

**A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS**



**By**

**MARGARET WAMBERE IRERI**

**African Proverbs Working Group  
Nairobi – Kenya**

**MAY 2017**

# **A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Special thanks go to the African Proverbs Working Group (APWG) Moderator, Father Joseph Healey of the Maryknoll Society for the financial support which helped me to successfully complete this project.

I also thank the Editorial Committee members, Cephas Agbemenu and Elias Bushiri for providing the literary and technical support. I am grateful to my family, my husband Peter Dickens Murithi and daughter Patricia Muthoni, for accepting my decision to work late into the night quite often.

I thank my collaborator Simon Chidanga and Joseph Moris for devotedly helping me to collect and compile these proverbs and wise sayings from the Makonde ethnic group of Kenya. I also thank my uncle Jeremiah Kithaka, for introducing me to my collaborator, who became a friend indeed.

Thank you all for encouraging and enabling me to successfully complete this project.

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this work to:

My friend and collaborator

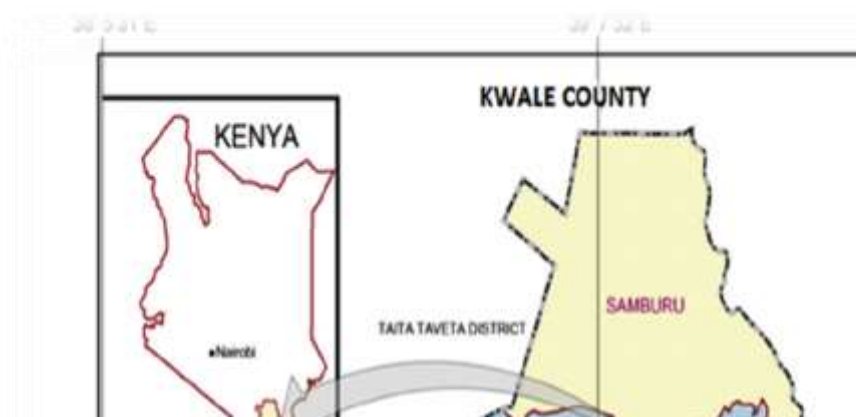
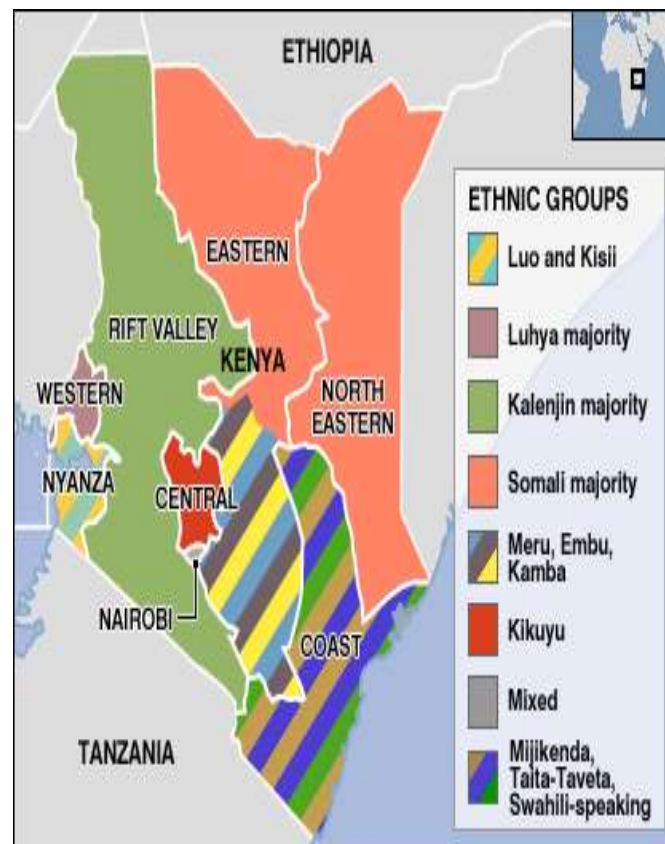
**SIMON CHIDANGA**

*Thank you for your immeasurable support.*

# A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

## INTRODUCTION

**The Location** A majority of Makonde people live in south-east Tanzania (the Mtwara and Lindi districts), and northern Mozambique (the Cabo Delgado district and on the Mueda Plateau). The Makonde population in Tanzania was estimated in 2001 to be 1,140,000. A 1997 census in Mozambique estimated their population at 233,358. They have a small presence in Kenya estimated at 30,000 in 2004. They occupy the Coastal region of Kwale County in Makongeni area of Msambweni sub-county, and the Taita Taveta county near the Kenya-Tanzania border. They speak a Bantu language called Makonde, also known as *ChiMakonde*. Many speak other languages such as English and Swahili, *Chidigo* and *Taita*, which are spoken by the neighbouring ethnic groups.



# A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Acknowledgement .....   | i      |
| Dedication .....  | i      |
| Introduction .....  | ii     |
| <i>Images:</i>  |        |
| <i>The ethnographical location of the Makonde ethnic group in Kenya .....</i> | ii/iii |

## Acollection of 100 Makonde proverbs and wise sayings

1. *Aina ululika sinu kumsangula munu akapangwite.*  
English: You cannot shave someone who is not present.
2. *Ajose ing'ande yake ankumanya nyamani liu livela gharama imumene.*  
English: Whoever burns his house knows why the ash has a high cost.
3. *Alinga medi la kudidima kwa kulitakila mene kuhisi imepo.*  
English: He who bathes in cold water by choice cannot feel cold.
4. *Ambi ambi aive balaka.*  
English: Hurry hurry has no blessings.
5. *Apali kenga sumu ya ulimi.*  
English: There is no venom such as that of the tongue.
6. *Asinaingila mumwitu anaigwa situ milandi itameka muulungu.*  
English: Whoever goes into the forest does not listen to the twigs breaking in the bush.
7. *Asipala sambone sikave na kasolo.*  
English: There is no good thing without a fault.
8. *Asipali indila ya mkato ya kudungukila muwa ya mnadi.*  
English: There are no shortcuts to reach the top of a palm tree.
9. *Asulusa liyai sokoni anafaa isinu kutenda fujo sokoni.*  
English: Someone who sells eggs at the market should not start a fight at the market.
10. *Atukutula utajili atukuta amani.*  
English: One who runs after riches runs away from peace.
11. *Aupali mcholo waingozi ukana umya miadi.*  
English: No tattoo is made without blood.
12. *Avelekwe musu mwako haonete liduva musu mwako.*  
English: Whoever was born ahead of you sees the sun before you.
13. *Ding'ano ni ugwimbo.*  
English: Wisdom is like hair.
14. *Fazali sinu kuliko nimunu.*

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

English: It is better to be humane than wealthy.

**15. *Habali dindinguka huku na huku na muoku.***

English: The news has gone round and round, and still the one being discussed is deaf.

**16. *Hata lijeneza hatalikava na malidadi dasi, hainantenda sinu.***

English: However beautiful the coffin is, it cannot make anyone wish for death.

**17. *Hata silongo sive sambone zaidi asinaulula.***

English: Even the most beautiful pot cannot produce food.

**18. *Ibahati mbaya uti ni balaka.***

English: Every misfortune is a blessing.

**19. *Ibangili imo aina lila sinu.***

English: A single bangle does not jingle.

**20. *Ibidii kuveleka matunda.***

English: Hard work has a reward.

**21. *Ikala analuma sinu, disalamu dyake divadya kukalala.***

English: A crab does not bite, it is its hand shake which is painful.

**22. *Imbula ikakoa kutonya vanu valaumu imepo.***

English: When the rain fails to pour it blames the wind.

**23. *Imeli ya kuzama inalota uongozi.***

English: A ship that is bound to sink does not need navigation.

**24. *Indizi kupalilia.***

English: A banana stock is the weeding.

**25. *Inguo ya nang'olo ainakoa sinu dimboko.***

English: The cloak of an old man does not lack lice.

**26. *Isafali nikusomya.***

English: To travel is to learn.

**27. *Kashifa kalibu na lindi dikidiki vanda igwilila ni munu likaigwa.***

English: Slander by the stream will be heard by the frogs.

**28. *Kenga likande haipali mkono wa munu, andalala kenga ndimila.***

English: If the straw mat is not in someone's hand, he will sleep standing.

**29. *Kenga sombo sako ni nyundo gweka undaona matatizo kwa stali zako.***

English: If your tool is only a hammer, you will see all problems as nails.

**30. *Kenga unambela na membe masakula sakobai undikuta.***

English: If you will look for a fly in your food, then you are satisfied.

**31. *Kenga undilepa kuliko tatako, haina tenda sinu kuva lika lyako.***

English: If you are taller than your father, it does not make you his age mate.

**32. *Kila mfalume vankung'wenya.***

English: Every king is gossiped about.

**33. *Kila sinu sive na mwisho wake.***

English: Everything has its beginning.

**34. *Kujaika ndo kumanya indila.***

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

English: Losing the way is knowing the way.

**35. *Kupela kwa nang'olo ni sawa kujosa maktaba.***

English: The death of an old man is like burning a library.

**36. *Kutango koe hakuna kutenda sinu kuwa kiongozi.***

English: Too much talk does not make you a leader.

**37. *Lafiki wakunyata ni wakunyata tu.***

English: The friend of an evil person is also evil.

**38. *Libalale libale vumulie nanasove lazima matu lake anaigwa sinu.***

English: The grasshopper which was eaten by the hornbill must have been deaf.

**39. *Liduva halina ninda sinu wakusafili.***

English: The sun does not wait for the traveler.

**40. *Liundi naye andiva na ujuzi na mene zaidi viuni uti mwaa hankuona loe ndomana ankutangola malove padiki.***

English: The owl is the wisest of all birds because the more it sees, the less it talks.

**41. *Lono hauvene mbwadigo.***

English: Sleep has no friend.

**42. *Lundi hauululika sinu kunyaloja kubavala mkondo.***

English: A river that cannot be controlled is bound to break its banks.

**43. *Madengo ndo ntela wa umaskini.***

English: Work is the cure for poverty.

**44. *Mapenzi hula nategemea sinu mili wa munu.***

English: Love does not depend on physical looks.

**45. *Maskini anakoa sinu maduva lake.***

English: A poor man has his day.

**46. *Mbavala amyaa lingundu naye ishujaa.***

English: An elephant which kills a rat is not a hero.

**47. *Mbavala hankujopa uvamizi wa kusu na kusu.***

English: An elephant fears attacks from several sides.

**48. *Mbudi wa vanu vawili kulala panda.***

English: A goat owned by two people sleeps outside.

**49. *Medi lakujugwa anamalila sinu inyota.***

English: Borrowed water does not quench thirst.

**50. *Mikosi haina vena shujaa.***

English: Misfortune has no hero.

**51. *Miuti mivili bora muti umo.***

English: Two heads are better than one.

**52. *Mkasa nauna kanyola sinu imbiu.***

English: Misfortune does not blow a horn.

**53. *Mkomgwa situmbo ndioko alphe kumunda ndio andaitikila.***

English: If a pregnant woman falls, the child in the womb responds.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**54. *Mkulima analia ngweka.***

English: A farmer does not eat alone.

**55. *Moto hulya mamba imididi.***

English: Fire devours grass, but not the roots.

**56. *Munu anapo numwa na ntumi andasuma ngavanga.***

English: When one is bitten by a lion, he buys a dog.

**57. *Munu anaulula sinu kusherehekea atajilike.***

English: A person cannot make merry and get rich.

