

Teachers – Writers – Poets

At Bus Stops

by Francisco Langa – Tanguene (Mozambique)

better we bring our chairs,
you'll bring your stools.

Women bring your “mukhume ni vemba”
sisters, come with “capulanas”
mother, bring your mat
' cause you'll need it
to stretch it down
to sit on with the children.

For centuries it takes
while we are waiting,
waiting, waiting for a “chapa”
to come!

Glossary:

Chapa - taxi for the people (min-busies, pick-us). It basically carry workers, students and general public from urban areas to cities (vice-verse), it appeared as individual initiatives to help people and fill the gap left by the public transport to satisfy the demand on transport and then it became a business. The way this transport is operated is embarrassing because it seems it is disorderly, but then useful.

Capulana - a big cloth part of African women traditional dressing, it is folded round the waist and it rolls down till nearly reach the feet.

Mukhume is a “big capulana” made of 4 capulanas (**Vembas**) and women use the two of them for different occasions. Young women (sisters) are expected to put on capulana (vemba) for any occasion (marriage, party, traditional ceremonies...) but women that are traditional expected to show respect and culture (mothers etc.) they culturally use Mukhume for traditional ceremonies. In case of need they can use Mukhume. It is important to note that Mukhume ni Vemba are sold in one piece of cloth (5 capulanas) and, they go to a tailor and separate one for vemba and 4 a put together to make mukhume.

Ni (Ronga) – is the same as “and” in English.

