

**A COLLECTION OF 100 KELE (D R CONGO) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS**



**By**

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Find in this work all my gratitude.

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to my late mother Ferdianne M’Nyakalaha for giving me birth,  
To my father Rusabunga Ladislas M. Lulyo,

To my uncle Frumence Nyakalaha for showing me the true way to follow in my education,  
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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Location**

Province Orientale (formerly Haut-Zaire, then Haut-Congo) is one of the ten provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The province lies in the northeast of the country. It borders Equateur to the west, Kasai-Oriental province to the southwest, Maniema to the south, and North Kivu to the southeast. It also borders the Central African Republic and South Sudan to the north, and Uganda to the east. The provincial capital is Kisangani.

The Kele people (or Lokele) are a Bantu ethnic group of about 160,000 people. They mainly live on the South bank of the Congo-River between Kisangani and Isangi where some villages extend up the Lomami River.

Swahili slavers from eastern Africa, known locally as “Ba Tambatamba”, and Tippu Tip in particular, had emerged as an important political force in Lokeleland”. They have warlike habits of this riverine people and their use of large drums. In 1883 Kele were scattered by Arab traders. The Lokele are one of the three main ethnic groups in the Isangi territory. The other two are the Topoke and Turumbu.

Kisangani is the largest city of the country. The total area of this densely populated city is 9,965 square kilometer. The city stands on the south bank of the Congo River.

**THE ETHNOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE KELE IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**

**LA PROVINCE ORIENTALE**



**Culture**

Swahili slavers from eastern Africa, known locally as “Ba Tambatamba”, and Tippu Tip in particular, had emerged as an important political force in “Lokeleland”. These slavers often established profitable alliances with Lokele big-men undergirded by marriage. Consequently, a number of Lokele girls were sold and became concubines for the Ba Tambatamba (Rose-Hunt 1999:39). Moreover, many Lokele, male and female, were required to work as slaves on Swahili-owned plantations. Lokele girls found themselves orphaned when Swahili slavers from Zanzibar and Tanzania ransacked their villages.

The Kele people used drum language for rapid communication between villages. Each village had an expert drummer, and all villagers could understand the drum language. Being a riverine people, they use the rivers for transportation of themselves and their goods.



### *The Kele travelling by river*

The Kele use proverbs and wise sayings to pass morals, teachings and community norms to their people. Folktales, songs and dance are also used so that everyone can learn from the messages carried by them. All their ceremonies such as marriage, circumcision, burial and political functions have specific songs giving specific messages.

### Two examples of Kele proverbs

**1. Oineleke iswi nda balia oka nda wota.**

**Swahili:** Usimfurahiye samaki kama dado majini.

**French:** Ne te réjouis pas du poisson qui est encore dans l'eau.

**English:** Don't rejoice while the fish is still in the water.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be only sure of what we possess and avoid dreaming.

**2. Yeka yechemu la otau eto sila mangu.**

**Swahili:** Ukipatacho kwa haraka hupotea mbio

**French:** Ce que l'on a eu facilement se perd aussi facilement

**English:** Easily got, easily lost.

**Teaching:** It urges us to work hard so that you deserve merit because a thing you got easily is not cared about and can be lost easily.

### Religion

The missionaries stumbled into a complicated world when they established an out-station in Yakusu in 1895. In 1883 the missionaries found the Kele ethnic group scattered by Arab traders. Twelve years later missionaries of the English Baptist Missionaries Society prospected for a site among the Kele people and finally chose a position at the extreme corner of the Kele territory, near the village of Yakusu. The early Yakusu missionaries used the Kele language to write and began to use this tongue as a medium for evangelistic and educational work.

### Economy

Stanley returned in 1883 to Kele country and found the tribe scattered by Arab traders. The Lokele, were traders and fishermen in the pre-colonial times, travelling long distances up and down the Congo-River, exchanging fish for the products of the forest people and establishing small colonies.



*The Lokele people fishing in the river*

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## **A Collection Of 100 Kele (D R Congo) Proverbs And Wise Sayings**

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- 33. Eyambo woke nda bokenge wato, ongala limoko keiyo.....8**  
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- 46. Lina lokindoa oto.....11**  
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- 49. Lioto eyai mfupa.....12**  
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- 50. Lisaka laumbakelaka.....12**  
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- 52. Litesaka ekoko elambeliki ae baita balau.....12**  
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- 53. Liwa ati lokendo.....12**  
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- 54. Liwa la oto obe liti la ngandi.....13**  
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- 62. Ndako bitotina bisofia eyendembo yiluawe.....15**  
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- 64. Ngongolu esami bato, kasi bato baibosame.....15**  
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- 65. Nyama efi, etomwesa bana bae bayele.....15**  
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- 66. Nyama ya olengi angomeseleoto.....15**  
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- 67. Oineleke iswi nda balia oka nda wota.....16**  
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- 68. Okusele nde mbi yeka yofa etila laso.....16**  
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- 69. Okpeke ilo la ofeko wa oto.....16**  
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- 70. Olungba mboka ekoluwa yao.....16**  
**English:** Losing the way is to know the way.
- 71. Omatsheke bome fololo olahotelemo la wiya.....17**  
**English:** The luck of somebody else may not let your door open.
- 72. Osiyaneke tina laosa.....17**  
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- 74. Otiluwe tohulu etole nda tange ekakulamele ae.....17**  
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- 75. Otindjeke mbuli tina leya ebe.....17**  
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- 76. Otiye efefe angohotese isangakala nda batau ba ehulu.....18**  
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- 77. Oweke la lobaba la mbase nde otile.....18**  
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- 78. Oyatolaila liekesi alenda mboka ya loiko.....18**  
**English:** Whoever follows the laws is safe.
- 79. Oyo aitoka la ota aliki beaka. ....18**  
**English:** Whoever does not understand or is not satisfied ignores that they are mature.

- 80. Oyo ale likolo ya osandu ombakelinde ndase litima ya osandu. ....18**  
**English:** Wait on the soil for someone on a tree.
- 81. Simba ekoya ndohanga kala. ....19**  
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- 82. Tika motola motola yekaande.....19**  
**English:** Not each rat a piece of cassava.
- 83. Toi nda owase toti la liti.....19**  
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- 85. Tono tokowaka mbala emwito.....20**  
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- 87. Wabokokota aito oso enika.....20**  
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- 88. Wali waoto bole bosa boti boleme.....20**  
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- 90. Wana wa kenge nde akabebese lokonda.....21**  
**English:** It is the neighbour's son that shits or farts a lot.
- 91. Wana wa weli atolonga tokeikeli twa keti bifi.....21**  
**English:** A smart child understands in the midst of the multitude.
- 92. Weteseke mbile nda ndjasoibe.....21**  
**English:** Do not waste time for an unknown matter.
- 93. Woena bake ba inoli, nyangelaka ebale lae.....21**  
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<b>99. Yeka yechemu la otau eto sila mangu.....</b>	<b>23</b>
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## A COLLECTION OF KELE PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

### 1. Angotimwe balia, otosola la indo.

**Swahili:** Maji usiyoyanywa utayaogea.

**French:** Si tu ne bois pas de l'eau, tu t'en serviras pour te laver

**English:** Water if not drunk will be used to wash the body.

**Teaching:** Everything is important in the life, so you have to use every resource wisely and do not waste it.

**Bible parallel:** John 6:13

*"Then they gathered and filled twelve hand-baskets with fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over to those who had eaten."*

### 2. Baisa etila bolelo

**Swahili:** Macho haina mpaka.

**French:** Les yeux n'ont pas de frontières.

**English:** Eyes have no borders.

**Teaching:** It is not whatever you see that you have to focus on. You see and tell what should be the best that build a community, but what can destroy an entire community even seen don't tell it.