**58. *Munu anenga sino dimembe diamba vala.***

English: One does not cut the tusks of an elephant.

**59. *Mwaa wakupililila liyai sesemelo sama dodo.***

**English:** By persevering the egg walks on legs.

**60. *Namembe jumo andialibu supu uti.***

English: One fly spoils all the soup.

**61. *Nandi limo ukulula tuma kutumua lioi, kanji mekujoseka.***

English: One stick can produce smoke but it cannot burn.

**62. *Ndeja dindatoka halafu dindikalamoka.***

English: Groundnuts boil and later cool.

**63. *Ndioko ni ndioko nisi kila munu.***

English: A child is a child of everyone.

**64. *Nume ni madengo.***

English: A man is work.

**65. *Nyusi aju ni dakitali wa maua.***

English: The bee is the doctor of flowers.

**66. *Pali gogo pana ndiha pana ngwele.***

English: Where there is a dead tree there are no monkeys.

**67. *Pasima pauna teka medi mene kuyatianga.***

English: One does not contaminate the well where one draws water.

**68. *Patawala mkongwe mito ya medi yatililika kusanya mlimani.***

English: Where a woman rules, the river flows up the mountain.

**69. *Sako ni sako hata sikava sidikidiki.***

English: Yours is yours even if it is little.

**70. *Sakumegweka siulula kuna magweka.***

English: A parasite cannot live alone.

**71. *Sala simo asina tumbula sinu imboko.***

English: One finger cannot kill a louse.

**72. *Silidi saingoma kulila kwa ingoma likumene kwa ingoma wala waujuzi wa ukukanyola ingoma mwa wadimongo dyake.***

English: The sound of a drum is not determined by the size nor the skills of the drummer, but by his strength.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

73. *Silo siku mene liamba kuswa.*

English: Great darkness is at night when it is nearing dawn.

74. *Silo sive na matu.*

English: The night has ears.

75. *Simba anapopotea wanyama utiphapha phalume pha mwitu.*

English: When the lion goes astray, all the other animals are king of the jungle.

76. *Sinu sambone siku ikala.*

English: Truth never dies.

77. *Sisemba kuvika, sinang'olo kunitula.*

English: Youth is saving, old age is consuming.

78. *Suuni anabadilisha manyoya lake mwa hali yake ni mbaya.*

English: A bird does not change its feathers because the weather is bad.

79. *Suvi pawena bila kunyonya nikenga na jopa.*

English: A leopard walking softly does not mean he is afraid.

80. *Sivyo pasilolo sinaliona sinu.*

English: A reflection does not see itself.

81. *Ukana wena unaonomba mumbuo.*

English: If you do not travel you will marry your own sister.

82. *Ukanavana subila haulula kutaleka ugwala.*

English: If you have no patience you cannot brew beer.

83. *Ukanyu kata mayai una unavele ing'oma.*

English: If you carry eggs in a basket don't dance.

84. *Ukimulona nyoka mene kukuluma.*

English: A snake that you see cannot not bite.

85. *Unalinge kukamana na ntumi kenga wake intumi.*

English: Do not try to fight with a lion if you are not a lion yourself.

86. *Unamwini liina mwna akanava kuvalekwa.*

English: Do not name a child who is not yet born.

87. *Unapokala kalibu na makabuli unaulula sinu kunililia munu.*

English: When you live near a cemetery you cannot cry for everyone.

88. *Unapolula kujeng aing'ande kwa liduva limo lazima mwanzo uenge sibanda.*

English: If you cannot build a house at once, you must build a shed.

89. *Unapopana nandi udaendlea kupita silele nchin dapha kulindi.*

English: If when climbing a tree you insist on going beyond the top, the earth will be waiting for you.

90. *Unaulula sinu kuvina ingoma sana kwa lidodo limo.*

English: You cannot dance well on one leg.

91. *Undavanao dimongo dikidiki sana kwa sila isako.*

English: You have little power over what is not yours.

92. *Unono mbe mkongwe mwenye madodo makumene kukuzidi wako.*

English: Do not marry a woman who has bigger feet than yours.

93. *Uzi mmo kwa sindano, penzi limo xxxx*



## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

English: One thread for one needle, one love for one heart.

**94. *Wakati mididi paianjanga kunda kupela ditagaa dyake.***

English: When the roots begin to rot, the branches begin to die.

**95. *Wakati ntumi wakula mala sungula afiuka na dai lideni lyake.***

English: When the lion is crippled, the hare goes to claim his debt.

**96. *Wakubanga are maduva loe.***

English: A fool has many days.

**97. *Wakushindwa kwavela ing'oma, atangula siwanja sive na majanga.***

English: The one who fails to dance says the ground is stony.

**98. *Wakusomya na nae ankufundisha.***

English: One who learns teaches.

**99. *Wastumba akatangola asivene faida, vanu vana saidia kumbaja jinuaswa.***

English: If the owner of the calabash calls it worthless, then the owners will join him to pack it with rubbish.

**100. *Yatima kulilamba mongo wake.***

English: An orphan licks his own back.

Appendixes .....

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

### A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**1 *Aina ululika sinu kumsangula munu akapangwite.***

**Swahili:** Huwezi kumnyoa mtu asiye kuwepo.

**French:** Tu ne peux pas coiffer quelqu'un qui n'est pas là.

**English:** You cannot shave someone who is not present.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used to warn against condemning or judging someone in his/her absence. It would be fair to give chance to the accused to defend him/herself, in order to allow the person to justify their actions before any steps are taken.

**Bible parallel:** James 4:11-12 *"Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother, or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law, and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?"*

**2. *Ajose ing'ande yake ankumanya nyamani liu livela gharama imumene.***

**Swahili:** Anaye choma nyumba yake anajua kwa nini jivu lina gharama kubwa.

**French:** Celui qui brulle sa maison, connait combine vaut la cendre.

**+English:** Whoever burns his house knows why the ash has a high cost.

**Teaching:** This proverb teaches that there are always consequences for actions done. When a person does something negative or unacceptable, or without reasoning, they should be ready to handle the issues that follow, which sometimes may affect one's life extensively.

**Bible parallel:** Romans 5:12 *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned"*

**3. *Alinga medi la kudidima kwa kulitakila mene kuhisi imepo.***

**Swahili:** Anaye oga maji baridi kwa kujitakia hawezi kuhisi baridi.

**French:** Celui qui lave l'eau froide, ne sent pas la froid.

**English:** He who bathes in cold water by choice cannot feel cold.

**Teaching:** It teaches that when a person gets into a problem with full knowledge of what they were doing, we should not try to solve it for them. They made their choice hence they should accept the situation and solve it themselves.

**Bible parallel:** Ephesians 14:8 *"They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts."*

**4. *Ambi ambi aive balaka.***

**Swahili:** Haraka haraka haina baraka.

**French:** L'empressement n'a pas des benedictions.

**English:** Hurry hurry has no blessings.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used to warn people not to be hasty when making decisions or acting on issues. Enough time should be taken before one can act. Usually hasty decisions do not have a good ending. Consultation with other people, or re-thinking may lead to a more fruitful outcome.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Bible parallel:** 1 Samuel 21:8 *“David said to Ahimelech, “Now is there not a spear or a sword on hand? For I brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king’s matter was urgent.”*

5. ***Apali kenga sumu ya ulimi.***

**Swahili:** Hakuna sumu kama ya ulimi.

**French:** Il n’y a pas du poison comme la langue.

**English:** There is no venom such as that of the tongue.

**Teaching:** It warns that some people damage themselves by what they speak – or cause other people anguish and misery. Therefore, one should be careful before expressing their thoughts.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 10:19 *“When words are too many, transgression is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is prudent.”*

6. ***Asinaingila mumwitu anaigwa situ milandi itameka muulungu.***

**Swahili:** Anaye ingia kwa msitu huwa hasikizi matawi yanayo vunjika kichakani.

**French:** Celui qui entre dans la forêt n’entend pas les branches qui se cassent dans la brousse.

**English:** Whoever goes into the forest does not listen to the twigs breaking in the bush.

**Teaching:** It is used to encourage a person to pursue their intended endeavour regardless of distraction from other people. People fail to succeed because they pay attention to the opinions of negative minded persons. We should always focus on our positive intentions in order to achieve our goals.

**Bible parallel:** Hebrews 12: 1-2 *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

7. ***Asipala sambone sikave na kasolo.***

**Swahili:** Hakuna kizuri kisicho kuwa na kasoro.

**French:** Toute chose a ses défauts.

**English:** There is no good thing without a fault.

**Teaching:** It teaches us that nothing and nobody is perfect. Everyone has a weakness however small. For example one may be wealthy but his morals poor. Physical appearance may be deceiving but once we have better knowledge of a person, we realize that they have negative elements in their character. *‘All that glitters is not gold’*

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 14:30-31 *“But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”*

8. ***Asipali indila ya mkato ya kudungukila muwa ya mnadi.***

**Swahili:** Hakuna njia za mkato za kufikia juu ya mnazi.

**French:** Pas de raccourcis pour atteindre le coco.

**English:** There are no shortcuts to reach the top of a palm tree.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Teaching:** This proverb teaches us to work hard in order to achieve our goals, or successfully undertake a responsibility. However difficult a task is, we should persevere until we succeed and not use unacceptable methods or give up.

**Bible parallel:** James 1:12 *“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”*

### 9. *Asulusa liyai sokoni anafaa isinu kutenda fujo sokoni.*

**Swahili:** Mtu anayeenza mayai sokoni hafai kuanza vita sokoni.

**French:** Quelqu’un qui vend les oeufs au marche, ne peut pas provoquer un combat.

**English:** Someone who sells eggs at the market should not start a fight at the market.

**Teaching:** This proverb warns we should not expose ourselves to uncomfortable situations because we can inconvenience ourselves and other people. We should always handle issues peacefully and amicably, not to ruin relationships with other people.

**Bible parallel:** Romans 14:19 *“So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another”.*

### 10. *Atukutula utajili atukuta amani.*

**Swahili:** Anaye kimbilia utajiri hutoroka amani.

**French:** Qui veut etre riche, fuit la paix.

**English:** One who runs after riches runs away from peace.

**Teaching:** It warns that a person cannot lead a peaceful life, if all the time they are looking for ways to make money. Lack of satisfaction with what one has, leads to greed and hunger for more riches, and leads to neglect of other responsibilities in the community, family or self. We should seek peace and not endless wealth.

**Bible parallel:** Ecclesiastes 4:4 *“Then I saw that all toil and all skill in work come from a man's envy of his neighbor. This also is vanity and a striving after wind.”*

Hebrews 13:5 *“Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”*

### 11. *Aupali mcholo waingozi ukana umya miadi.*

**Swahili:** Hakuna mchoro wa ngozi usiotoa damu.

**French:** On ne met pas le tattoo sans l’eccoulement du sang.

**English:** No tattoo is made without blood.

**Teaching:** The proverb warns that there is no good thing that is achieved without hard work. It may require a lot of patience and difficulties may be experienced in the process before a person succeeds. We then learn to appreciate the end result.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 10:4-5 *“Lazy hands make for poverty, but diligent hands bring wealth. He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.”*

### 12. *Avelekwé musu mwako haonete liduva musu mwako.*

**Swahili:** Aliye zaliwa mbele yako huona jua mbele yako.

**French:** Celui qui est ne avant toi, voit le soleil avant toi.

**English:** Whoever was born ahead of you sees the sun before you.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Teaching:** The proverb teaches about respecting the elders because of their age, wisdom and experience. The knowledge they have acquired over the years enables them to understand issues better than the younger persons. They will always foresee outcome of issues before everyone else. They can guide you to plan and make decisions better.

