

https://dspace.org/

# Bus trip to Joni the story of undocumented Malawian migrants journeys to Johannesburg

**Chiumia, Sintha Cynthia**

**2016**

http://hdl.handle.net/10539/21976

Chiumia, Sintha Cynthia (2016) Bus trip to Joni: The story of undocumented Malawian migrants' journeys to Johannesburg, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, <http://wiredspace.wits.ac.za/handle/10539/21976>

Downloaded from a DSpace repository. https://dspace.org/

**Declaration**

I declare that this is my own, unaided work. It is submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Journalism and Media Studies at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. It has never been submitted for any degree or examination at any other university.

SINTHA CYNTHIA CHIUMIA

____ Day of _____ 2016

*To Ida Harrison, one of the key informants in this story who died just a couple of weeks before the final submission. She died far from home, in her search for economic freedom.*

**Acknowledgements**

I would like to thank my supervisor, Kevin Davie for the immense support given to me as I worked on this project. This research would have been impossible without your guidance. You really ensured that I finish the course a larger person in skills.

My sincere gratitude goes to the reader of my proposal, Professor Anton Harber. You guided me to narrow down the story and make my research manageable. I would like to acknowledge Lesley Cowling, Dinesh Balliah and Ruth Becker for attending my proposal presentations and offering constructive criticism. Thanks Ruth for the coordination and guidance. It was not easy but you were always there.

I am grateful to Professor Loren Landau and Roni Amit for guiding me to relevant sources for my literature review.

Wits Journalism Department staff, thank you for always being available and helpful to me. You helped me find my way around.

To my girl Grace, thank you for enduring my absence, at times, at very critical moments. To my baby Joanna, thank you for the timely arrival. It was not easy studying while pregnant and with a small baby. But I enjoyed your company in class. Thank you Zondani, my husband, for the moral and financial support rendered throughout the time that I was studying.

I would like to sincerely thank Old Mutual for the bursary. Without your support it would have been difficult to realise this dream.

Above all, I thank God for the wisdom, grace and favour.

## Contents


Abstract ……. i

Declaration ……. ii

Dedication ……. iii

Acknowledgements ……. iv

Table of Contents ..…… v

Bus Trip to *Joni*

Beitbridge, South Africa, August 2011 …… 1
Mixed Fortunes …… 4
The Departure …… 7
The go-betweens …… 10
The Bribe Hike …… 13
The R200 Bribe …… 15
The Suspecting Officers …… 16
Crossing Limpopo …… 17
Entry to *Joni* …… 18
Going Back to Malawi …… 20
In Search for Better Pay …… 24
The Numbers …… 25
Returning to *Joni* …… 27
The Smugglers …… 29
Reflection …… 31

Method Document

Preface …… 33

Introduction …… 33

Research Interest and Rationale …… 34

Literature Review …… 34

Methodology …… 42

Conclusion …… 45

Reference …… 46