**Bible parallel:** 2Samuel 11:2

*"And it happened at evening time, David rose up from his bed and walked up and down on the roof of the king's house. And he saw from the roof a woman bathing. And the woman was very good of form."*

### 3. Bakila bakonga.

**Swahili:** Damu huongea.

**French:** Le sang parle.

**English:** The blood talks.

**Teaching:** The blood links unifies brothers and families.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 33:4

*"And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him. And they wept"*

### 4. Balia ba hola angosilisa yeme.

**Swahili:** Maji ya mbali haikati kiu.

**French:** L'eau lointaine n'étanche pas la soif.

**English:** Water from far does not quench thirsty.

**Teaching:** It shows us that help to be considered is that is given when needed because help that is far can not intervene with the current situation.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 15:17

*"But coming to himself he said, How many servants of my father have plenty of bread, and I am perishing with famine."*

### 5. Balia ebasowe lemose angoshana limo.

**Swahili:** Maji yakimwagika hayazoleki.

**French:** Une fois versée, l'eau ne se récupère plus.

**English:** Water cannot be collected once poured.

**Teaching:** It urges us to keep friendship safely because when you lose a friend, it is not easy to recover this friendship again. So, be close friends.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 27:3-4

*"Then Judas, the traitor, seeing that He was condemned, repenting, returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, saying, I sinned, betraying innocent blood. But they said, What is it to us? You see to it."*

**6. Batau aluwi engaelo.**

**Swahili:** Matako yajua thamani ya kiti wakati wa kukaa.

**French:** On reconnait la valeur des fesses au moment de s'asseoir

**English:** The value of the buttocks is known when sitting.

**Teaching:** It urges us to know the different moments of everything and to respect that moment indeed.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 27:54

*"But the centurion and those with him guarding Yahshua, seeing the earthquake and the things taking place, they feared exceedingly, saying, Truly this One was Son of Elohim."*

**7. Batilete ndjala famba nde otila yeka.**

**Swahili:** Mkono mtupu haulambwi.

**French:** On ne lèche ou lape pas une main vide.

**English:** Empty hands are not licked.

**Teaching:** You don't need to be poor because no one will approach you; no one will defend or help you when in need because you do not have something to share.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 16:24

*"And calling he said, Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Eliazar that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and moisten my tongue, for I am tormented by this flame."*

**8. Batisokole sono inde wana wa ileli.**

**Swahili:** Mtoto anayelia mara kwa mara hatowi siafu

**French :** On ne peut pas enlever une fourmi sur un enfant qui pleure souvent

**English:** An ant is not removed from a child that always weeps.

**Teaching:** It tells us that your behavior will influence your life weather in good or in bad. The repeated way of doing qualifies you in a way or another.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 7:21

*"It will not be that just everyone who says to Me, Master, Master, will enter into the kingdom of Heaven, but the ones who do the will of My Father in Heaven"*

**9. Batwa betuma, iyo kopelesa bokala.**

**Swahili:** Mbilikimo akishiba huunguza ghala.

**French:** Une fois rassasié, le pygmée brulee son grenier

**English:** Pygmies burn stores when satisfied.

**Teaching:** It wants to tell us that people don't care about the future and enjoy the present. We should care about the future because we don't know what should happen.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 13:25

*"From the hour that the Master of the house rises and secures the door, then they will stand outside and knock on the door and begin to say, Our Master! Our Master! Open to us! And He will answer and He will say, I say to you that I do not know you from where you are."*

**10. Biti ya bowase, biti ya onoko.**

**Swahili:** Bahati ya pua sio ya mdomo.



**French:** La chance du nez n'est pas celle de la bouche.

**English:** The chance of the nose is not for the mouth.

**Teaching:** The fortune or good life is not for everybody. Each person has his own destiny that differs from another one, so don't be jealous.

**Bible parallel:** 1Kings 3:27

*"And the king answered and said, Give to her the living child, and do not put it to death at all; she is its mother"*

#### 11. Boeno ati loho.

**Swahili:** Ufukara si kilema.

**French:** La pauvreté n'est pas un handicap.

**English:** Poverty is not a disability.

**Teaching:** It urges us that any person can become poor. Life can change any time, only disability can't change.

**Bible parallel:** 2Samuel 9:3-4

*"And the king said, Is there not yet a man to the house of Saul, that I may show the kindness of Elohim to him? And Ziba said to the king, There is yet a son to Jonathan, lame in both feet. And the king said to him, Where is he? And Ziba said to the king, Behold, he is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel in Lo-Debar. And King David sent and took him out of the house of Machir the son of Ammiel, of Lo-Debar."*

#### 12. Boeno wa balia boti nda buse.

**Swahili:** Mawingu haiyimane maji kwa kuyakosa

**French:** Ce n'est pas par manque d'eau que le ciel n'en donne pas

**English:** Clouds don't give rain because they lack water.

**Teaching:** This proverb talks about the will of someone; you can give or you can't according to your wish. So, when asking, try to be humble to whom you are asking for a service.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 18:38

*"And he cried out, saying, Yahshua, Son of David, have mercy on Me"*

#### 13. Bofingi bokowela nda fota .

**Swahili:** Inzi hukufia kwa kidonda.

**French:** La mouche meurt sur la plaie.

**English:** Flies die on the wound.

**Teaching:** It urges us to stick on what we like because that is the only way you show your love.

**Bible parallel:** Ruth3:9

*"And he said, Who are you? And she said, I am your handmaid Ruth, and you shall spread your skirt over your handmaid, for you are a kinsman redeemer"*

#### 14. Bombo ati oteme.

**Swahili:** Sura si roho.

**French:** Le visage ce n'est pas le cœur

**English:** The face is not the heart.

**Teaching:** The heart has secrets that the face does not reveal, so, don't have confidence in the appearance.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew16:17

*"And answering, Yahshua said to him, Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal it to you, but My Father in Heaven."*

**15. Bosanda ekoyali ekeke,wekalaka na sumbe.**

**Swahili:** Mti hunyoosha bado mdogo.

**French:** On redresse un arbre quand il est encore jeune.

**Teaching:** It urges us to educate our children when they are still young.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 22:6

*"Train up a child on the opening of his way, even when he is old, he will not turn aside from it."*

**16. Boto wa lolanga angokese laso hola.**

**Swahili:** Njia ya mwongo ni fupi.

**French:** Le chemin du menteur est trop court.

**English:** The path of a liar is very short.

**Teaching:** It urges us to say the truth because something hidden will be one day revealed.

**Bible parallel:** John4:16-17

*"Yahshua said to her, Go, call your husband and come here. And the woman answered and said, I have no husband. Yahshua said to her, Well did you say, I have no husband"*

**17. Boto wa ofangu (bolengi ) ati la weli.**

**Swahili:** Mkali si mwerevu

**French:** Un homme colérique n'est pas malin

**English:** A rude person is not smart.

**Teaching:** To know what others think you should not be rude, you should be humble so that you may learn their behavior.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 5:25

*"Be in agreement with your adversary at law while you are with him on the way, lest your adversary at law deliver you to the judge and the judge deliver you to the officer and you be thrown into the prison".*

**18. Boto wisiye angokaoto.**

**Swahili:** Asiyesikia na asiyeshiba hawajui kama waliishakoma.

**French:** Qui ne comprend pas et qui ne se rassasie pas ignorent qu'ils sont murs ou grands.

**English:** The deaf and unsatisfied are immature.

**Teaching:** Persons who don't understand how things are going on, and those who are not satisfied are considered like children to feed and to command because you have to think for them and to feed them.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 22:5

*"Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse, he who keeps his soul shall be far from them."*

**19. Boto wisusa**

**Swahili:** Fulani ana tumbo mgongoni.

**French:** Quelqu'un a le ventre au dos.

**English:** Someone has his belly on the back.

**Teaching:** This proverb tells us about selfishness and greediness. The selfishness has no place in a community. People should share whatever they have for the greatness of the community.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Peter 4:8-10

*"and above all things having fervent love to yourselves, "Because love will cover a multitude of sins." Be hospitable to strangers without murmurings,so let each one of you according to the gift*

*he received from Elohim, minister the same to your fellowman as good stewards of the manifold grace of Elohim.”*

**20. Botolome ya bokokota baiso ko ndaengo.**

**Swahili:** Mwaname wa tamaa macho yake mu sufuria ya mke wake.

**French:** Un gourmand a toujours les yeux dans la casserole de sa femme.

**English:** A greedy man has his eyes in his wife's pot

**Teaching:** Corruption, selfishness, jealousy...are vices that destroy and let seriously a man down and destroy him completely.