**Bible parallel:** Job 12:12 *“Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?”*

### 13. *Ding’ano ni ugwimbo.*

**Swahili:** Akili ni nywele.

**French:** L’intelligence est les cheveux.

**English:** Wisdom is like hair.

**Teaching:** Wisdom is as available from everyone. All members of a community have some helpful ideas, even the ones thought not to have any. It encourages all to take the opportunity and use their abilities and skills to benefit others. It also brings awareness that each person’s opinions could be different from that of another people. We cannot be the same in our reasoning and level of intelligence. We all have a purpose in the society.

**Bible parallel:** Exodus 9:16 *“But I have raised you up for this very purpose, that I might show you my power and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth”*

Romans 12:6-8 *“In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your gift is serving others, serve them well.”*

### 14. *Fazali sinu kuliko nimunu.*

**Swahili:** Afadhali utu kuliko kitu.

**French:** Mieux vaut avoir l’humain que les biens.

**English:** It is better to be humane than wealthy.

**Teaching:** Virtue is the only true nobility. Intrinsic worth of a person is most preferable than material success. It is best to be accepted for good character than for riches.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 22: 1 *“True virtue is in God’s ways.”*

Mark 8:36-37 *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

### 15. *Habali dindunguka huku na huku na muoku.*

**Swahili:** Habari zimezunguka huku na huku, na bado zinayemhusu ni kiziwi.

**French:** Les informations circulent par ici, par là, mais le concerner est sourd.

**English:** The news has gone round and round, and still the one being discussed is deaf.

**Teaching:** This proverb teaches that we should learn to ignore what other people discuss about us, especially if it is meant to derail us from our course to achieve a good end. We should stay focused on our goal and ignore criticism from other people if it is not constructive.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Timothy 5:13 *“At the same time they also learn to be idle, as they go around from house to house; and not merely idle, but also gossips and busybodies, talking about things not proper to mention.”*

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

2 Timothy 2:23 *“Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.”*

### 16. *Hata lijeneza hatalikava na malidadi dasi, hainantenda sinu.*

**Swahili:** Hata jeneza iwe maridadi vipi, haiwezi kumfanya yeyote kujitakia kifo.

**French:** Malgré la beauté du cercueil, personne veut la mort de soi.

**English:** However beautiful the coffin is, it cannot make anyone wish for death.

**Teaching:** The proverb warns and reminds people not to get involved in undertakings which seem beneficial and yet are very dangerous. Nobody would wish to get into problems even when he/she is benefiting. A person may be physically attractive, wealthy, or from affluent background, but of bad character. Other people would not wish to be associated with them, because it would damage their own reputation. We should not walk into trouble knowingly.

**Bible parallel:** 2 Peter 3:17 *“You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness”*

### 17. *Hata silongo sive sambone zaidi asinaulula.*

**Swahili:** Hata chungu kilicho kizuri zaidi hakiwezi kutoa chakula.

**French:** Malgré la beauté du marmite, elle ne peut pas produire la nourriture.

**English:** Even the most beautiful pot cannot produce food.

**Teaching:** Nothing of value is given on a silver platter. A person should pursue useful ventures despite any barriers and difficulties that may be encountered, and always focus on achieving their objective. Unless we work hard, we cannot achieve anything in life. *“In order to succeed, your desire for success should be greater than your fear of failure.” Bill Cosby*

**Bible parallel:** 1 Corinthians 15:10 *“But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.”*

### 18. *Ibahati mbaya uti ni balaka.*

**Swahili:** Bahati mbaya yoyote ni baraka.

**French:** Chaque malchance est une benediction.

**English:** Every misfortune is a blessing.

**Teaching:** The proverb teaches that we should not always view a misfortune as bad. It teaches new lessons to a person and once the lesson is learned, it becomes a stepping stone for the future. When it happens again, a person knows how to handle a situation. We should let bad circumstances become positive lessons to help us build our future.

**Bible parallel:** Isaiah 43:18-19 *“Don’t remember the prior things; don’t ponder ancient history. Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it? I’m making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness. The beasts of the field, the jackals and ostriches, will honor me, because I have put water in the desert and streams in the wilderness to give water to my people, my chosen ones.”*

### 19. *Ibangili imo aina lila sinu.*

**Swahili:** Bangili moja haitoi mlio.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**French:** Une seule bague ne sonne pas.

**English:** A single bangle does not jingle.

**Teaching:** It teaches that a person cannot be successful doing things alone. Collaboration with other people results in greater success. Unity is strength.

**Bible parallel:** Ecclesiastes 4:9 *“Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but if woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up”*

### 20. *Ibidii kuveleka matunda.*

**Swahili:** Bidii huzaa matunda.

**French:** Tout effort a ses fruits.

**English:** Hard work has a reward.

**Teaching:** The proverb encourages people to put a lot of effort in everything they do so that they can succeed in their activities. Determination and dedication leads to fortune.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 14: 23 *“All hard work brings a profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.”*

### 21. *Ikala analuma sinu, disalamu dyake divadya kukalala.*

**Swahili:** Kaa haumi, ni salamu zake huwa chungu.

**French:** Crabe ne pique pas, c'est sa pignee de main qui est douloureuse.

**English:** A crab does not bite, it is its hand shake which is painful.

**Teaching:** This proverb teaches about indirectly harming other people. A person may seem to care about other people's welfare, but have ulterior motives which negatively affect them. A friend can betray you when you least expect it. This proverb encourages us to be genuine with our intentions when developing associations with people.

**Bible parallel:** Ephesians 4:32 *“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”*

Genesis 50:17 *“Thus you shall say to Joseph, “Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.” And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him.”*

### 22. *Imbula ikakoa kutonya vanu valaumu imepo.*

**Swahili:** Mvua ikikosa kunyesha hulaumu upepo.

**French:** Lorsque la pluie tombe en abondance, elle blame le vent.

**English:** When the rain fails to pour it blames the wind.

**Teaching:** One should not give lame excuses when he fails to perform or to achieve a goal. One should accept his weaknesses/inabilities and use them to achieve intended objectives.

**Bible parallel:** Romans 1:20 *“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God.”*

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

### 23. *Imeli ya kuzama inalota uongozi.*

**Swahili:** Meli ya kuzama haihitaji uongozi.

**French:** Le bateau qui est prêt à s'enfoncer, n'a pas besoin de navigation.

**English:** A ship that is bound to sink does not need navigation.

**Teaching:** It is used to warn a person who does not heed advice that he will get into problems. Such persons are bound to be misguided and cannot be convinced to change.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 13:1 *"A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke."*

### 24. *Indizi kupalilia.*

**Swahili:** Mgomba ni kupalilia.

**French:** Le bananier est à sarclage.

**English:** A banana stock is the weeding.

**Teaching:** The outcome of your activity depends on the input you invested in it. The efforts we put in our work shows the results at the end. If we did our best then the results are good. If not, then results are poor. Invest in the right ways in order to benefit. It can also apply when warning that the way you bring up a child is seen in the behaviours and characters of the child when they grow up.

**Bible parallel:** Titus 1:6 *"An elder must be blameless, the husband of one wife, having children who are believers and are not open to accusation of indiscretion or insubordination."*

### 25. *Inguo ya nang'olo ainakoa sinu dimboko.*

**Swahili:** Nguo ya mzee haikosi chawa.

**French:** L'habit à lambeau ne manque pas le pou.

**English:** The cloak of an old man does not lack lice.

**Teaching:** Just as an old person always has wisdom built from a long life of experiences, so do they have people depending on their support. They have some property saved for the future. If you find an old person living well and healthy, he has something to live off in life. An old person does not lack some wealth.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Kings 12:6

*"There were some older men who had helped Solomon make decisions when he was alive. So King Rehoboam asked these men what he should do. He said, 'How do you think I should answer the people?'"*

### 26. *Isafali nikusomya.*

**Swahili:** Kusafiri ni kusoma.

**French:** Voyager, c'est étudier.

**English:** To travel is to learn.

**Teaching:** The proverb encourages people not to live in isolation, but to integrate with other communities in order to learn different things from them. More skills and knowledge are acquired which improve our way of life. Different cultures and way of life help to improve the quality of our own.

**Bible parallel:** Philippians 4:9 *"The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you"*



## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

John 15:4-5 *“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”*

**27. *Kashifa kalibu na lindi dikidiki vanda igwilila ni munu likaigwa.***

**Swahili:** Kashfa karibu na kijito itasikizwa na chura.

**French:** Calomnier auprès d'un ruisseau entendu par les grenouilles.

**English:** Slander by the stream will be heard by the frogs.

**Teaching:** It teaches that one should not gossip or plan evil against someone when their relative or associate is present. They will report to them. Therefore, do not discuss or plan evil against anyone.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 3:29 *“Do not plan evil against your neighbor who dwells trustingly beside you”*

**28. *Kenga likande haipali mkono wa munu, andalala kenga ndimila.***

**Swahili:** Kama mkeka hauko kwa mkono wa mtu, atalala amesimama.

**French:** Si la natte n'est pas dans sa main, il dormira debout.

**English:** If the straw mat is not in someone's hand, he will sleep standing.

**Teaching:** The proverb teaches that in times of sudden need, the immediately available solution is what is most important and meaningful. We should use what is available to us appropriately instead of seeking what is not readily available at the time, because doing so would delay the solution and the problem may persist.

**Bible parallel:** Psalm 34:19 *“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.”*

**29. *Kenga sombo sako ni nyundo gweka undaona matatizo kwa stali zako.***

**Swahili:** Kama chombo chako ni nyundo pekee, utayaona matatizo yote kuwa msumari.

**French:** Si ton outil est un marteau, tu verras tous tes problèmes comme des cloux.

**English:** If your tool is only a hammer, you will see all problems as nails.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used to warn people to stop being biased about issues. One may have a rigid view, be single-minded and fail to see other people's opinions. A person may believe that there is only a particular way of handling issues and fail to explore other solutions. It encourages open-mindedness, to allow for optional solutions to a problem, as well as listening to other people's views.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 18:2 *“A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.”*

**30. *Kenga unambela na membe masakula sakobai undikuta.***

**Swahili:** Kama unatafuta nzi kwenye chakula, basi umeshiba.

**French:** Si tu cherches la mouche dans ton repas, donc tu es rassasier.

**English:** If you will look for a fly in your food, then you are satisfied.

**Teaching:** This proverb warns people not to abuse their privileges or become arrogant when your provisions are in abundance. When a person is comfortable he/she tends to take it for granted. A person should respect and appreciate the provider and the provisions.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Bible parallel:** John 1:16 *“From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.”*

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18, *“Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”*

### 31. *Kenga undilepa kuliko tatako, haina tenda sinu kuva lika lyako.*

**Swahili:** Kama uko mrefu kuliko baba yako, haikufanyi kuwa rika lake.

**French:** Quand on est long que ton pere, ne veut pas dire que vous etes de meme age.

**English:** If you are taller than your father, it does not make you his age mate.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used as a warning to the younger people, reminding them that even though they may be more educated, or feel more modern than their elders, they cannot be equal to them. The elders will always be wiser, more experienced, senior and than them. We should therefore, respect them and take counsel from them.

