

## MY TRIBUTE TO MR PHIRI MASEKO

FEB 1995 BY MUNI CHIGANANGANA.

Many people  
 From all walks of life  
 Have visited him  
 And have gone  
 Leaving the words  
 "We wish we could come back again."

So many people are visiting him  
 As though he is a n'anga  
 Who can cure the disease of their soil  
 And actually he is:  
 He has healed so many  
 Sick, disabled, barren,  
 the blind and the deaf.

Unique is his profession,  
 hospitality is his companion,  
 Wisdom is a tool he was born with  
 Competency is his acquired skin  
 And selflessness is his totem,  
 laziness his mother-in-law.

He is a Messiah  
 he has saved so many  
 and is still to save many more.  
 Oh! I have seen this Messiah  
 He has struggled in the liberation war  
 Through him and others like him we have won  
 but he is not at rest.  
 He is still struggling  
 to cease yet another war  
 The war of the soil and water.

At his home are heaped stones,  
 garden pits, pumps and dams,  
 Around his community, are many wonders.  
 Water harvesting is the apparatus and medicine  
 Which is used to cure his patients,  
 both local and overseas.

Who is the Messiah?  
 He is Zephania Maseko VaPhiri  
 A man of hospitality, wisdom, diligence and competence

"Water and soil would like to elope,  
 As a parent I should divorce them"  
 he would say,  
 as he became possessed,  
 with the spirits of gully reclamation.