**Bible parallel:** 2 Samuel 11:2-4

*”And it happened at evening time; David rose up from his bed and walked up and down on the roof of the king's house. And he saw from the roof a woman bathing. And the woman was very good of form. And David sent and asked about the woman. And one said, Is this not Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers and took her. And she came to him, and he lay with her. And she purified herself from uncleanness, and she returned to her house”*

**21. Botomali ale likole laotondo.**

**Swahili:** Mwanamke ni roho nyumbani.

**French:** La femme est le Cœur de la maison.

**English:** The wife is the home and the heart of the husband.

**Teaching:** The wife is safeguard of the whole family. She is committed to help and to care about members and property of the whole family.

**Bible parallel:** Isaiah 62:4

*”You no longer shall be called Azubah<sup>2</sup>; nor shall your land any longer be called Shemamah. But you shall be called, Hephzibah<sup>4</sup>; and your land, Beulah<sup>5</sup>. For YAHWEH delights in you, and your land is married”.*

**22. Botowasi angwene weli.**

**Swahili:** Mgeni haoni mbalamwezi.

**French:** L'étranger ne voit pas la lune.

**English:** A foreigner does not see the moonlight in the sky.

**Teaching:** It means that a foreigner is ignorant, he has to learn all about the customs of his host country, so he has to talk less and see more. The people in his host country should be lovable, cheerful.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 46:2-3

*”And Elohim said to Israel in visions of the night, and He spoke, Jacob! Jacob! And he answered, I am here. And He said, I am Elohe, The El of your fathers. Do not fear to go down into Egypt, for I will make of you a great nation there”.*

**23. Botumba angolusola waka.**

**Swahili:** Fimbo huvunja mfupa sio tabia.

**French:** La bastonnade casse l'os mais pas les habitudes.

**English:** Bastonade breaks the bone but not the habit.

**Teaching:** It wants to tell us that a man is still a man with his inner behavior that cannot be changed anyhow. The punishment can't correct him perfectly.

**Bible parallel:** Acts 7:59-60

*“And they were stoning Stephen while he prayed, and he said Our Master Yahshua receive my spirit. And after he kneeled down, he cried in a loud voice and said, Our Master, do not cause this sin to stand against them! And having said this, he fell asleep.”*

**24. Bowango, bofeti ati ombo.**

**Swahili:** Uzuri si sura.

**French:** La beauté, ce n'est pas le visage, c'est le cœur.

**English:** Beauty is not face.

**Teaching:** It tells us the goodness that is innermost the heart. When you have compassion, love for others, you have now this beauty of the face because you have testimony about your doings.

**Bible parallel:** Acts 9:39

*“And rising up Simon Peter went with them, and having arrived they led him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him, weeping and showing coats and garments that Tabitha made while she lived.”*

**25. Boyalani olau ale oto atoyala la wina la mbile.**

**Swahili:** Akufaaye kwa dhiki ndiye rafiki

**French:** Est ami, quiconque t'assiste dans le malheur

**English:** A friend is the one who assists you in misfortune.

**Teaching:** Hold others in bad time, help the needy is the best thing to do to the friend. Accept to hold someone in need is to create an everlasting relationship.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 9:36

*“And seeing the crowds, He was moved with pity concerning them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.”*

**26. Ebende yaosa etumesa tofi.**

**Swahili:** Cheche hutoka kwa chuma.

**French:** L'étincelle provient du métal.

**English:** The sparks are always from the metal.

**Teaching:** We have to look like the persons to whom we are related.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 26:73

*“And after a little, coming near, those standing by said to Peter, Truly you also are of them, for even your speech makes you known.”*

**27. Ewa ebebe eluwa laso, ewa liengani atokalangana.**

**Swahili:** Mujinga akierevuka mwerevu huwa mashakani.

**French:** Quand le sot devient rusé, le malin se suspecte, il est dans le doute.

**English:** The enlightenment of the fool is the trouble for the shrewd.

**Teaching:** The intelligence of a fool is always doubtful and this doubt thrusts intelligent people in uncertainty.

**Bible parallel:** 1Samuel 25:10-11

*“And Nabal answered David's servants and said, Who is David, and who the son of Jesse? The servants have multiplied today who have broken away from his master. And shall I take my bread, and my water, and my meat which I have killed for my shearers, and give to men whom I have not known, from where they are?”*

**28. Ewa lokandjela baina mboka atowa.**

**Swahili:** Asiyeachiana njia hukanyagwa.

**French:** Qui ne laisse pas le passage aux autres se fait piétiner

**English:** Whoever does not leave the path for pedestrians is always stamped on.

**Teaching:** It means that stubborn and distrustful people have consequences in their life because of lack of humility.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 5:5

*“Blessed are the meek! For they shall inherit the earth”*

**29. Ewa ongei asamemu, asamemu nda bokenge ande**

**Swahili:** Mchezea kwao hutunzwa.

**French:** Un joueur chez lui est complimenté ou félicité

**English:** Whoever plays at home is always rewarded.

**Teaching:** It urges us that the best place to live in peacefully is your home, your country because your weaknesses can be forgotten and your abilities honored.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 15:22-24

*“But the father said to his slaves, Bring out the best robe and clothe him, and give a ring for his hand and sandals for his feet. And bring the fattened calf, slaughter and let us eat and be merry; for this son of mine was dead, and lives again, and was lost, yet was found. And they began to be merry”.*

**30. Ewalembi ndoke esika, akendeke la bato wike, ewalembi ndokende isasaya akendeke indeange.**

**Swahili:** Ukitaka kwenda mbali, enda na wengine, ukitaka kwenda mbio, nenda peke yako.

**French:** Si tu veux aller loin voyage avec les autres mais si tu veux aller vite, va seul.

**English:** If you want to go far, go with others; but if you want to go quickly go alone.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be in unity, it's better to be in the community where sharing, helping each other than to be alone and selfish.

**Bible parallel:** John 8:29

*“And He who sent me is with me and does not leave me alone, because my Father is pleased at all times with the things that I do.”*

**31. Ewati ndolitesa baoi ba nyango ande, atosha likambesi la wenda**

**Swahili:** Asiyesikia la mamaye husikia la dunia.

**French:** Quiconque ne comprend le conseil de sa mère comprendra celui du monde.

**English:** Whoever does not care about his mother, the world will teach him a lesson.

**Teaching:** It teaches us to be obedient in our life so that we may avoid consequences of stubbornness.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 20:16

*“He will come and will destroy these vinedressers and will give the vineyard to others. And hearing this, they said, This will not happen!”*

**32. Eyambo oitlonga omekeke.**

**Swahili:** Usijaribu kitu hautamaliza.

**French:** N'essayez pas ce que l'on ne finira pas.

**English:** Do not dare what you can't afford to finish.

**Teaching:** It urges us not to begin a project you will not finish, an unfinished work is the shame for the one who began it and a finished work is the pride of its conceiver.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 18:4-5

*“And for a time he would not. But after these things he said to himself, Even if I do not fear Elohim, and do not respect man, Yet, because this widow troubles me, I will avenge her that it should not at all occur that she comes at times and wears me down”*

**33. Eyambo woke nda bokenge wato, ongala limoko keiyo.**

**Swahili:** Ukisafiri ugenini kata na fimbo ya ugenini.

**French:** Si tu vas à l'étranger coupe aussi un bâton de l'étranger.

**English:** When travelling in a foreign country, cut a foreign stick.

**Teaching:** It urges us to follow customs, behavior, and habit of the host country so that you may live peacefully.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 29:26

*"And Laban said, It is not done this way in our place, to give the younger before the first-born"*

**34. Eyando olenda bato batoloko tufimlimbi meleke etotina.**

**Swahili:** Ukienda kwa wakula nzi, zimeze na wewe

**French:** Si tu vas chez le mangeur des mouches, avale-les vives.

**English:** When in a country that eats flies, swallow them.

**Teaching:** It means that when in a foreign country you have to get accustomed so that you may live in peace. But we have to choose the best in their customs.