**Bible parallel:** Deuteronomy 5:16 *‘Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.*

### 32. *Kila mfalume vankung’wenya.*

**Swahili:** Kila mfalme husengenywa.

**French :** No potine tout roi.

**English:** Every king is gossiped about.

**Teaching:** People in authority are prone to slander and criticism. One should not be distracted by such talk, but should focus on their endeavours.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 11:13 *He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing hidden.”*

1 Peter 2: 17 *“Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honour the emperor.”*

### 33. *Kila sinu sive na mwisho wake.*

**Swahili:** Kila jambo lina mwanzo wake.

**French:** Chaque chose a son commencement.

**English:** Everything has its beginning.

**Teaching:** All issues have a starting point; a source where they all begin.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 1:1 *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*

Genesis 2:7 *“...then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.”*

### 34. *Kujaika ndo kumanya indila.*

**Swahili:** Kupotea njia ndio kujua njia.

**French:** Se perdre le chemin, c’est le connait bien.

**English:** Losing the way is knowing the way.

**Teaching:** The proverb encourages people not to fear making mistakes. Making errors leads one to learning so that in future similar errors do not occur. One gets wiser.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 24:16 *“For the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.”*

### 35. *Kupela kwa nang'olo ni sawa kujosa maktaba.*

**Swahili:** Kifo cha mzee ni sawa na kuichoma maktaba.

**French:** Quand un vieil homme est mort, c'est toute une bibliothèque qui brûle.

**English:** The death of an old man is like burning a library.

**Teaching:** An old person has a lot of knowledge within him/herself. The knowledge that they carry in their brains, is usually passed on to the younger generations using different forum. When old persons die, they go with their knowledge and experience. We can no longer enjoy their counsel and information. It is a great loss to the community.

**Bible parallel:** Job 32:7 *“I thought age should speak, and increased years should teach wisdom.”*

Deuteronomy 34:7 *“Although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died, his eye was not dim, nor his vigor abated.”*

### 36. *Kutango koe hakuna kutenda sinu kuwa kiongozi.*

**Swahili:** Kuongea kwingi hakukufanyi kuwa kiongozi.

**French:** L'éloquence ne te fait pas leader.

**English:** Too much talk does not make you a leader.

**Teaching:** It is used as a warning to those who talk too much and try to over-shadow others. Trying to out-do others by talking too much, trying to show others that they know more than them, does not make them a leader. *Actions speak louder than words.* People appreciate and respect others for what they can do and not their empty talk. Let us be people of action.

**Bible parallel:** James 3:13 *“Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom.”*

### 37. *Lafiki wakunyata ni wakunyata tu.*

**Swahili:** Rafiki wa muovu ni muovu pia.

**French:** L'ami au criminel, c'est criminel aussi.

**English:** The friend of an evil person is also evil.

**Teaching:** A person gets negatively influenced in behavior and character by the bad people he associates with in his daily life.

**Bible parallel:** 2 Corinthians 6:14-15 *“Do not be mismatched with unbelievers. For what partnership have righteousness and iniquity? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Be'lial? Or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever?”*

### 38. *Libalale libale vumilie nanasove lazima matu lake anaigwa sinu.*

**Swahili:** Panzi aliye kuliwa na hondo lazima alikuwa kiziwi.

**French:** La suterelle mangée par un calao doit être sourde.

**English:** The grasshopper which was eaten by the hornbill must have been deaf.

**Teaching:** This proverb warns about not being ignorant. When a person is not aware of what is happening around them, he/she easily encounter problems. One cannot protect

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

themselves, since they will not have prior knowledge. It encourages people to get interested in the all that happening in their environments, in the community, workplace or family. Being aware and alert is being safe.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 21:36 *“But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”*

### 39. *Liduva halina ninda sinu wakusafili.*

**Swahili:** Jua halimngojei msafiri.

**French:** Le soleil n’attend pas le voyageur.

**English:** The sun does not wait for the traveler.

**Teaching:** Seize an opportunity when it presents itself. When you delay, it passes you by. If one chooses to undertake an endeavour let him do so without first doubting and wasting time. Others will take his chance and do it for themselves.

**Bible parallel:** Judges 9:33 *“Then in the morning, as soon as the sun is up, rise early and rush upon the city; and when he and the men that are with him come out against you, you may do to them as occasion offers.”*

### 40. *Liundi naye andiva na ujuzi na mene zaidi viuni uti mwaa hankuona loe ndomana ankutangola malove padiki.*

**Swahili:** Bundi ndiye mwenye ujuzi zaidi ya ndege wote, kwa sababu anapo ona mengi ndio hunena machache.

**French:** Le hibou est le plus sage des oiseaux, parce que, de plus il voit, de moins il chante.

**English:** The owl is the wisest of all birds because the more it sees, the less it talks.

**Teaching:** This proverb warns about people speaking without taking time to reason. It is wise for a person to observe a happening, or have knowledge of something and only speak about it when sure. Talking without measuring our words can lead to trouble. We should be sure of what we want to say to ensure we do not harm anybody.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 17:27-28 *“The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint, and whoever has understanding is even-tempered. Even fools are thought wise if they keep silent, and discerning if they hold their tongues.”*

### 41. *Lono hauvene mbwadigo.*

**Swahili:** Usingizi hauna rafiki.

**French:** Le sommeil n’a pas d’ami.

**English:** Sleep has no friend.

**Teaching:** Idleness and laziness does not build one’s progress. A hard worker finds favour with other people, but a lazy/idle person has no associates.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 6:10 *“A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, and poverty will come upon you like a vagabond, and want like an armed man.”*

### 42. *Lundi hauululika sinu kunyaloja kubavala mkondo.*

**Swahili:** Mto ambao hauwezi kuelekezwa hauna budi kuvunja kingo zake.

**French:** La riviere qu’on ne peut pas diriger, detruise les bords.

**English:** A river that cannot be controlled is bound to break its banks.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Teaching:** In this proverb a person is likened to a river. It is used to warn a person who does not heed to advice that he will get into problems. Not taking guidance, can lead to making incorrect decisions and it may be too late to resolve the problems. It can also be used to warn against adaption of bad character, which may not be reversible later. Once a river floods it cannot be brought back to its natural course.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 13:1 *"A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke."*

### 43. *Madengo ndo ntela wa umaskini.*

**Swahili:** Kazi ndio dawa ya umaskini.

**French:** Le travail est un remede de la pauvrette.

**English:** Work is the cure for poverty.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used as a warning to those who are lazy and are not focused on success. It teaches that a person can only be wealthy and successful by working hard. There is no shortcut to wealth and comfort, only through hard work. We reap what we sow! Hard work, drive and determination are necessary in order to succeed in any endeavor we may undertake. But God has made us so that we can find pleasure, fulfillment and happiness as by product of hard work.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 12:11 *"Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense."*

### 44. *Mapenzi hula nategemea sinu mili wa munu.*

**Swahili:** Mapenzi hayategemei umbo la mtu.

**French:** L'amour est aveugle.

**English:** Love does not depend on physical looks.

**Teaching:** It teaches that we should not love someone because of what they look like, or what they possess. The character of a person and their emotional stability draws people to them. We should admire someone with a good heart and not just good physique.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Peter 3:4 *"But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious."*

### 45. *Maskini anakoa sinu maduva lake.*

**Swahili:** Hohehahe hakosi siku yake.

**French:** L'indigent a son jour aussi.

**English:** A poor man has his day.

**Teaching:** It teaches that everyone has their chance for their life to change. A poor man can become rich; just as a rich man can become poor. A person without wealth should never lose hope of getting rich. No situation is permanent. *"That some achieve great success, is proof to all that others can achieve it as well."* Abraham Lincoln

**Bible parallel:** 1 Samuel 2:8 *"He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; on them he has set the world."*

### 46. *Mbavala amyaa lingundu naye ishujaa.*

**Swahili:** Ndovu amuuaye panya sio shujaa.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**French:** L'elephant qui tue la souris, n'est pas fort.

**English:** An elephant which kills a rat is not a hero.

**Teaching:** This reference is made to human beings who have power and influence. When such people intimidate and take advantage of the economically weak, or lowly in society, it should not be considered a win, but an act of cowardice. It warns against undermining, intimidating or disregarding other people.

**Bible parallel:** Numbers 22:3-4 *"So Moab was in great fear because of the people, for they were numerous; and Moab was in dread of the sons of Israel. Moab said to the elders of Midian, 'Now this horde will lick up all that is around us, as the ox licks up the grass of the field.' And Balak the son of Zippor was king of Moab at that time."*

### 47. Mbavala hankujopa uvamizi wa kusu na kusu.

**Swahili:** Ndovu huogopa kuvamiwa kutoka pande kadhaa.

**French:** L'elephant craint l'attaque de tous les cotes.

**English:** An elephant fears attacks from several sides.

**Teaching:** The proverb warns us about feeling insecure when faced by different situations. Whatever a person possesses or the position he/she has in society, nobody likes to be threatened by anything or anyone. A person gets defensive and has to protect themselves in whatever way. It is used as a warning that an insecure person can retaliate in a dangerous way and cause others harm. They cannot accept change from their comfortable situation.

**Bible parallel:** 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 *"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;"*

Isaiah 41:10 *"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

### 48. Mbudi wa vanu wawili kulala panda.

**Swahili:** Mbuzi ya watu wawili hulala nje.

**French:** La chevre de deux personnes passe la nuit endehors sa cloture.

**English:** A goat owned by two people sleeps outside.

**Teaching:** It warns about loyalty and self reliance. None of the two owners will be devoted because each is waiting for the other one do the duty. Just like a polygamous marriage has divided loyalty, so can your life. A person should be independent and not wait for others to provide. Over time commitment by other people starts to dwindle and one cannot be assured of continued support. Depend on yourself and you will certainly ensure your comforts are provided for.

**Bible parallel:** Jeremiah 17:7-8 *"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."*

Mathew 6: 24 *"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one, and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other..."*

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

### 49. *Medi lakujugwa anamalila sinu inyota.*

**Swahili:** Maji ya kuomba hayamalizi kiu.

**French:** L'eau apprintee ne termine pas le soif.

**English:** Borrowed water does not quench thirst.

**Teaching:** One must work hard to achieve wealth. The proverb teaches that a person cannot have enough by begging. You need to be self-reliant and independent for you to get satisfaction in life.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Corinthians 15:58 *"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord."*

Proverbs 12:11 *"Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense."*

### 50. *Mikosi haina vena shujaa.*

**Swahili:** Mikosi haina shujaa.

**French:** Le Malheur n'a pas un hero.

**English:** Misfortune has no hero.

**Teaching:** It is used to encourage people that misfortunes/troubles and bad luck can befall anybody, regardless of status, gender or age. Everyone can expect to experience misfortune sometime in their life, but will overcome it.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Corinthians 10:13 *"No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it."*

### 51. *Miuti mivili bora muti umo.*

**Swahili:** Vichwa viwili ni bora zaidi ya kimoja.

**French:** Deux sont meilleurs qu'une seule.

**English:** Two heads are better than one.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used to encourage cohesion. It is easier to achieve more when working with other people other than alone. Better shared ideas are realized within a team, and difficult situations become easier to handle. A person working alone usually does not achieve maximum expectations alone. Unity is strength.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 11:6 *The LORD said, "Behold, they are one people, and they all have <sup>[a]</sup>the same language. And this is what they began to do, and now nothing which they purpose to do will be impossible for them."*

### 52. *Mkasa nauna kanyola sinu imbiu.*

**Swahili:** Mkasa haupigi mbiu.

**French:** La malchance ne soufflé pas une corne.

**English:** Misfortune does not blow a horn.

**Teaching:** It warns people to be alert and to realize that misfortune can come upon anyone without warning. We should therefore, be able to accept it and deal with it when it occurs. Nobody is ever prepared for it. We should support one another during such times because nobody knows when their turn will come.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 24:17 *“Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when they stumble, do not let your heart rejoice,”*

**53. *Mkomgwa situmbo ndioko alphe kumunda ndio andaitikila.***

**Swahili:** Mja mzito akianguka mtoto aliye tumboni ndiye hujibu.

**French:** Quand une femme enceinte tombe, l'enfant qui est dans le ventre qui repond

**English:** If a pregnant woman falls, the child in the womb responds.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used to explain that when we get into problems, those related to us also suffer indirectly. When a member of the family or community gets into troubles, the other members bear the consequences. It cautions people to be mindful of their actions and take precautions against harming others, knowingly or unknowingly.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Corinthians 12:26 *“If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.”*

**54. *Mkulima analia ngweka.***

**Swahili:** Mkulima hali peke yake.

**French:** Le cultivateur ne mange pas seul.

**English:** A farmer does not eat alone.

**Teaching:** It teaches that one should learn to share their wealth or successes with others. Let others benefit from your work too. We can work hard and achieve much, but joy and blessings are realized from sharing with others, whether they too have or not.

