

Acknowledgements

There is an African proverb which says, “*Chara chimwe hachitswanyi inda*”, which, translated into the English language would read, “A single finger is incapable of crashing lice”. My journey, this PhD journey had many dramatic turns and twists. It began with a meeting over a glass of beer in Mega 1 Bar at Westgate Shopping Mall in Zimbabwe’s capital Harare. The year was 2012, my birthday month of June. Meeting time, 1153am! I was there at 1150hrs, and the man who would eventually be my PhD Supervisor arrived at exactly 1153hrs. In 15 minutes, the meeting was over. It was the shortest 15 minutes I have had but long enough to make me fall in love with the University of the Witwatersrand. A combination of the watering hole, the awkward meeting time and the shortness of the meeting managed to set the tone of how the journey, this PhD journey would unfold.

First and foremost, I would like to express my deepest and sincere gratitude to my Supervisor and mentor Professor Robert Muponde without whose wisdom, support and guidance, this thesis would have been a nightmare to write. His selfless advice on matters academic and social, made thesis writing a pleasurable experience I will forever cherish. The encouragement and support I received from his family and friends was undeserved, and kept me going even when everything seemed to be on top of me. I also thank Professor Victor Houlston, the Head of the Department of English at Wits, for his readiness to act as my sound pad whenever I wrote something. His guidance on writing skills helped me discover my own voice. Also Professor Dan Ojwang and Dr Thabisani Ndlovu for their invaluable comments on my Thesis proposal. Professor Michael Titlestad for his readiness to assist with his personal books that were relevant to my area of research. The Head of School (SLLM), Dr Libby Mentjies for the encouragement and support; Delia Rossouw your office was always open for me, thank you for the support; Antonette Gouwls, the patience you demonstrated whenever I knocked on your office door, even when your arm had plaster and you could not write properly, you struggled until you got your signature right for my papers to be satisfied – once again, thanks to you.

In writing this thesis, I benefitted from many scholarships, bursaries and fellowships. The Wits Postgraduate Merit Award (PMA), ensured that all my tuition fees were paid in full. The Academic Training and Development Bursary provided the much needed financial lifeline that covered all my expenses – food, transport and accommodation rentals. I also benefitted immensely from the Harold and Doris Tothill Bequest Fund Prestige Scholarship for Doctoral Research, which I received for one year. The Wits Academic Development Unit (ADU) extended lectureship opportunities to me which ensured that my financial needs were always taken care of. I also benefitted immensely from the Doctoral Fellowship that was extended to me by the Global South Project, which saw me travelling to Tubingen University in Germany to complete my thesis writing.

I must also thank the Parliament of Zimbabwe for giving me three years study leave to pursue my PhD studies. In particular, I wish to thank the former Clerk of Parliament Mr. Austin Zvoma for his support and encouragement, Former Deputy Clerk and now Clerk of Parliament Mr. Kennedy Chokuda for supporting my application for study leave and for his immense support during my studies, Former Deputy Clerk of the Pan African Parliament, now Deputy Clerk of the Parliament of Zimbabwe Ms. H. B. Dingani for extending opportunities for me to do some work at the Pan African Parliament and for providing me with accommodation during PAP sessions. The extra income I got from PAP went a long way in cushioning me financially, Deputy Clerk Ms. N. Sunga for her soft but always encouraging and supportive voice, Principal Directors of Finance, Human Resources, Information Services and External relations, and the Parliamentary Programme Coordinator for your continual support and encouragement. It was always a marvel to visit their offices and tap from their heads that are full of wisdom. Mr Malunga, you always believed I would do it, and yes, it is done. My sincere thank you for your words of encouragement. All the Directors and Managers at Parliament of Zimbabwe gave me the much needed moral support during my studies. I need to single out Mr. Ndamuka Marimo for always being the brother and friend that stand by me when all else have scattered.

The Hansard Team, in particular all those who held the fort during my academic tour of duty – Ms. C. Munemo, Ms. M. Chivaura, Mr. C. Mbiri, Ms. F. Chiwara and Ms. E. Mukuna.

I must also thank my friend and sister from another mother, Ms. Moipone Ndala, the Administrative Secretary in the Department of English at Wits, for her friendship and warmth. She made the English Department at Wits my first home. She gave me a home when I needed one, and the Ndalas have become family. Her genuine support, love and friendship kept me sane and in check. Tim Trengrove-Jones was a marvel to interact with. He always brightened even a dull day. Chris Thurman was a pleasure to work with on the Shakespeare in Southern Africa Journal, Sofia and Sonia – always cheerful – shared their PhD experiences with me which spurred me to keep going forward. Soft spoken Merle Williams was always ready to listen and to give advice. Ever smiling Michelle Ardler! A pleasure to work with. The discussions on Zimbabwean politics I occasionally had with Gerald Gaylard inspired me to keep writing – I thank him for the inspiring moments.

I had an exciting three years in the PhD battle field with Natalie Paoli and Karl van Wyk. Sharing the Doctoral Teaching Assistants office with them lessened the burden of carrying the yoke of PhD as we shared experiences and exchanged ideas.

My financial advisor, Lucky Makuyana, made sure that all my financial matters were taken care of. My friend Hazel, came into my life when I really needed someone to make me see that even when a dark shadow is cast upon you, there is always a ray of light that gives you hope to go on. I now live each day knowing and hoping. Joseph “Dhara” Nyanda, my elder brother; *muri baba vangu mukoma!* My mother VaMamoyo is always my source of inspiration. She always reminded me to get *kumuchekera*. She dreamt, I believed and I am there now. Sekuru Nyanda, you sired me and you believe in me; for that I thank you.

Anderson Mangena! Anderson! Words cannot fully express my gratitude. *Angu mashoko ndinomasiira kuna* Musiki to shower you with abundant blessings and grace.

Last but not least, I wish to thank my two children, Panashe Nigel and Leanne Mufaro for enduring my years of absence but always encouraging me to be the first Doctor in the family. Their mother Marcia must be thanked for always making sure that the children are well taken care of. My siblings, George and Japhet – it is always a pleasure having you around. Thank you very much for being there for me. Names of individuals are too many to mention. Those omitted should know that *Kutenda kwakitsi kuri mumoyo!!*