**Bible parallel:** Daniel 3:12

*"There are men, Jews, whom you have set over the business of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, do not pay attention to you. They do not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up."*

**35. Fota yaengene angoka wale.**

**Swahili:** Kidonda ulicho jikata kisikuume.

**French:** La plaie que tu t'aies faite ne te fait pas du mal.

**English:** A wound that you made yourself should not hurt you.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be obedient and prudent. When listening to advices and practicing these you do not face consequences in the life. Don't regret after your misbehavior.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Samuel 25:21-22

*"And David had said, Surely, in vain I have guarded all that belongs to this fellow in the wilderness, so that not anything was missed of all that was his. And he has returned to me evil for good. So may Elohim do to the enemies of David, and may He do more so, if leave any of all that is to him to the light of the morning, of one who urinates against a wall"*

**36. Ihulu sha onoko osa sitowa.**

**Swahili:** Ndege ya mdomo mrefu ilijitoboa tumbo.

**French:** L'oiseau d'un long bec s'éventre.

**English:** A bird with a long beak disembowels itself.

**Teaching:** It urges us to have discretion so that we may be trustful, to have secret and confidence not to say everything to everyone.

**Bible parallel:** John 9:12

*"Then they said to him, Where is that One? He said, I do not know."*

**37. Isiye ati fota yaokolo.**

**Swahili:** Njaa sio jeraha juu ya mguu

**French:** La faim n'est pas une blessure sur la jambe

**English:** Famine is not a wound on the leg.

**Teaching:** In the family everyone has to work for the entire family so that everyone may benefit on it. The misfortune is for the one who is not committed to work.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 16:17

*"The highway of the upright is to turn away from evil, he keeping his soul watches his way"*

**38. Iso angene kogano.**

**Swahili:** Sisi kwa sisi.

**French:** Nous pour nous.

**English:** Us to us.

**Teaching:** It stipulates fraternity first. Brothers should enjoy the power, opportunities got by their beloved.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 20:20-21

*"Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came near to Him, along with her sons, And she and her sons worshiped him and was asking him something. And He said to her, What do you desire? She said to Him, Say that these two sons of mine may sit one on Your right, and one on Your left in Your Kingdom."*

**39. Itete esitikunama, sikounya.**

**Swahili:** Mti mgumu huvunjika.

**French:** Un arbre qui ne se plie pas se casse.

**English:** A tree that can't bend breaks.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be simple, humble and to live together that requires consideration and care.

**Bible parallel:** 1Samuel 2:9

*"He keeps the feet of His saints, and the wicked are silenced in darkness; for man does not become mighty by power"*

**40. Itete sha tuma tolau sikoluwana ko laoli.**

**Swahili:** Mmea utakao toa mazao bora huonekana bado utokao udongoni.

**French:** On voit la plante qui portera de bons fruits a la sortie de la terre.

**English:** A tree that will bear fruits is seen when germinating.

**Teaching:** It shows us that at the birth the signs of success or failure can be guessed.

**Bible parallel:** 1Samuel 3:9

*"And Eli said to Samuel, Go, lie down; and it shall be, if One calls you, even you shall say, Speak, O YAHWEH, for Your servant hears. And Samuel lay down in his place."*

**41. Itunga sikotuma la sinyo sinyo.**

**Swahili:** Haba na haba hujaza kibaba.

**French:** Petit à petit on remplit le panier.

**English:** Little by little a bird makes its nest.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be courageous because from the less we have when courageously managed we can acquire a lot.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 12:43-44

*"Blessed is that slave when His Master comes and will find him so doing. Truly I say to you, He will set him over all His possessions"*

**42. Iuwe asongala oto.**

**Swahili:** Mjinga hujifanya kuwa na kikukumizi kama kobe.

**French:** L'ignorant se fait passer pour un bègue.

**English:** An ignorant person seems to be a stutterer like a tortoise.

**Teaching:** It urges us to keep silence when you don't know anything about the topic. It is wise to stay silent instead of giving a shameful answer.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 15:28

*"The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things"*

**43. Koko yola nde ekotindjemoko la loliki.**

**Swahili:** Kuku wakuchinjwa hupewa mtama.

**French:** On donne du sorgho a la poule que l'on va égorger.

**English:** It is a chicken to be slaughtered that is given sorghum.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be careful with gifts we get; they can be lure for getting taken in. So, be wise when receiving gifts.

**Bible parallel:** Ruth 3:3-4

*"And you shall bathe, and anoint yourself, and put your garments on you, and go down to the threshing floor. Do not let yourself be known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. And it shall be, when he lies down, you shall know the place where he lies down. And you shall go in and uncover his feet, and lie down. And he will tell you that which you are to do."*

**44. Likikpi lisewele sinyo sinyo.**

**Swahili:** Mabadiliko hayakawi kuonekana.

**French:** Le changement ne tarde pas à se faire remarquer.

**English:** The change does not delay.

**Teaching:** It is used when there is a significant change in one's life that is visible and positive.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 7:50

*"But Yahshua said to the woman, Your faith has given you life. Go in Peace"*

**45. Lina libe nde litoko ou bien lotoko ati yeka elau.**

**Swahili:** Jina mbaya ni kama viozo.

**French:** Un mauvais nom c'est de la pourriture.

**English:** A bad name is garbage.

**Teaching:** It urges us not to give a bad name to your child because it has an influence on his life. The name determines the behavior of the person.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Samuel 25:25

*"Please, do not let my master set his heart toward this man of worthlessness, on Nabal. For as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and foolishness is with him. And I, your handmaid, did not see the young men of my master whom you sent."*

**46. Lina lokindoa oto.**

**Swahili:** Jina ndilo mtu.

**French:** Le nom c'est la personne.

**English:** The person is what his name is.

**Teaching:** It urges us to give meaningful name to our children. The name determines the behavior, the luck or the misfortune of a person.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Chronicles 4:10

*"And Jabez called to the Elohim of Israel, saying, If indeed You would bless me, and make my border larger, and Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil so that it may not grieve me! And Elohim gave him what he asked."*

**47. Lingala libe likobebisa elanga.**

**Swahili:** Jani mbaya huharibisha shamba

**French:** Une mauvaise herbe détruit le champ

**English:** A bad tree destroys the field.



**Teaching:** It advises us to not follow what comes from a wicked person. His behavior can poison the good relationship of a group, so we have to be careful a bad friendship.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Kings 13:18

*"And he said to him, I also am a prophet like yourself, and an cherub spoke to me by the Word of YAHWEH, saying, Bring him back with you into your house, and he shall eat bread and water (he lied to him)."*

#### 48. Lioi lilau likotawesaka efango.

**Swahili:** Maneno matamu humtoa nyoka pangoni.

**French:** Les paroles mielleuses font sortir le serpent de son trou.

**English:** A sweet speech pulls out the snake from its hole.

**Teaching:** It is used when misleading, so use wisely our tongue; it can bless and curse, destroy and build. Many people are lured to change their decisions by promises made to them.

**Bible parallel:** Judges 16:15

*"And she said to him, How can you say, I love you, and your heart is not with me. These three times you have trifled with me, and have not told me where your great strength lies."*

#### 49. Lioto eyai mfupa.

**Swahili:** Mfupa ya wa ndugu huuma wa yule.

**French:** L'os des frères se partage entre eux

**English:** The bone of brothers is shared.

**Teaching:** This proverb teaches about unity, love and sharing. We only share the fruit of our labour among ourselves, members of a determined group.

**Bible parallel:** Romans 13:10

*"Love does not work evil to the neighbor. Then love is the fulfillment of Torah"*

#### 50. Lisaka laumbakelaka.

**Swahili:** Ahadi hungojewa.

**French:** La promesse s'attend et l'on ne la presse pas de s'accomplir.

**English:** The promise is to be waited.

**Teaching:** You have to wait the fulfillment of the promise and not hurry it to happen. We should be patient about everything.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 2:28-30

*"even Simeon received Him into his arms. And he blessed YAHWEH and said, Now dismiss your servant in peace, Adonai, according to your word. Because my eyes saw Your Salvation,"*

#### 51. Lise likowa la funga, totete totuhu tokoluswa

**Swahili:** Siku nyani atakufa miti huteleza.

**French:** Le jour ou le singe va mourir tous les arbres glissent.

**English:** When the monkey is about to die all the trees slip.

**Teaching:** It is about foreboding that comes before an event happens. How are we going to behave when such signs of misfortune are being revealed? You have to stand on your own and wait the even to happen constantly.