**Bible parallel:** Ruth 2:15-16 *“When Ruth got up to glean)”...Boaz instructed his young men, saying “Let her even glean among the sheaves, and not reproach her. And also pull out some from the bundles for her, and leave it for her to glean, and do not rebuke her.”*

**55. *Moto hulya mamba imididi.***

**Swahili:** Moto hula nyasi lakini sio mizizi.

**French:** Le feu devore les herbes mais pas les racines.

**English:** Fire devours grass, but not the roots.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used to encourage a person who is going through difficult situations. However difficult the situations may be, a person may lack physical strength but, they should remain strong emotionally and mentally. Circumstances may be so difficult such that a person feels hopeless, they should remain strong and hopeful to continue and for better times ahead.

**Bible parallel:** Isaiah 43:1-3 *“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.”*

**56. *Munu anapo numwa na ntumi andasuma ngavanga.***

**Swahili:** Mtu anapo umwa na simba hununua mbwa.

**French:** Si quelqu'un est mordu par le lion, il achete le chien.

**English:** When one is bitten by a lion, he buys a dog.



## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Teaching:** It is used to warn a person to beware of repeating a similar mistake. One may have got into trouble because of involving themselves in wrong activities leading to grievous mistakes. A person should therefore, change so as not to make the same kind of mistake. Sometimes we undertake endeavors which are too challenging and we fail. We should get involved in those that we can manage successfully. Let's learn from our past failures and mistakes, so that we have a better future.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 14:16-18 *"A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, But a fool is arrogant and careless. A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, And a man of evil devices is hated. The naive inherit foolishness, But the sensible are crowned with knowledge."*

### 57. *Munu anaulula sinu kusherehekea atajirike.*

**Swahili:** Mtu hawezi kusherehekea na atajirike.

**French:** Une personne ne peut pas se marier et devient riche.

**English:** A person cannot make merry and get rich.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used to warn those people who are spendthrift. It teaches that a person should save some resources which can be used in times of need. One should not squander all the resources doing non-essential things. To be able to save and acquire wealth for future support, a person must learn to spend on essentials and not luxury.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 41:34-36 *"Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine."*

### 58. *Munu anenga sino dimembe diamba vala.*

**Swahili:** Mtu hakati pembe za ndovu.

**French:** On ne coupe pas les cornes de l'éléphant.

**English:** One does not cut the tusks of an elephant.

**Teaching:** It is used to warn people about avoiding their responsibilities. A person should be responsible and perform their duties as expected. They should also take them seriously and not disassociate themselves. However difficult they may be, one should be confident to take up their tasks as society expects them to.

**Bible parallel:** Galatians 6:4-5 *"But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. For each will have to bear his own load."*

### 59. *Mwaa wakupilila liyai sesemelo sama dodo.*

**Swahili:** Kwa sababu ya kuvumilia yai hutembea kwa miguu.

**French:** Par la persévérance les oeufs marche sur ses pieds.

**English:** By persevering the egg walks on legs.

**Teaching:** It is similar to the saying 'that patience pays'. It is used to teach that a person needs to be patient in order to be rewarded by achieving an objective. Anything can be achieved, however complicated as long as one is patient.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Bible parallel:** James 5:7 *“Be patient, therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it until it receives the early and the late rain.”*

**60. Namembe jumo andialibu supu uti.**

**Swahili:** Inzi mmoja uharibu supu yote.

**French:** Une seule mouche détruit toute la sauce.

**English:** One fly spoils all the soup.

**Teaching:** It is used when warning that minor mistakes can spoil all good plans. One person's mistake can cause a major failure of a good intention.

**Bible parallel:** Ezekiel 28:15 *“You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.”*

**61. Nandi limo ukulula tuma kutumua lioi, kanji mekujoseka.**

**Swahili:** Kijiti kimoja chaweza kutoa moshi lakini hakiwezi kuchomeka.

**French:** Une tige d'allumettes peut produire le feu mais ne peut pas allumer.

**English:** One stick can produce smoke but it cannot burn.

**Teaching:** It carries a similar teaching as the proverb that states that ‘one finger cannot kill a louse’. It teaches that one cannot be successful doing things alone. Collaboration with other people results in greater success. Unity is strength.

**Bible parallel:** Ecclesiastes 4:9 *“Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow; but if woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up.”*

**62. Ndeja dindatoka halafu dindikalamoka.**

**Swahili:** Karanga huchemka halafu hupoa.

**French:** Les arachides boillent puis refroidissent.

**English:** Groundnuts boil and later cool.

**Teaching:** The proverb cautions people not to use as a solution to a displeasure. Even if a person becomes very angry, they will always calm down, when they realize that it does not resolve a problem. Sensibility, forgiveness and reasoning solve issues, not anger.

**Bible parallel:** James 1:19-20 *“This you know, my beloved brethren But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God.”*

**63. Ndioko ni ndioko nisi kila munu.**

**Swahili:** Mtoto ni mtoto wa kila mtu.

**French:** L'enfant, est l'enfant de tout le monde.

**English:** A child is a child of everyone.

**Teaching:** It teaches that children should not be discriminated and should be nurtured by all members of the community. They are all valuable to the family/community, regardless of their backgrounds, abilities and physical appearance.

**Bible parallel:** Psalms 127:3 *“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb, a reward.”*

**64. Nume ni madengo.**

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Swahili:** Mwanamme ni kazi.

**French:** L'homme c'est de travailler.

**English:** A man is work.

**Teaching:** The proverb instructs people to work hard and not become idlers and lazy. It is only through working hard that a person can achieve anything. Hard work bears fruits. A lazy man becomes a poor man and can only change those circumstances by engaging in fruitful activities.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 12:11 *"Those who work their land will have abundant food, but those who chase fantasies have no sense."*

### 65. *Nyusi aju ni dakitali wa maua.*

**Swahili:** Nyuki ndiye daktari wa maua.

**French:** L'abeille est le docteur de fleurs.

**English:** The bee is the doctor of flowers.

**Teaching:** The proverb reminds people that those who have good knowledge or skill about something are the only ones supposed to deal with it. We should not assume we know much about anything, but leave it to the expert. Good results come from those who know what to do about anything.

**Bible parallel:** James 1:5 *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."*

### 66. *Pali gogo pana ndiha pana ngwele.*

**Swahili:** Penye gogo la mti hapana nyani.

**French:** La où il y a un arbre coupe, il n'y a pas des guenons.

**English:** Where there is a dead tree there are no monkeys.

**Teaching:** In a community people want to associate with those who have a good social standing or are economically stable. It is a normal human behavior. Everyone would like to gain from an association of any kind. Usually when a venture has no benefits others do not want to involve themselves in it. It warns us to be observant and make correct decisions about relationships and associations, whether social or economic. We should beware when we see that other people have disassociated.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 19:4 *"Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour."*

Proverbs 14:20 *"A poor person is disliked even by his neighbors, but those who love the rich are many."*

### 67. *Pasima pauna teka medi mene kuyatianga.*

**Swahili:** Kisima ucho tapo maji hukichafui.

**French:** On ne contamine pas le puit que l'on épuise de l'eau.

**English:** One does not contaminate the well where one draws water.

**Teaching:** This proverb teaches that we should protect the things that are of value to us, whether they are jobs, assets or people. They play an important role in sustaining our lives. We should be committed to them so that we do not lose them or damage them.

**Bible parallel:** Philippians 2:4 *"Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."*

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

Genesis 17:8 *"I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God."*

**68. Patawala mkongwe mito ya medi yatililika kusanya mlimani.**

**Swahili:** Anapo tawala mwanamke, mto hutiririka ukielekea juu ya mlima.

**French:** La ou la femme dirige, la riviere coule jusqu'a la montagne.

**English:** Where a woman rules, the river flows up the mountain.

**Teaching:** This proverb brings out the influence a woman has on decision making in the community or family. In the African society the men lead not women, however their decisions are influence by those of women. A woman can make a man do the impossible and achieve more than he imagined. So the saying goes *'Behind every successful man there is a woman.'*

**Bible parallel:** Ruth 1:16 *"But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God."*

**69. Sako ni sako hata sikava sidikidiki.**

**Swahili:** Chako ni chako hata kama ni kidogo.

**French:** Ce qui appartient a toi, est a toi, meme si c'est peu.

**English:** Yours is yours even if it is little.

**Teaching:** It is used to teach that people should value and appreciate whatever they own, even if it is not the best. Whether it is a weakness or strength, deformity or beauty, appreciate your qualities.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Corinthians 1:4-5 *"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way – with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge –"*

**70. Sakumegweka siulula kuna magweka.**

**Swahili:** Kimelea hakiwezi kuishi peke yake.

**French:** La parasite ne peut pas vivre seule.

**English:** A parasite cannot live alone.

**Teaching:** This proverb likens a person to a parasite. People who do not want to be independent wait upon other people to provide for them. Everyone should be self-reliant so that they satisfactorily provide for their own needs. Not doing so makes one to lose respect among the members of the community.

**Bible parallel:** Jeremiah 17:7-8 *"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."*

**71. Sala simo asina tumbula sinu imboko.**

**Swahili:** Kidole kimoja hakiui chawa.

**French:** Un seul doigt ne peut pas tuer le pou.

**English:** One finger cannot kill a louse.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Teaching:** It carries a similar teaching as the proverb that states that a person cannot be successful doing things alone. Collaboration with other people results in greater success. Unity is strength.

