokstad Swallows ngomcimbi owawuhlelwe yiMCDPO wokuqwashisa ngamaLungelo eSintu abantu abakhubazekile (1999).

Isahluko 6

Isishoshovu sabakhubazekile

ULeonard wathola ukuthi abantu abakhubazekile banempilo enzima abanye babo balahliwe noma bacashisiwe kude ezindlini ezingemuva imindeni yabo. Abanye babephila ekuhluphekeni. Abaningi babengazi ngamalungelo abo njengabantu abakhubazekile.

ULeonard waphinde wabona ukuthi abantu emphakathini banemibono ecwasayo ngabantu abakhubazekile. Babecabanga ukuthi abantu abakhubazekile abakwazi ukuzenzela izinto. Abanye abantu babebadabukela, abanye bezinyeza ngabo. ULeonard wabona ukuthi abantu abakhubazekile kumele bahlangane ukushintsha lesi simo.

ULeonard wahlanganisa abantu abakhubazekile eKokstad. Ndawonye basungula inhlangano entsha ebizwa ngeMount Currie Disabled People's Organisation (MCDPO). Igama layo lithathelwa egameni lentaba emi ngemuva kweKokstad. Ukwethulwa kweMCDPO kwabanjelwa ehholo ledolobha eKokstad ngoMashi 1999. Abantwana abakhubazekile badlala umculo nemidlalo yeshashalazi kanti futhi kwakunezimenywa eziqavile

zasePhalamende, kanye nemiklomelo yokwaziswa kwalabo abalekelele ukuqalwa kwenhlangano.

Selokhu iqalile iMCDPO isibe inhlangano edumile eKokstad kanye nasesifundeni saKwaZulu-Natal. Isifake imizamo nomdlandla omningi ekutuseni nasekukhuphuleni ulwazi. Isizamile ukushintsha imibono yabantu nokuthola inhlonipho yomphakathi kubantu abakhubazekile. Isilungise nemicimbi etshengisa umphakathi ukuthi abantu abakhubazekile bangazenzela izinto.

Iqembu iKokstad City Lovers labaneminyaka engaphansi kuka-14 nomqeqeshi wabo uLeonard Gregory. Babenezinye izitatanyiswa eMthatha Independence Stadium lapho kwakubanjelwe khona umncintiswano kazwelonke wabangaphansi kuka-14 iTransnet Soccer Club Championships (2000).

Ukuphumelela okukhulu kwalenhlangano kwaba ukugqugquzela ukuhlangana kwentsha ngeNational Youth Day ngomhlaka Juni 16, 1999. Ngalolosuku abantwana abakhubazekile bahlangana nabantwana abangakhubazekile beqhamuka ezikoleni ezejwayelekile. Amakwaya entsha ekhubazekile adlala umculo nemidlalo yeshashalazi. Abantwana abakhubazekile bethula izinkulumo. Abantwana abakhubazekile kanye nalabo abangakhubazekile bathola ukuthi bathokozela izinto ezifanayo. Emva kwalokho abantwana abakhubazekile bathi labo abangakhubazekile sebebaphatha ngenhlonipho. Babezibongela kakhulu kwiMCDPO ngokuhlela lo mcimbi.

Inhlangano yeMCDPO isisizile ukubhekana nezinkinga zezindlu ezibhekene nabantu abakhubazekile. Iningi lalabantu bebengenazo ezabo izindlu bephila ngaphansi kokuhlupheka. Inhlangano yeMCDPO yabasiza ukuthola izindlu emkhandlwini wedolobha. Iningi labo babeqala nokuba nezindlu zabo ezithi bona.

Enye yezinkinga abantu abakhubazekile ababebhekene nayo ukwentuleka kwemisebenzi. Abakwazi ukuthola imisebenzi ngenxa yokuthi abaqashi ababafuni abantu abakhubazekile njengabasebenzi ngakhoke iMCDPO iqale indawo yokufundisa abantu ukushisela insimbi nemisebenzi yokubaza, emahhovisi amadala

kamasipala. Ngokusebenzisa abantu abanamakhono abakhubazekile amalunga eMCDPO afundiswa ukuba abashiseli nababazi. Inhlangano yeMCPDO yawina itenda lekontraki yokushisela kwamasipala.

ULeonard ecobelela abanye ngendaba yakhe ngenhloso yokubakhuthaza esontweni iKokstad Assemblies of God.

Le nhlangano iphinde ilungise amawheelchair endaweni yabo yokusebenzela. Ngalendlela benzela inhlangano imali. Le mali isetshenziselwa ukuthenga imishini emisha. Esalayo itholwa amalunga enhlangano.

ULeonard neMCDPO bakha ubudlelwano obuqinile nomasipala, nohulumeni wesifunda, nezinhlangano ezingaphandle kwahulumeni, kanye namaqembu ebhola akhokhelwayo. Lowo owayengundunankulu waKwaZulu-Natal, uLionel Mtshali wakhuluma emicimbini yeMCDPO. Amaqembu afana noBush Bucks ayedlala kulemicimbi.

ULeonard usebenzisa abantu axhumene nabo emkhakheni wezebhola ukulekelela ukuphucula izimpilo zabantu abakhubazekile. Inhlangano yeMCDPO inezinhlelo eziningi ngekusasa. Ifuna ukuqala inkulisa yezingane ezikhubazekile, nohlelo lokufundisa abantu asebekhulile.

“Ukukhubazeka akumele kukuvimbe,” kusho uLeonard kubantu abakhubazekile. “Ungabamba iqhaza ngokuphelele emphakathini wakho.”

Umyalezo kaLeonard kumphakathi ulula, “Abantu abakhubazekile, likhulu iqhaza abangalibamba. Amalungu omphakathi kumele ashintshe indlela abuka

ULeonard ebongwa nguBishop William J. Slattery ngempumelelo yakhe ekuqeqesheni ibhola lezinyawo (1999).

ngayo abantu abakhubazekile, ukuze wonke umuntu azuze ngeqhaza elibanjwa abantu abakhubazekile."

ULeonard isishoshovu, akasesiyena umdlali webhola oqavile. Manje usengumqeqeshi oyingqayizivele webhola, kanti futhi usethole nendima entsha yokuba isishoshovu sabakhubazekile. Zonke izinsuku abantu basambiza ngo"Shoes"!

ULeonard "Shoes" Gregory enoMlungisi "Professor" Ngubane nendodana yakhe uLee Gregory (2000).

Mayelana nombhali

Peter Rule

UPeter Rule, unguthisha, umbhali, nosolwazi, osebenza nezinhlangano zabantu abakhubazekile. Uyathanda ukufunda nokubhala izindaba.

Ucabanga ukuthi izindaba zabantu abakhubazekile kufanele zixoxwe kabanzi. “Injongo yethu kumele ukuba sibe ‘Ngumphakathi wabo bonke’. Izindaba zabantu abakhubazekile zangisiza ukwazi kabanzi ukuthi kuchazani lokhu nokuthi thina esingakhubazekile sidinga kangakanani ukushintsha imibono yethu.”

“Shoooooes!” Indaba kaLeonard Gregory

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