**Bible parallel:** Habakkuk 2:1

*"I will stand on my guard and set myself on the tower, and watch to see what He will say against me, and what I shall return on my rebuke."*

#### 52. Litesaka ekoko elambeliki ae baita balau.

**Swahili:** Heshimu kibuyu ya maziwa ulichokitumia.

**French:** Respecte le vase que tu as utilise pour prendre ton lait.

**English:** Respect the bowl that fed you.

**Teaching:** It is used to children when they are called to respect and support their parents when they are old, so that they may be blessed.

**Bible parallel:** Deuteronomy 5:16

*"Honor your father and your mother, as YAHWEH your Elohim has commanded you, so that your days may be prolonged, and so that it may be well with you in the land which YAHWEH your Elohim is giving to you."*

### 53. Liwa ati lokendo.

**Swahili:** kifo sio safari.

**French:** La mort n'est pas un voyage.

**English:** The death is not a journey.

**Teaching:** It is used when a man is died, he cannot return to life, because it is not a journey. In the journey, a person can return home once again.

**Bible parallel:** John 11:21

*"Then Martha said to Yahshua, my Master, if You were here, my brother would not have died".*

### 54. Liwa la oto obe liti la ngandi

**Swahili:** Hakuna msiiba kwa kifo cha kujitakia

**French:** Pas de deuil pour une mort voulue.

**English:** No one to mourn for a wished death

**Teaching:** When warned about the tortuous way of yours and don't leave it away, the consequences you face are yours and nobody to get compassion about you.

**Bible parallel:** 2 Samuel 12:13-14

*"And David said to Nathan, I have sinned against YAHWEH. And Nathan said to David YAHWEH also has put away your sin; you shall not die. Only, because you have caused to scorn the enemies of YAHWEH by this thing, also the son who shall be born to you dying shall die."*

### 55. Liyala ende sukulu, liekesi.

**Swahili:** Ndoa ni shule.

**French:** Le mariage est une école.

**English:** Marriage is a school.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used in a marriage that brides have to be strong and patient. that when facing storms and good time of their engagement. They have will be facing will teach those to learn from experienced couples.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 2:24

*"Therefore, a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife and they shall become one"*

### 56. Lokendo lisasaya ati liho.

**Swahili:** Kutangulia sio kufika.

**French:** Se presser pour partir n'est pas synonyme d'arriver.

**English:** To leave earlier is not to reach.

**Teaching:** It is said when you begin a project that is unsuccessful. To prevent this you have to plan and consult advisers so that you may fulfill your wish that's success.

**Bible parallel:** 2 Kings 18:7-8

*"And YAHWEH was with him. He acted prudently every place he went. And he rebelled against the king of Assyria and would not serve him. He struck the Philistines to Gaza and its borders, from the Watch Tower to the fortified city".*

**57. Lokendo losa lokobandaka la sinyosinyo.**

**Swahili:** Safari ya kilomita mia huanza na moja.

**French:** Le voyage de cent kilomètres commence par un km.

**English:** The journey of 100 km begins by one step.

**Teaching:** This proverb urges us to be courageous and not give up even if the way things seem to be is stormy and dangerous.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Kings 9:1-2

*"And it happened, as Solomon finished building the house of YAHWEH, and the house of the king, and all the desire of Solomon that he delighted to do, that YAHWEH appeared to Solomon a second time, as He appeared to him in Gibeon"*

**58. Lokuli angowela bokuma ngandi.**

**Swahili:** Nyani haoni kundule.

**French:** Le singe ne voit pas ses derrières

**English:** Monkey does not see its ass.

**Teaching:** No one sees his faults but considers someone's little faults. We should acknowledge our weaknesses too and not leaning on the faults of our neighbors.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 7:3-4

*"But why do you see the twig that is in the eye of your brother, but do not see the log in your own eye? Or how will you say to your brother, Allow me to cast out the twig from your eye; and behold, the log is in your eye"*

**59. Lolanga loti wewe.**

**Swahili:** Uongo haudumu milele.

**French:** Le mensonge n'est pas éternel.

**English:** Lies don't last long.

**Teaching:** It tells us not to stick to something that can't last long. Do not lie because the truth will appear and when it is known you are shameful and consequences of bearing lies are heavy.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 20:5

*"And did he not say to me, She is my sister? And she, even herself said, He is my brother. In the honor of my heart and the purity of my hands I have done this."*

**60. Mboli bikotemoko la oto aluwi yango.**

**Swahili:** Hadithi huelezwa na mwenye aliyo iishi.

**French:** L'histoire se raconte par celui qui l'a vécue.

**English:** A story is narrated by whoever witnessed it.

**Teaching:** A person who knows the truth is the one who may tell something about it if he has a good will. It urges us to be good witness so that the information we may provide should be taken confidently.

**Bible parallel:** John 9:20-21

*"His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind. But how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. He is of age, ask him. He will speak about himself."*

**61. Ngandu na balia ileli.**

**Swahili:** Mamba hulua ndani ya maji.

**French:** Le crocodile pleure dans l'eau.

**English:** Crocodile weeps even in the water.

**Teaching:** Crocodile weeps but because it is in the depth of water, no one see him weeping. It urges us to be closer to himself and not let others know what you are suffering from. It can be a joy or sadness that makes you weep so be confident with yourself.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 19:41-42

*"And as He drew near, seeing the city, He wept over it, saying, If you had known, even you, even at least in this day of yours, the things for your peace! But now they were hidden from your eyes".*

**62. Ndako bitotina bisofia eyendembo yiluawe.**

**Swahili:** Ziliisha unguwa na bado zinasimama.

**French:** Ces maisons sont toutes brûlées, même si elles sont debout.

**English:** These houses are burnt but remain standing.

**Teaching:** It urges us to deal secretly with some matters, so that people may not be aware of how we suffer. We cannot avoid little conflicts in household, in the community... but we have to solve them peacefully.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 18:13

*"And standing at a distance, the tax collector would not even lift up his eyes to Heaven, but smote on his breast, saying, Elohim, be merciful to me, a sinner!"*

**63. Ngba eluwi nyama eye engali lande.**

**Swahili:** Mbwa anayemjua mbweha ndiye humuwinda.

**French:** C'est le chien qui connaît l'hyène qui la chasse.

**English:** The dog that knows hyena that hunts him.

**Teaching:** This proverb is said when there is a confrontation. We have to face opponent we know capacities, abilities and weaknesses, so that we may be sure of victory.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 18:5

*"Yet, because this widow troubles me, I will avenge her that it should not at all occur that she comes at times and wears me down".*

**64. Ngongolu esami bato, kasi bato baibosame.**

**Swahili:** Nyongolo mpenda watu na watu hawampendi.

**French:** Mille-pattes qui aime les gens mais les gens ne l'aiment pas.

**English:** Centipede people lover but people hate him.

**Teaching:** It urges us that people are untruthful; they always pretend to love, to submit.

**Bible parallel:** Mark 14:48

*"And answering, Yahshua said to them, Have you come out with swords and clubs to take Me, as against a robber?"*

**65. Nyama efi, etomwesa bana bae bayele.**

**Swahili:** Akiwa mzee sungura hunyonya watoto.

**French:** Une fois vieux, le lapin tête ses enfants.

**English:** An old rabbit is breastfed by his children.

**Teaching:** When old, parents have to be looked after by the children.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 45:23

*"And to his father he sent this: ten donkeys bearing the good things of Egypt, and ten she-donkeys bearing grain, and bread, and food for his father for the way."*

**66. Nyama ya olengi angomeseleoto.**

**Swahili:** Shukrani ya punda ni teke.

**French:** Le remerciement de l'âne c'est le coup de sabot.

**English:** The thanks of a donkey are taps.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be grateful.

**Bible parallel:** Mark 14:20

*"But answering, He said to them, It is one from the Twelve, the one dipping in the dish with Me."*

**67. Oineleke iswi nda balia oka nda wota.**

**Swahili:** Usimfurahiye samaki kama dado majini.

**French:** Ne te réjouis pas du poisson qui est encore dans l'eau.

**English:** Don't rejoice while the fish is still in the water.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be only sure of what we possess and avoid dreaming.