**Bible parallel:** Nehemiah 4 *“When the Israelites were rebuilding the wall in Jerusalem, the work got tough and they got discouraged. Finally, they just gave up. So Nehemiah reorganized the work into teams. Half would stand guard with their spears and swords and protect everyone. The other half would work. Then they’d alternate their positions. He posted everyone by groups and families, so they could encourage and support each other.”*

### 72. *Silidi saingoma kulila kwa ingoma likumene kwa ingoma wala waujuzi wa ukukanyola ingoma mwa wadimongo dyake.*

**Swahili:** Mlio wa ngoma hauamuliwi kwa ukubwa wake, wala ujuzi wa mpiga ngoma, bali ni kwa nguvu zake.

**French:** Le son du tambour ne se determine ni par la dimension ni par les aptitudes du bateur mais par sa force.

**English:** The sound of a drum is not determined by the size nor the skills of the drummer, but by his strength.

**Teaching:** It teaches that physical image and ability of a person is not enough to achieve a goal. A strong will and knowledge is also necessary and can do better. Mental strength can be more valuable than physical strength.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Samuel 16:7 *“But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”*

### 73. *Silo siku mene liamba kuswa.*

**Swahili:** Giza kubwa usiku ukaribiapo alfajiri.

**French:** Grande obscurite est quand il approche l’aube.

**English:** Great darkness is at night when it is nearing dawn.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used to teach people that they should be patient and not give up. When one is almost achieving their goal, they begin despare. When times are toughest, it is almost time for circumstances to change for better.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 8:1 *“But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and the livestock that were with him in the ark, and he sent a wind over the earth, and the waters receded.”*

### 74. *Silo sive na matu.*

**Swahili:** Usiku una masikio.

**French:** La nuit a des oreilles.

**English:** The night has ears.

**Teaching:** It teaches that even if we try to do things or say things in secret, they will still -be exposed. When we cover truths, somehow they always become known.

**Bible parallel:** Luke 12:2-3 *“But there is nothing covered up that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known. “Accordingly, whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in the inner rooms will be proclaimed upon the housetops.”*

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

### 75. *Simba anapopotea wanyama utiphapha phalume pha mwitu.*

**Swahili:** Simba anapo potea wanyama wote huwa mfalme wa mwitu.

**French:** Lorsque le lion disparaît, tous les animaux deviennent roi de la forêt.

**English:** When the lion goes astray, all the other animals are king of the jungle.

**Teaching:** When the leadership does not offer guidance, everyone makes their own decisions and choose their own direction, which may be inappropriate. This sends the community members into a turmoil . People need someone to lead them, and help to make appropriate decisions.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 11:14 *“Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.”*

### 76. *Sinu sambone siku ikala.*

**Swahili:** Ukweli hudumu.

**French:** La verite ne meurt jamais.

**English:** Truth never dies.

**Teaching:** The proverb is used to encourage people to always tell the truth. The truth always prevails. It cannot be hidden and will finally stand out from lies and untruths.

**Bible parallel:** 2 Kings 12:15 *“And they did not ask an accounting from the men into whose hand they delivered the money to pay out to the workmen, for they dealt honestly.”*

### 77. *Sisemba kuvika, sinang’olo kunitula.*

**Swahili:** Ujana ni kuweka, uzee ni kukula.

**French:** La jeunesse c’est sauvegarde, la vieillesse c’est consommé.

**English:** Youth is saving, old age is consuming.

**Teaching:** The proverb encourages people to save during youth so that their late years will be comfortable. People of advanced age do not have much energy to work and therefore, need to save for the future years when young. It reminds young people to be economically prepared for old age. They should invest in ways that will support them in old age.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Corinthians 16:2 *“On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come.”*

### 78. *Suuni anabadilisha manyoya lake mwa hali yake ni mbaya.*

**Swahili:** Ndege habadilishi manyoya yake kwa sababu hali ya anga ni mbaya.

**French:** L’oiseau ne change pas ces plumes puisque le temps estmauvais

**English:** A bird does not change its feathers because the weather is bad.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used to encourage people to remain steadfast and uphold their principles and values. We should not change from whom we are because of negative happenings or difficulties which we experience in life. Instead we should be better and stronger people.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Peter 5:10 *“And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.”*

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

15. Job 17:9 *“The righteous keep moving forward, and those with clean hands become stronger and stronger.”*

### 79. *Suvi pawena bila kunyonya nikenga na jopa.*

**Swahili:** Chui akitembea bila kelele sio kumaanisha ni muoga.

**French:** Le leopard qui marche lentement ne signifie pas qu'il est peureux.

**English:** A leopard walking softly does not mean he is afraid.

**Teaching:** The bravest person also needs to be careful. Care and caution are always advisable because it is the law of nature. Some situations require careful handling in order not to make mistakes. This does not mean someone is afraid, but he/she is careful.

**Bible parallel:** Ephesians 6:14-17 *“Stand therefore, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”*

### 80. *Sivyo pasilolo sinaliona sinu.*

**Swahili:** Kilicho kwa kioo hakijioni.

**French:** La reflexion ne se voit pas seule.

**English:** A reflection does not see itself.

**Teaching:** This proverb warns that people do not realize they have weaknesses, but they are quick to see those of others. Everyone views themselves as perfect, but they are not. We should appreciate correction by other people, who see our weaknesses and point them out. Their opinions about us, if taken positively, can help us to change and become better people in a community.

**Bible parallel:** Matthew 7:3 *“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”*

1 John 1:8-10 *“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”*

### 81. *Ukana wena unaonomba mumbuo.*

**Swahili:** Usipo tembea utamuoja dada yako.

**French:** Sit tu ne voyages pas, tu te marieras ta soeur.

**English:** If you do not travel you will marry your own sister.

**Teaching:** In the African community incest is an abomination. This proverb warns us not to isolate ourselves from other community activities. It is by being actively involved in their matters that a person gets to understand the norms and culture. Engaging in their activities enlightens us and we, therefore, learn more about moral and social obligations. This protects a person from making mistakes which affect other members of the community.

**Bible parallel:** Deuteronomy 31:12 *“Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law”*

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

### 82. *Ukanavana subila haulula kutaleka ugwala.*

**Swahili:** Usipokua na subira hauwezi kupika pombe.

**French:** Si tu n'as pas la patience, tu ne peut pas preparer la biere.

**English:** If you have no patience you cannot brew beer.

**Teaching:** It teaches us that it is important to have patience, because it makes it possible to achieve even the impossible. If we undertake our activities with patience and care, we can succeed in doing anything. An impatient person cannot accomplish much or fails.

**Bible parallel:** Psalm 37:7-9 *"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices! Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil. For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land."*

### 83. *Ukanyu kata mayai una unavele ing'oma.*

**Swahili:** Ukibeba mayai kwa kikapu usicheze ngoma.

**French:** Si tu portes les oeufs dans le panier, ne danse pas.

**English:** If you carry eggs in a basket don't dance.

**Teaching:** This proverb likens a basket of eggs to a person handling a delicate matter. It warns against taking matters for granted. We should realize that if we choose to deal with serious matters, we should not stop until we have resolved them. We should handle sensitive issues with the seriousness they deserve. Otherwise, we should not have started resolving them at all because if we fail we shall be the losers.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 16:20 *"It pays to take life seriously: things work out when you trust in God."*

### 84. *Ukimulona nyoka mene kukuluma.*

**Swahili:** Nyoka unaye muona hawezi kukuuma.

**French:** Le serpent que tu vois ne peut pas mordre.

**English:** A snake that you see cannot bite.

**Teaching:** Having knowledge of the danger one is exposed to helps them to guard against it. In our usual surroundings danger may be from other persons, environments or objects. The people or activities we expose ourselves to are not always safe or reliable. We should be aware of our threats and prepare ourselves to prevent falling into these dangers.

**Bible parallel:** 2 Timothy 2:22-23 *"So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels."*

### 85. *Unalinge kukamana na ntumi kenga wake intumi.*

**Swahili:** Usijaribu kupigana na simba kama wewe sio simba.

**French:** N'ose pas de batter avec le lion, sit u n'es pas seul un lion.

**English:** Do not try to fight with a lion if you are not a lion yourself.

**Teaching:** This proverb warns that it is not wise to take on more responsibilities than we can handle. At some time, however, we will likely feel overwhelmed by the size and difficulty of a task we have agreed to do. This can happen even in our walk of faith in Christ when our commitment to God seems too much to bear. However, we should be encouraged and take up the responsibility because God gives us the ability to perform.



## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Bible parallel:** Hebrews 10:35-36 *"Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised."*

**86. Unamwini liina mwana akanava kuvalekwa.**

**Swahili:** Usimpe jina mtoto ambaye bado hajazaliwa.

**French:** Ne donne pas un nom à l'enfant qui n'est pas encore né.

**English:** Do not name a child who is not yet born.

**Teaching:** We should not count on things we do not have at hand. We can hope to acquire them, only to fail to do so. Make use of what you have to achieve your goal. Depend on what you have and not on what you hope to acquire.

**Bible parallel:** James 4:13-17 *"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit'—yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin."*

**87. Unapokala kalibu na makabuli unaulula sinu kunililia munu.**

**Swahili:** Unapoishi karibu na makaburi huwezi kulilia kila mtu.

**French:** Quand on vit à côté du cimetière, on ne peut pas pleurer pour chaque personne.

**English:** When you live near a cemetery you cannot cry for everyone.

**Teaching:** This proverb warns us about wanting to please everyone. It would be inappropriate to be part of everyone's business. We cannot try to please everyone, but should only get involved in matters which concern us. It would also seem pretentious and one could lose respect in the community. It is used to warn against meddling in other people's businesses.

**Bible parallel:** *"I only seek to please Him who sent me."* (John 5:30)

*Galatians 1:10 "Obviously, I'm not trying to win the approval of people, but of God. If pleasing people were my goal, I would not be Christ's servant."*

**88. Unapolula kujenga ing'ande kwa liduva limo lazima mwanzo udenge sibanda.**

**Swahili:** Usipo weza kujenga nyumba kwa mara moja, lazima kwanza ujenge kibanda.

**French:** Si tu ne peux pas construire la maison une fois, tu dois construire l'ombre.

**English:** If you cannot build a house at once, you must build a shed.

**Teaching:** This proverb teaches that when a person wants to achieve something in life consistency and persistence helps one to achieve their intended objectives. A procedural and timely approach to issues ensures success someone's plans. We should use the resources available, to invest and become successful in the future. Step by step a person can accomplish a lot.

**Bible parallel:** Ecclesiastes 7:8 *"The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride."*

**89. Unapopana nandi udaendlea kupita silele nchin dapha kulindi.**

**Swahili:** Kama unapo panda mti unaendelea kupita kilele, nchi ndiyo itakua imekungoja.

**French:** Si tu continues à monter un arbre jusqu'au bout, la terre sera à ton attente.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**English:** If when climbing a tree you insist on going beyond the top, the earth will be waiting for you.

**Teaching:** This proverb remind us that people are given warnings, but do not act upon them. Someone who does not take counsel usually makes grave mistakes which can ruin their lives. Such a person should be ready to handle the consequences, which usually are negative. When we do not take advice then our daily experiences teach us hard lessons.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 19:20-21 *“Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future. Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.”*

### 90. *Unaulula sinu kuvina ingoma sana kwa lidodo limo.*

**Swahili:** Huwezi kucheza ngoma vizuri kwa mguu mmoja.

**French:** Tu ne peut bien danser sur un seul pied.

**English:** You cannot dance well on one leg.

**Teaching:** With our weaknesses we cannot do perfect things, but those inadequate things we have can be used effectively. It encourages people to accept their circumstances but make the best use of them to become better, stronger, braver, and, most likely, a little more compassionate than most of the world.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit...”*

### 91. *Undavanao dimongo dikidiki sana kwa sila isako.*

**Swahili:** Unayo nguvu ndogo sana kwa kile kisicho chako.

**French:** Tu as un peu de pouvoir pour ce qui ne t'appartient pas.

**English:** You have little power over what is not yours.

**Teaching:** The proverb teaches us that self reliance is the best choice in life. We should not rely on other people's property to build our prosperity. We should make an effort to take care of our needs through our own efforts. It is most gratifying, than relying on others to support us.