**Bible parallel:** Esther 7:9

*"And Harbonah, one of the eunuchs, said before the king, Also, look! The wooden gallows which Haman made for Mordecai, who had spoken good toward the king, is standing at Haman's house. And the king said, Hang him on it!"*

**68. Okusele nde mbi yeka yofa etila laso.**

**English:** A good turn deserves another.

**Swahili:** Nipe nikupe urafiki ukoleye.

**French:** Donne-moi et je te donne comme ça l'amitié va durer

**Teaching:** To maintain relationship we have to open hands. In friendship, gifts have to be given. To keep it alive both friends have to share what they possess. If you don't give the friendship cease to exist and become enmity.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Samuel 25:11, 15

*"And shall I take my bread, and my water, and my meat which I have killed for my shearers, and give to men whom I have not known, from where they are? And the men were good to us, and have not shamed us, and we have not missed anything all the days we have gone up and down with them when we were in the field"*

**69. Okpeke ilo la ofeko wa oto.**

**Swahili:** Bahati ya mwengine usilalie inje.

**French:** Que la chance de quelqu'un ne te fasse pas dormir a l'extérieur.

**English:** The fortune of someone else should not make you pass the night outside.

**Teaching:** It asks us not to rob, destroy, and be jealous of someone's success. People have to count on their own efforts, so work hard to deserve success.

**Bible parallel:** John 15:18-19

*"If the world hates you, know that it has hated Me before you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. But because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you."*

**70. Olungba mboka ekoluwa yao.**

**Swahili:** Kupotea njia ndiko kujuwa njia.

**French:** S'égarer du chemin, c'est connaitre le chemin.

**English:** Losing the way is to know the way.

**Teaching:** It urges us to search until we find the truth.

**Bible parallel:** John 4:29

*"Come, see a Man who told me all things, whatever I did. Is this One not the Messiah"*

**71. Omatsheke bome fololo olahotelemo la wiya.**

**Swahili:** Bahati ya mwengine usilalie mlango wazi.

**French:** Ne dors pas porte ouverte pour la chance de quelqu'un d'autre.

**English:** The luck of somebody else may not let your door open.

**Teaching:** It urges us not to depend on a help from another one from nowhere. You have to work for the satisfaction of your needs and not wait for being helped.

**Bible parallel:** Ezekiel 14:6

*"Therefore, say to the house of Israel, So says Adonai YAHWEH: turn, and be turned from your idols, and from all your abominations turn away your faces".*

**72. Osiyaneke tina laosa.**

**Swahili:** Hapana zoea moto sana.

**French:** Ne t'approche pas trop du feu.

**English:** Too close to the fire, you get burned.

**Teaching:** It advises us not be stuck on bad habit, the misbehavior of friends, so that we may avoid consequences. Avoid relationship that will push you in a hollow.

**Bible parallel:** Ruth 1:15

"And she said, See, your sister-in-law has turned back to her people, and to her gods. You turn back after your sister-in-law"

**73. Otikulamele ndako otiluwe oseke ekotono.**

**Swahili:** Nyumba hulali ndani hauwezi juwa inavujia wapi

**French:** Si tu ne passes pas nuit dans une maison, tu ne peux pas savoir qu'elle suinte

**English:** If you don't pass the night in a house you don't know where it seeps.

**Teaching:** It means that you do not know the problems we encounter in our offices, our homes...so you don't need to appreciate what you don't know how it is managed.

**Bible parallel:** Mark 10:38

"But Yahshua said to them, You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup which I drink, and to be baptized *with* the baptism I am baptized *with*?"

**74. Otiluwe tohulu etole nda tange ekakulamele ae.**

**Swahili:** Kitanda usipokilalia huwajui kunguni wake.

**French:** Tu ne connais pas les punaises du lit sur lequel tu n'es jamais couché.

**English:** The bugs of a bed you never lay on are unknown.

**Teaching:** It means that something unknown is a mystery, and to discover this is not a night meal. It urges us not to interfere with matter you are not involved in.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 26:69

*"And Peter sat outside in the courtyard. And one girl came near to him, saying, And you were with Yahshua the Galilean"*

**75. Otindjeke mbuli tina leya ebe.**

**Swahili:** Usifungie mbuzi mbaya pembeni na yako.

**French:** N'attache pas ta chèvre a coté de celle qui a un mauvais comportement.

**English:** Do not tie a bad goat near yours.

**Teaching:** It urges us to avoid people with bad behavior.

**Bible parallel:** Judges 2:12

*“And they forsook YAHWEH, the Elohim of their fathers, who brought them out from the land of Egypt. And they went after other gods, of the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed themselves to them, and angered YAHWEH.”*

**76. Otiye efefe angohotese isangakala nda batau ba ehulu.**

**Swahili:** Mjinga hutia kidole chake kwa matako ya kobe.

**French:** C'est le sot qui met son doigt dans l'anús de la tortue.

**English:** A fool puts his finger in a tortoise' anus.

**Teaching:** It teaches us to be aware of consequences when acting as a fool. This proverb is used for those who do not mind about the consequences of their acts.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 26:6, Judges 6:31

*“He that sends a message by a fool's hand cuts off his own feet and drinks violence”*

**77. Oweke la lobaba la mbase nde otilé.**

**Swahili:** Pilipili uziyo ila yakuwashia nini?

**French:** Le piment que tu n'as pas mangé pourquoi te pique-t-il ?

**English:** Pepper you don't eat should not burn.

**Teaching:** It prevents us from being involved in matters that are not concerning you and urges us to escape issues that will bring you sorrow, sadness...

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 39:9

*“No one in this house is greater than I, and he has not withheld anything from me except you, because you are his wife. And how should I do this great evil and sin against Elohim?”*

**78. Oyatolaila liekesi alenda mboka ya loiko.**

**Swahili:** Mfuata sheria hujisalimisha.

**French:** Quiconque suit la loi ne s'inquiète pas.

**English:** Whoever follows the laws is safe.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be faithful with the instructions we get from the authorities, so that we may not be harmed by these laws or instructions. So, we have to be respectful, obedient and humble.

**Bible parallel:** Galatians 6: 7

*“Do not be deceived, Elohim is not mocked. For whatever a man may sow, that he also will reap.”*

**79. Oyo aitoka la ota aliki beaka.**

**Swahili:** Asiyé sikia na asiyeshiba hawajui kama washa komaa.

**French:** Qui ne comprend et ne se rassasie pas ignorent qu'ils ont grandi.

**English:** Whoever does not understand or is not satisfied ignores that they are mature.

**Teaching:** It urges us about responsibility. We have to be responsible if we want to be respected, admired in the society.

**Bible parallel:** Leviticus 26:35

*“It shall rest all the days of the desolation, that which it has not rested in your Sabbaths while you lived on it”*

**80. Oyo ale likolo ya osandu ombakelinde ndase litima ya osandu.**

**Swahili:** Aliye juu ya mti, mgonjee chini.

**French:** Attends sur la terre celui qui est sur l'arbre.

**English:** Wait on the soil for someone on a tree.

**Teaching:** It tells us that we belong to somewhere.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 19:5 *”And as He came to the place, looking up, Yahshua saw him, and said to him, Zaccheus, hurry, come down, for today I must stay in your house.”*

**81. Simba ekoya ndohanga kala.**

**Swahili:** Chui na ukali wake atiwa mimba.

**French:** La lionne avec sa méchanceté se voit grosse, enceinte.

**English:** The lioness with its wickedness is pregnant.

**Teaching:** There are natural things that can't be avoided even if we behave in unnatural way. The things that are not natural and that can now happen are called mysteries

**Bible parallel:** 2 Kings 9:34

*”And he came in and ate and drank, and said, Now look after this cursed woman and bury her, for she is a king's daughter.”*

**82. Tika motola motola yekaande.**

**Swahili:** Sio kila panya na kipande cha muhogo.

**French:** Ce n'est pas à chaque rat un morceau manioc.

**English:** Not each rat a piece of cassava.

**Teaching:** We are not equal and don't possess the same abilities or aptitudes even our different abilities are required. So let us be satisfied of what the nature has provided to us.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Corinthians 12:8

*”For through the Spirit is given to one a word of wisdom, and to another a word of knowledge, according to the same Spirit”*

**83. Toi nda owase toti la liti.**

**Swahili:** Kinyesi pembeni ya pua haina uvundo.

**French:** Les excréments sur le nez ne puent pas

**English:** Feaces on the nose does not stink.

**Teaching:** It means that the potentiality of a close friend is not considered and misused. These abilities of friend of yours are ignored: discover them because they are needed anyway.

**Bible parallel:** John: 16:28

*”I proceeded from the presence of the Father and have come into the world. And again I leave the world and I go to the Father”*

**84. Toka balinya baosa nda okali.**

**Swahili:** Maji yakitokota inyime unga.

**French:** Prive de la farine à l'eau chaude.

**English:** To boiling water, do not give flour.

**Teaching:** It urges us to keep silence with someone wants quarrels.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 27:13-14

*”Then Pilate said to Him, Do You not hear how many things they testify against You? And He did not answer him, not even to one word, so that the governor greatly marveled.”*

**85. Tono tokowaka mbala emwito.**

**Swahili:** Siafu hufia pamoja.

**French:** Les fourmis meurent ensemble.

**English:** Ants die together.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be united so that we may be stronger to achieve great goals.

**Bible parallel:** Acts 1:13-14

*”And when they went in, they went up to the upper room where they were waiting: Both Peter and Jacob, and John and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, Jacob the son*



*of Alpheus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the brother of Jacob. These all were continuing steadfastly in prayer and in supplication with one mind, with the women, and with Mariam the mother of Yahshua, and with His brothers.”*

**86. Totete ta elanga tokomakana.**

**Swahili:** Miti ya shamba moja ndio husukumana.

**French:** Les arbres d’un même champ se frottent.

**English:** The shrubs of the same field push each other.

**Teaching:** It means that people who live together have always problems. When living together some issues people encounter have to be peacefully solved.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Samuel 26:8

*“And Abishai said to David, Elohim has shut up your enemy into your hand today. And now please let me strike him with a spear, even to the earth one time, and I will not repeat it to him.”*

**87. Wabokokota aito oso enika.**

**Swahili:** Mtaka yote hukosa yote.

**French:** Qui veut tout perd tout.

**English:** Who want much loose all.

**Teaching:** It urges us about greediness and selfishness that has its consequence in the life and in neighborhood.

**Bible parallel:** Acts 5:4-5

*“Was it not yours before it was sold? And after it was sold, again you were in control over its proceeds. Why have you placed in your heart to do this spectacle? You have not lied in the presence of men, but in the presence of Elohim. And hearing these words, Khananyah fell down and died. And great fear came on all those who heard”.*

**88. Wali waoto bole bosa boti boleme.**

**Swahili:** Mke wa mwengine moto wakuotea mbali.

**French:** La femme du prochain est un feu à éviter.

**English:** The neighbor’s wife is a fire not to be too close to.

**Teaching:** It urges us to respect one’s wife because she is the best property that can bring misfortune if you seduce her. Do not provoke the anger of the husband and God

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 5:28

*“But I say to you, Everyone looking at a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart”*

**89. Wana ewatike lokendo atonga mbo nyaango ande atolamba bieka.**

**Swahili:** Mtoto asiye safiri husema mamae ni mpishi bora.

**French:** L’enfant qui ne voyage pas dit que sa mère fait une bonne cuisine.

**English:** A child who never travels says that his mother is the best cook.

**Teaching:** It tells us about ignorance. We always appreciate what we know perfectly well and ignore the aptitudes of others. So we should learn more and more to discover the truth.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 25:24-25

*“And the one who received the one talent also coming up, he said, Master, I knew you, that you are a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter; and being afraid, going away, I hid your talent in the earth. Behold, you have yours.”*

**90. Wana wa kenge nde akabebese lokonda.**

**Swahili:** Mtoto wa jirani huyamba mara nyingi.

**French:** C’est l’enfant du voisin qui chie beaucoup (excrément).

**English:** It is the son's neighbour that shits or farts a lot.

**Teaching:** We always do not see our guilt but for the others we are ready to criticize on even a little mistake. We should not judge others but should do what we say and what we intend to do instead of gossiping.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 5:13

*"And stretching out the hand, He touched him, saying, I will! Be cleansed! And instantly the leprosy departed from him."*

**91. Wana wa weli atolonga tokeikeli twa keti bifi.**

**Swahili:** Mtoto mwerevu husikilia katika umati.

**French:** Un enfant intelligent comprend meme dans une multitude. (dans une assemblée)

**English:** A smart child understands in midst of the multitude.

**Teaching:** It asks us to focus on important issues and not to follow things that have no interest, people with interest have ears opened when receiving guidelines of what to do and how to do it.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 20:31

*" But the crowd rebuked them, that they be quiet. But they cried out the more, saying, Have pity on us, Master, Son of David!"*

**92. Weteseke mbile nda ndjasoibe.**

**Swahili:** Usilolijua lisikusumbuwe.

**French:** Que c'est qui est mal connu ne te prenne du temps

**English:** Do not waste time for an unknown matter.

**Teaching:** It is said for intruders who interfere with matters they are not concerned with. So, do not waste the time when interfering with matters that are not yours.

**Bible parallel:** John 11:36-37

*"Then the Jews said, See how He loved him! But some of them said, Was this One, the One opening the eyes of the blind, not able to have caused that this one should not die?"*

**93. Woena bake ba inoli, nyangelaka ebale lae.**

**Swahili:** Ukikosa la tombo, furahia la kunguru.

**French:** Si tu manques l'oeuf de la perdrix réjouis-toi de celui du corbeau

**English:** If you lack the egg of the quail rejoice with one of the crow.

**Teaching:** It tells us about satisfaction. We have to be satisfied with what we possess.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Corinthians 12:10

*"and to another, workings of powers, and to another, prophecy, and to another, discerning of spirits, and to another, different kinds of languages, and to another, interpretation of languages. But the one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing separately to each as He wills".*

**94. Woikomye laso lokeke, laokoya laso lofi.**

**Swahili:** Usipoziba ufa utajenga ukuta.

**French:** Si tu ne bouches pas la fissure, tu vas construire tout un mur

**English:** If you don't close the crack, you will build a wall.

**Teaching:** It urges us to prevent damages before you lose considerably.

**Bible parallel:** Nehemiah 2:17

*"Then I said to them, You see the evil that we are in, how Jerusalem is wasted, and its gates are burned with fire. Come and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, so that we may no longer be a reproach"*

**95. Woineleke lioto ango ewaengene ko loola.**

**Swahili:** Ndugu wa wili wakigombana chukuwa jembe ukalime

**French:** Lorsque deux frères se battent, prends ta houe, vas cultiver

**English:** When two brothers are fighting, take your hoe and go cultivating.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be careful with family matters. Do not interfere with family matters because brotherhood sticks and when they are going to make peace you will be ashamed.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 45:4-5

*“And Joseph said to his brothers, Now come near to me. And they came near. And he said, I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be grieved, and let no anger be in your eyes because you sold me here, for Elohim sent me before you to save life.”*

**96. Wolembe angongolu, samaka limoko bakoloande.**

**Swahili:** Ukimpenda tandu, penda na miguu yake.

**French:** Qui aime le mille-pattes doit aimer aussi ses pieds

**English:** Loving centipede, love also its feet.

**Teaching:** It urges us to love totally. When you love some you have to love also his disability, his weakness.

**Bible parallel:** 2 John 1:6

*“And this is love, that we should walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, even as you heard from the beginning, that you should walk in it”*

**97. Wongeke la otowange mbo oletoliye.**

**Swahili:** Usiulize mzee ana nini.

**French:** Ne demande pas ce que possède un vieux.

**English:** Do not inquire what an old man has.

**Teaching:** It urges us not to inquire about him but stay near him so that you may learn from him. He has the secret of the life and advices that he can give when obeying and approaching him.