**Bible parallel:** Psalm 62:10 *“Do not trust in extortion or put vain hope in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.”*

### 92. *Unono mbe mkongwe mwenye madodo makumene kukuzidi wako.*

**Swahili:** Usimuoe mwanamke aliye na miguu mikubwa zaidi ya yako.

**French:** Ne se marier pas a une femme qui a des grands pieds que les tiens.

**English:** Do not marry a woman who has bigger feet than yours.

**Teaching:** This proverb originally was used as a warning to the men of Mozambique, against marrying women who had a better education, talent and skills. There was fear they would over-shadow them and take over authority in their homes. This proverb defines the place and status of women in the African culture. Even today men feel threatened by them and are afraid of losing power to head family, jobs or enterprises. An

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

independent woman is not viewed as submissive as expected by the African culture. Men should accept gender equality in order to work as a team with women for better success.

**Bible parallel:** Judges 4:4-10 *“Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, ‘The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you: ‘Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.’”* Barak said to her, “If you go with me, I will go; but if you don’t go with me, I won’t go.” *“Certainly I will go with you,” said Deborah. “But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.”*

### 93. *Uzi umo kwa sindano, lipenzi limo mntima.*

**Swahili:** Uzi mmoja kwa sindano, penzi moja kwa roho.

**French:** Un fil pour une aiguille, un amour pour un Coeur.

**English:** One thread for one needle, one love for one heart.

**Teaching:** Not everyone is truly content with his or her life. Often times we are unsatisfied and seek more for what we don't have and who we are. This proverb encourages people not to be greedy and desire excess of anything. We should appreciate what we have and use it in the best way possible.

**Bible parallel:** Philippians 4:12-13 *“I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.”*

### 94. *Wakati mididi paianjanga kunda kupela ditagaa dyake.*

**Swahili:** Wakati mizizi inapoanza kuoza huanza kufa matawi yake.

**French:** Lorsque les racines commencent à pourrir, les branches commencent à mourir.

**English:** When the roots begin to rot, the branches begin to die.

**Teaching:** The proverb is used as a warning that people should not get involved in evil deeds because those actions have repercussions on the immediate family and the future generations. When parents, for example have a bad reputation then, the family members share in it. We should therefore make sure we live worthwhile lives which will be associated with positive deeds. People can change for the better, and change through generations.

**Bible parallel:** Job 14:7-9 *“For there is hope for a tree, When it is cut down, that it will sprout again, And its shoots will not fail. “Though its roots grow old in the ground And its stump dies in the dry soil, At the scent of water it will flourish And put forth sprigs like a plant.”*

### 95. *Wakati ntumi wakula mala sungula afiuka na dai lideni lyake.*

**Swahili:** Wakati simba ni kiwete ndio sungura huenda kudai deni lake.

**French:** Lorsque le lion est mutile, le lievre reclame sa dette.

**English:** When the lion is crippled, the hare goes to claim his debt.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**Teaching:** The proverb teaches us to be careful about people taking advantage of our situations when we have problems and challenges because we are desperate. Even the most influential person can fall victim. Those of lower authority can influence them to answer to their demands.

**Bible parallel:** 1 samuel 8:5-6 “...and they said to him, “Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations.”<sup>6</sup> But the thing was <sup>[a]</sup>displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us.”

### 96. *Wakubanga are maduva loe.*

**Swahili:** Mjinga ana siku nyingi.

**French:** Un sot a beaucoup de jours.

**English:** A fool has many days.

**Teaching:** The proverb teaches about the developing values of tolerance and patience. A person whom others think is a fool may be a wise person, especially in times of adversity, because he/she avoids conflict or engaging in unreasonable disagreements. They stay calm and believe in peaceful resolutions and reconciliation, which result in a stress-free lifestyle. It encourages people to cultivate these values so that the members of our communities can live peacefully with one another.

**Bible parallel:** Zephaniah 2:3 “Seek the LORD, All you humble of the earth Who have carried out His ordinances; Seek righteousness, seek humility Perhaps you will be hidden In the day of the LORD’S anger.”

### 97. *Wakushindwa kwavela ing’oma, atangula siwanja sive na majanga.*

**Swahili:** Anaye shindwa kucheza ngoma husema uwanja una mawe.

**French:** Celui qui echoue de danser, il dit le terrain est pierreux.

**English:** The one who fails to dance says the ground is stony.

**Teaching:** It warns against giving lame excuses when one fails to take responsibility seriously. Giving feasible reasons for failure to perform a duty or fulfill an expectation should never be blamed on the circumstances.

**Bible parallel:** Genesis 3:13 “Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

### 98. *Wakusomya na nae ankufundisha.*

**Swahili:** Anaye soma hufundisha.

**French:** Celui qui etudie, enseigne.

**English:** One who learns teaches.

**Teaching** It teaches that one who has had an experience of something understands its consequences or can foresee them. He can, therefore, be prepared for any eventuality and can be helpful in guiding others who have not had much experience about difficult circumstances.

**Bible parallel:** Proverbs 24:5 “A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might.”

### 99. *Wastumba akatangola asivene faida, vanu vana saidia kumbaja jinuaswa.*

**Swahili:** Mwenye kibuyu akisema hakina faida, wengine watamsaidia kuijaza na takataka.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

**French:** Si le propriétaire d'une calabasse, l'appelle sans valeur, il l'emballera avec les déchets.

**English:** If the owner of the calabash calls it worthless, then the owners will join him to pack it with rubbish.

**Teaching:** This proverb warns us against expressing negative opinions about something or other people who are close to us. It makes other people to develop negative opinions too, even though they may have had different views before. We should always express positive opinions about situations or people so that others can be encouraged to do the same. It also shows respect for them.

**Bible parallel:** Colossians 4:6 *"Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."*

### 100. *Yatima kulilamba mongo wake.*

**Swahili:** Yatima hujilamba mgongo wake.

**French:** L'orphelin fouette sur ses propres fesses.

**English:** An orphan licks his own back.

**Teaching:** It teaches that a person from a poor background can become prosperous by acquiring his/her wealth through their own efforts and hard work. It encourages people to work hard to acquire their wealth and good opportunities rightfully.

**Bible parallel:** 1 Timothy 4:10 *"For to this end we toil and strive because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the savior of all men especially of those who believe."*

# **A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS**

## **Appendixes**

### **A RESEARCH PROPOSAL FOR THE COLLECTION OF 100 PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS OF THE MAKONDE ETHNIC GROUP OF KENYA**

**By Margaret Wambere**

(Kenya)

## **INTRODUCTION**

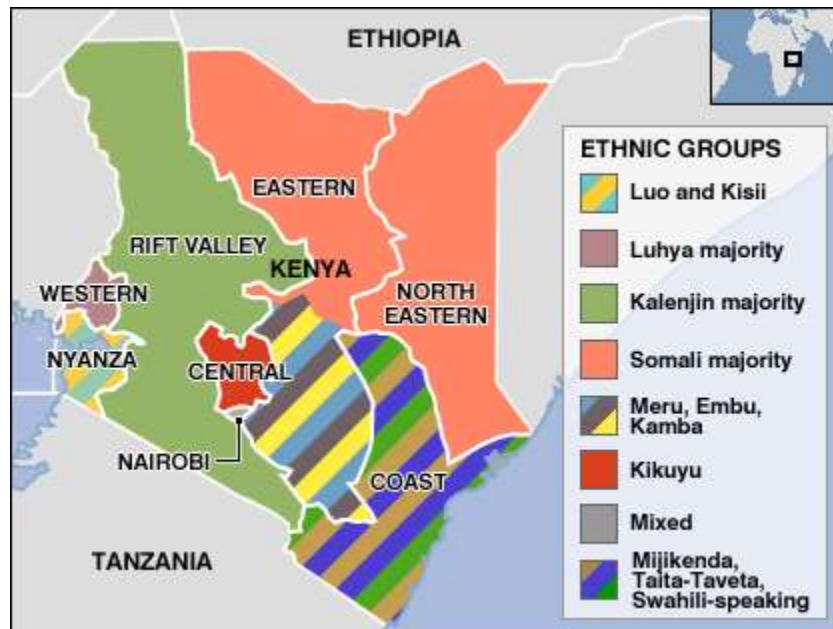
### **The Location**

A majority of Makonde people live in south-east Tanzania (the Mtwara and Lindi districts), and northern Mozambique (the Cabo Delgado district). In Tanzania they occupy the area on and around the Newalla Plateau, while the rest live in Mozambique on the Mueda Plateau. Initially they lived on top of the plateau where there were dense thickets from which they get their name “thicket-covered plateau.” The Makonde population in Tanzania was estimated in 2001 to be 1,140,000, and the 1997 census in Mozambique put their population at 233,358.

The Makonde have a small presence in Kenya and in 2014 were estimated to be 30,000. They occupy the Coastal region of Kwale County in Makongeni area of Msambweni sub-county, and the Taita Taveta county near the Kenya-Tanzania border. They speak a Bantu language called Makonde, also known as *ChiMakonde*. Many speak other languages such as English and Swahili, *Chidigo* and *Taita*. These languages are spoken by the neighbouring ethnic groups.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

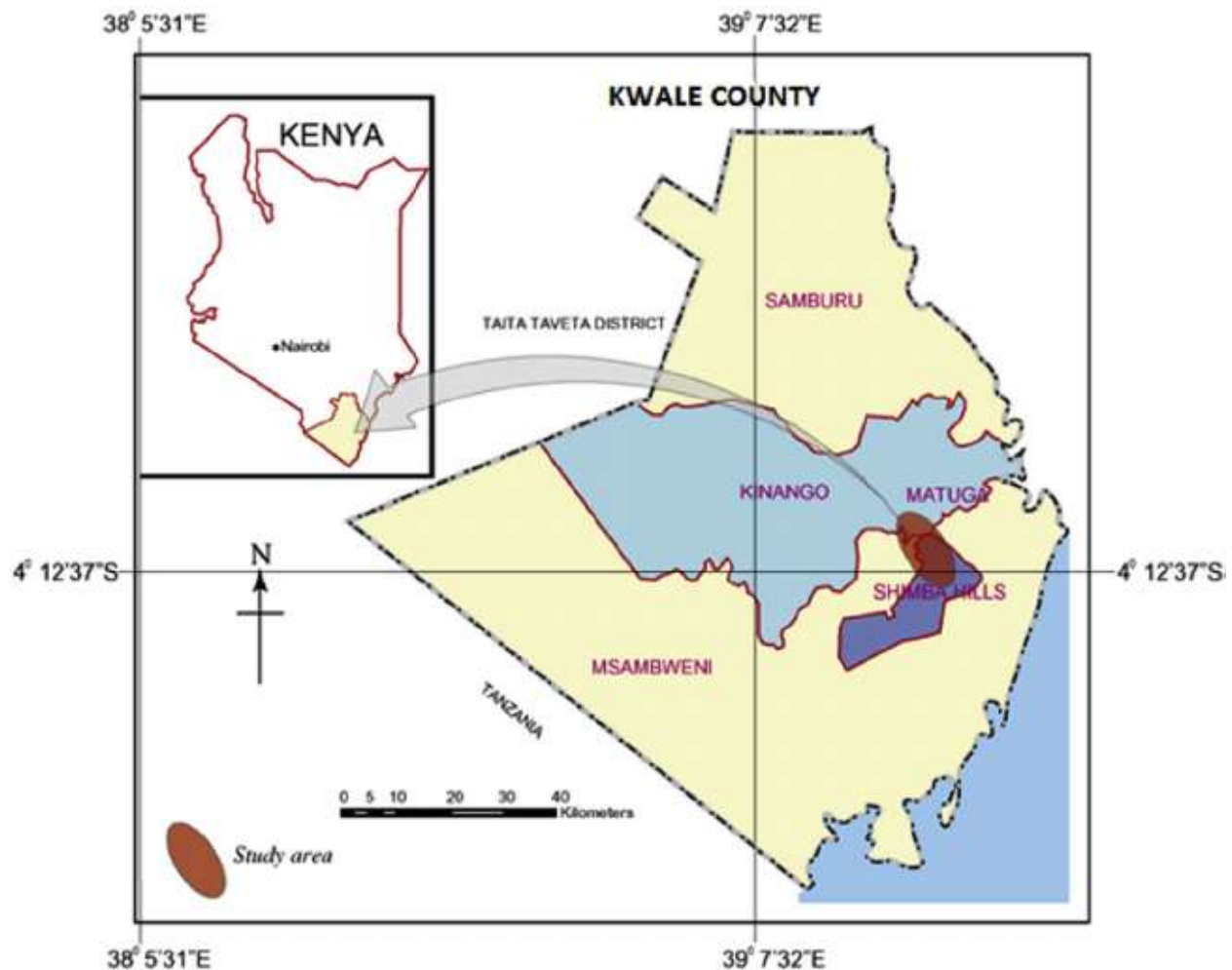
### The Ethnographic Maps Showing the Location of the Makonde in Kenya