**Bible parallel:** Mark 10:38

*“But Yahshua said to them, You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup which I drink, and to be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?”*

**98. Yayi ikeke ebikolemo la losongo, angwene hai.**

**Swahili:** Mboga inayoliwa kwa amani huzidi nyama ya mgogoro.

**French:** Les légumes prises pacifiquement surpassent la viande avec des querelles.

**English:** The vegetables eaten in peace is more than meat with quarrels. (Dry bread at home is better than a roast meat abroad)

**Teaching:** It refers to peace in the household: housewives prefer the peace in their household than expensive things with quarrels and fight. Peace is the most important thing a man should give to his wife, his family, his nation, to the world.

**Bible parallel:** John 14:27

*“I leave peace to you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be timid.”*

**99. Yeka yechemu la otau eto sila mangu.**

**Swahili:** Ukipatacho kwa haraka hupotea kwa urahisi.

**French:** Ce que l'on a eu facilement se perd aussi facilement

**English:** Easily got, easily lost.

**Teaching:** It urges us to work hard so that you deserve merit because a thing you got easily is not cared about and can be lost easily.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 29:30

*“And he also went in to Rachel, and he also loved Rachel more than Leah. And he served with him yet another seven years”*

100. **Yeme elau ekotawesa botema.**

**Swahili:** Matumaini humuweka mtu hai.

**French:** L'espoir nourrit.

**English:** Hope keeps a man alive.

**Teaching:** It means that when you have a hope you are insured and you cannot disappoint yourself. You will be encouraging yourself about the promise. So let us keep promise and make sure to fulfill it.

**Bible parallel:** Acts 1:4-5

*“And while He ate bread with them, He charged them not to leave Jerusalem, but to await the promise of the Father, Which you heard of Me; for John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days after”*

## SUMMARY

The collection of Kele Proverbs was interesting and challenging at the same time. I had to use several collaborators to collect the 100 proverbs. Ajigo spoke Kele and had initiated me to research on his ethnic group. After sometime he was not available due to his commitments at work. He submitted to me only 20 proverbs and led me to another collaborator. This one took not only my money, but also my time. I had to go work with him three times a week, with no successful results. These challenge slowed my work so that it took me more than a year to complete the collection of the Kele proverbs.

I contacted a friend who lectures at the university to assist me because he was in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He travelled to Kisangani with one of his students to meet some elders in different villages which were a long distance from each other. They later had narrated how they had traveled through bushes and forested areas in the rain in.

Their greatest challenge had been with the communication. Villagers spoke Kele and Lingala, but not Swahili. People were not free with them considering they had just experienced a war. They had to give some motivation to entice them to help with the recording of the proverbs. They had to move around from one elder's home to another. It was also quite costly to achieve.

## CONCLUSION

The Kele people use proverbs in their daily life to convey hidden messages, understood by the community. The core values of this community are mainly related to their daily activities and the environment which they live in. **Respect** is emphasized and expected of everyone. It is brought out in the proverb No.28, "Who does not leave the path to pedestrians is always stamped on." The community expects all its members to show respect for each other, regardless of age and status. Usually the footpaths in the villages are narrow and only one person will pass through. It is also applicable in all other environments where people are together.

They uphold family values and culturally are trained to respect marriage because it holds the both the nuclear and extended family together. **Family cohesion and fidelity** is the responsibility of every member of the community so that no disputes arise which can ruin a family bond. The proverb No. 88 describes this value: "The neighbor's wife is a fire not to be too close to." "*Wali waoto bole bosa boti boleme.*".

The people apply the universal core human values evidently in their daily lives. Their proverbs and wise saying portray these and bring out values such as peace, love, freedom, respect, justice, among others.

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## **APPENDIX**

### **A RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR THE COLLECTION OF 100 KELE (D R CONGO) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

##### **Location**

Province Orientale (formerly Haut-Zaire, then Haut-Congo) is one of the ten provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The province lies in the northeast of the country. It borders Equateur to the west, Kasai-Oriental province to the southwest, Maniema to the south, and North Kivu to the southeast. It also borders the Central African Republic and South Sudan to the north, and Uganda to the east. The provincial capital is Kisangani.

The Kele people (or Lokele) are a Bantu ethnic group of about 160,000 people. They mainly live on the South bank of the Congo-River between Kisangani and Isangi where some villages extend up the Lomami River.

Swahili slavers from eastern Africa, known locally as “Ba Tambatamba”, and Tippu Tip in particular, had emerged as an important political force in Lokeleland”. They have warlike habits of this riverine people and their use of large drums. In 1883 Kele were scattered by Arab traders. The Lokele are one of the three main ethnic groups in the Isangi territory. The other two are the Topoke and Turumbu.

Kisangani is the largest city of the country. The total area of this densely populated city is 9,965 square kilometer. The city stands on the south bank of the Congo River.

ETHNOGRAPHIC MAP OF ORIENTALE PROVINCE IN DRC

LA PROVINCE  
ORIENTALE



Culture

Swahili slavers from eastern Africa, known locally as “Ba Tambatamba”, and Tippu Tip in particular, had emerged as an important political force in “Lokeleland”. These slavers often established profitable alliances with Lokele big-men undergirded by marriage. Consequently, a number of Lokele girls were sold and became concubines for the Ba Tambatamba (Rose-Hunt 1999:39). Moreover, many Lokele,



male and female, were required to work as slaves on Swahili-owned plantations. Lokele girls found themselves orphaned when Swahili slavers from Zanzibar and Tanzania ransacked their villages.

The Kele people used drum language for rapid communication between villages. Each village had an expert drummer, and all villagers could understand the drum language. Being a riverine people, they use the rivers for transportation of themselves and their goods.



### *The Kele travelling by river*

The Kele use proverbs and wise sayings to pass morals, teachings and community norms to their people. Folktales, songs and dance are also used so that everyone can learn from the messages carried by them. All their ceremonies such as marriage, circumcision, burial and political functions have specific songs giving specific messages.

#### Two examples of Kele proverbs

**3. Oineleke iswi nda balia oka nda wota.**

**Swahili:** Usimfura hiye samaki kama dado majini.

**French:** Ne te réjouis pas du poisson qui est encore dans l'eau.

**English:** Don't rejoice while the fish is still in the water.

**Teaching:** It urges us to be only sure of what we possess and avoid dreaming.

**4. Yeka yechemu la otau eto sila mangu.**

**Swahili:** Ukipatacho kwa haraka hupotea mbio

**French:** Ce que l'on a eu facilement se perd aussi facilement

**English:** Easily got, easily lost.

**Teaching:** It urges us to work hard so that you deserve merit because a thing you got easily is not cared about and can be lost easily.

### Religion

The missionaries stumbled into a complicated world when they established an out-station in Yakusu in 1895. In 1883 the missionaries found the Kele ethnic group scattered by Arab traders. Twelve years later missionaries of the English Baptist Missionaries Society prospected for a site among the Kele people and finally chose a position at the extreme corner of the Kele territory, near the village of Yakusu. The early Yakusu missionaries used the Kele language to write and began to use this tongue as a medium for evangelistic and educational work.

### Economy

Stanley returned in 1883 to Kele country and found the tribe scattered by Arab traders. The Lokele, were traders and fishermen in the pre-colonial times, travelling long distances up and down the Congo-River, exchanging fish for the products of the forest people and establishing small colonies.



*The Lokele people fishing in the river*

## WRITING OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this research are:

1. To collect one hundred proverbs and wise sayings from the community of Lokele in Kisangani, Goma and in different universities from Lokele students.
2. To translate these proverbs and sayings into English, French and Kiswahili, for reference by a wider group of readers
3. To find Biblical parallels to complement the Christian point of view

## JUSTIFICATION

This will help people to enrich their communication skills by using these proverbs and wise sayings.

## METHODOLOGY

We will research and collect Kele proverbs and wise sayings from Lokele people in Kisangani and wherever they are in other cities of the DRC and in different universities within the country. The teaching and the Biblical parallels will be added to each. One hundred of these will be recorded for translation into Swahili, English, and French and finally be published in a booklet.

## REFERENCES

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**BUDGET**

1. Data gathering and processing	\$180
2. Typing and printing	\$100
3. Binding	\$ 70
4. Transport	\$100
5. Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 50</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 500</u></b>