*A map showing the ethnic groups of Kenya*

### The map of Kwale County showing neighbouring Taita Taveta County

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS



### Migration and History

The Makonde of Kenya, are part of the original groups of the Makonde in Mozambique and Tanzania. They are believed to have migrated to plateau areas, away from the plains near the Ruvuma River, because there was infestation of mosquitoes that carried malaria, tsetse flies that carried sleeping sickness, and bilharzia was in the water. There was also the threat of flooding and animal attacks near the river.

Another reason for their migration was that the Ngoni, a people fleeing war in Zululand, began to raid the Makonde for land and slaves. The plateau with its thick bush protected the Makonde from slavery and war. In 1905 the Makonde were a part of the Maji-Maji Rebellion who resisted the German rule. During the World War I, the British took Tanzania, but the Makonde resisted their rule by not paying taxes and by disobeying their rule.

Years later, a small group of the Makonde migrated to Kenya during the 1950s, and after Kenya's independence in 1964. They migrated to Kenya to work in the sisal estates established



## **A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS**

by the European colonialists between Mount Kilimanjaro and the Taita Hills. They provided labour force for the Mwatate Sisal Estate which had then been founded. They also worked on the sugar plantations at the defunct Ramisi Sugar Factory. They did not return to their motherland after the sugar factory collapsed over three decades ago. They settled and inter-married with other ethnic groups. They have lived all their lives in Kenya, and they have adapted it as their motherland.

### Myths of Origin

The Makonde creation myth has two versions. According to the main version of the story, a man came out of a thick bush and he was unwashed and unshaven. He did not eat or drink very much. One day he carved a human figure from wood and set it upright in the bush. During the night, the image came to life and became a woman. The woman became the man's wife. Together, the couple washed for the first time in the Ruvuma River. On the bank of the river, the woman delivered a stillborn child. They traveled a little farther, where the woman delivered another still born child. Finally, they traveled to the plateau, where the woman gave birth to a third child. That child survived. Over time, the couple had many other children on the plateau. These children became the first ancestors of the Makonde.

In the second version, the father ordered his descendants to bury anyone who died in an upright position in memory of his wife. She had come alive when the wooden figure of her was set upright, and she had become the mother of all the Makonde. He also warned them against settling in the valleys and near large streams because sickness and death lived there. Each village, he said, should be at least a one-hour walk from the nearest source of water. If they lived any closer, they would be plagued by illness and death.

These myths carry great significance to the Makonde community living in Kenya, even though they consider Kenya as their motherland. Their original norms and cultures, myths and beliefs are greatly influenced by their original Makonde ones.

### Culture and Social Structure

The Makonde trace their family line through their mothers. Children and inheritance belong to the women. This community practices both monogamy and polygamy. However, their culture has become increasingly male dominated as the men have become wage earners in towns and cities. Song and dance are very important part of their culture and dominate all ceremonies.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS



*Community members enjoying a dance.*

They practice circumcision for both girls and boys. Initiation (*jando*) which includes circumcision is the most important ceremony for boys. On the day of the circumcision the boys are taken to the country side to have the operation and afterward they live under a shelter. During the healing process the boys are taught by the men about the male roles and morals required by the community. During the boys initiation ceremony a male dancer who wears a mask reveals his identity to the boys, symbolizing the revelation of the secrets of manhood. Upon graduation the boys receive a new name and are recognized as adults.

Young girls are taken into the initiation house for several days of instruction, singing and other activities. The girls are later led home by their mothers for a period of seclusion and later taken back to the initiation house to be bathed. On the next morning the girls leave the house for final instruction on marriage, women's duties and roles. At graduation they are anointed with oil, dressed in new clothes, and return home. The process is completed with a special Mdimu dance. They are considered to be of marriage age after this, but today women are choosing education before early marriage.

During their social celebrations the Makonde have a special song and dance called the Sindimba. It is guided by heavy drumbeats, metal sheets made from flattened metal drums, and are held to the ground by the player's foot and are struck with sticks. In Kenya the bamboo flute may sometimes be added to the music, due to influence by music of the coast people. The dancers shake and tremble their bodies and hips following the beat. The girls and women wear a skirt and tie a rolled or folded shawl around their hips.

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

The Makonde use proverbs and wise sayings, riddles, folktales, songs and dance to pass knowledge and cultural norms to their community members, especially the young. These are used in ordinary daily conversation, and during ceremonies. This has helped everyone in the community to learn their culture, norms and maintain good morals. Their cultural practices have been minimally influenced by foreign culture, except where they have inter-married with other local and foreign ethnic groups.

Examples of the Makonde proverbs are:

**1. *Silo siku mene liamba kuswa.***

**Swahili:** Giza kubwa usiku ukaribiapo alfajiri.

**French:** Grande obscurité est quand il approche l'aube.

**English:** Great darkness is at night when it is nearing dawn.

**Teaching:** This proverb is used to teach people that they should be patient and not give up. When one is almost achieving their goal, they begin despire. When times are toughest, it is almost time for circumstances to change for better.

**2. *Ndeja dindatoka halafu dindikalamoka.***

**Swahili:** Karanga huchemka halafu hupoa.

**French:** Les arachides boillent puis refroidissent.

**English:** Groundnuts boil and later cool.

**Teaching:** The proverb cautions people not to use as a solution to a displeasure. Even if a person becomes very angry, they will always calm down, when they realize that it does not resolve a problem. Sensibility, forgiveness and reasoning solve issues, not anger.

Despite their inter-marriage with the other ethnic groups of Kenya, the Makonde have retained most of their traditions and sense of independence.

### Religious practices

The majority presumably still keep their original beliefs and forms of ancestor worship, although some are Muslims and others are Christians.

The names 'kinyago' (fetish) or 'vinyago' (fetishes) which the Kiswahili speaking people wrongly call modern Makonde sculpture, is the result of this early misunderstanding created by the early missionaries, which led them to burning most of the sculptures for fear that the people would worship them and turn away from Christianity. The spirits of the ancestors in traditional religious practice, were often called upon to send cures for sickness, and to ensure success in the harvesting.

### Economy

## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS

The Makonde are best known for their wood carvings, primarily made of blackwood (*Dalbergiamelanoxylon*, *ormpingo*). The Makonde traditionally carve household objects, figures and masks. After the 1930s, Makonde art became part of the important contemporary art of Africa today. They are members of the self- help groups formed by carvers in the coastal town of Mombasa, at Changamwe, where the carving industry thrives. Most of the products are sold locally to tourists, local buyers and exporters.



*Beautiful Makonde carvings*

The Makonde provide labour force in the sisal estates of Taita-Taveta county, lying between Mount Kilimanjaro and the Taita Hills, and also in the sugar plantations in Kwale county, for example the Kwale International Sugar Company (KISCOL) which is located in Lunga Lunga border region of Kenya. They practice subsistence farming, cultivating maize, sorghum, and cassava. They grow two main cash crops namely, cashew nuts and sisal. They cannot own land because they lack Kenyan citizenship, and are registered as refugees, hence no legal rights to own land as stated in the Kenyan Constitution.



## A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS



*A cashew nut tree in bloom*

This being a palm growing area, after the collapse of the sugar factory in Ramisi, many of the Makonde resorted to palm wine tapping and selling to earn a living. They also engage in small businesses in shopping centers at the coast.



*A sisal plantation and housing*

# **A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS**

## **Leadership and Administration**

There are no chiefs among the Makonde and people are under the authority of their kinship group. The *chirambo* is an organizational unit based more on geographical relationship than kinship and is usually led by an elder (*mkulungwa*) of one of the first migrant kinship groups to the area. He is held in high esteem for his wisdom, but he has little formal authority. Some of his jobs include offering advice and securing health by appeasing the spirits and ancestors in traditional ceremonies.

They also have an association, the Makonde Community Living in Kenya, whose chairman liaises with all government units for the welfare of these people. They have been considered stateless because they are not citizens of Kenya, and most of their way of life is informal. They constantly seek Constitutional Rights such as the right to have a national identification card and birth certificates for their children since they were born in Kenya, right to own land, legal marriages, an opportunity to further education and get formal jobs, accessibility to banking services and to vote. They have not been able to enjoy these rights because of the lack of citizenship. In October 2016 the President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta decreed that they be recognized as the 43<sup>rd</sup> ethnic group in Kenya, and be issued with all legal papers like other citizens.

Local leaders in this community include the Governor of Kwale Salim Mvurya.

## **WRITING OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this research are:

1. To collect one hundred proverbs and wise sayings from the Makonde people, from the elders and their general community.
2. To translate these proverbs and wise sayings into English, Kiswahili and French, 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.

# **A COLLECTION OF 100 MAKONDE (KENYA) PROVERBS AND WISE SAYINGS**

## **METHODOLOGY**

The writer will research and collect Makonde proverbs and wise sayings from this community at the Kenyan coast. The teachings and a bible parallels will be added to each. One hundred of these proverbs and wise sayings will be recorded for translation into Kiswahili, English, French and be published in a booklet.

## **REFERENCES**

1. John Stoner (1998). Makonde. The Rosen Publishing Group. ISBN 978-0-8239-2016-7.
2. Makonde Wikipenda article
3. Elders of the Makonde community based in Lunga Lunga, Kenya.
4. SIL detailed profile of Makonde:  
[slrk.info/cesa2006/backgroundinfo/notes/makonde/MakondeProfile-kde.rtf](http://slrk.info/cesa2006/backgroundinfo/notes/makonde/MakondeProfile-kde.rtf)
5. Collaborators: - Simon Chidanga – +254 702 201 821  
Joseph Moris - +254 708 898 341

## **BUDGET**

|                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| Data gathering and processing | \$180                |
| Typing and printing           | \$100                |
| Binding                       | \$ 70                |
| Transport                     | \$100                |
| Miscellaneous                 | <u>\$ 50</u>         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                  | <b><u>\$ 500</u></b> |