

African Languages Guide

| SONG/LYRICS | PRONUNCIATION | LITERAL TRANSLATION | MEANING |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CIRCLE OF LIFE WITH NANTS' INGONYAMA (Xhosa) | | | |
| <i>Nants' ingonyama, bakithi, baba.</i> | NANTS een-GON-yah-mah, bah-KEE-tee, bah-BAH. | <i>nants</i> = here comes; <i>ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>bakithi</i> = my people; <i>baba</i> = father | Here comes the lion, my people, the father (of our nation). |
| <i>Sithi hu 'ngonyama.</i> | SEE-tee WHOO GON-yah-mah. | <i>sithi</i> = we hail; <i>hu</i> = this; <i>ingonyama</i> = lion. | We hail this coming of the lion. |
| <i>'Ngonyama nengwe bo!</i> | GON-yah-mah NEN-gway boh. | <i>ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>ne</i> = and; <i>ngwe</i> = leopard; <i>bo</i> = (adds emphasis, awe) | The lion and the leopard! |
| <i>Nants' ingonyama, bakithi babo.</i> | NANTS een-GON-yah-mah, bah-KEE-tee bah-BOH. | <i>nants</i> = here comes; <i>ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>bakithi</i> = my people; <i>babo</i> = dear | Here comes the lion, my dear people. |
| <i>Sizo nqo!</i> | SEE-zoh N<click> Oh | <i>sizo</i> = we will have <i>nqoba</i> = victory | We will have victory! |
| <i>Ingonyama nengwe 'namabala.</i> | een-gon-YAH-mah NEN-gweh nah-mah-BAH-lah. | <i>ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>ne</i> = and; <i>ngwe</i> = leopard; <i>en</i> = with; <i>a</i> = the; <i>mabala</i> = spots | The lion wears the leopard spots. (connotes royalty) |
| <i>Ingonyama nengwe wema!</i> | een-gon-YAH-mah NEN-gweh WEH-mah! | <i>ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>ne</i> = and; <i>ngwe</i> = leopard; <i>wema</i> = oh my | The lion and the leopard, oh what a sight! |
| <i>Balek' ingonyam'i ya gale!</i> | BAH-lek een-gon-YAH-mee YAH gah-LEH! | <i>baleka</i> = run; <i>ingonyama</i> = lion; <i>i</i> = and; <i>ya</i> = will; <i>galela</i> = attack | Run, the lion will attack! |
| GRASSLANDS CHANT (Zulu) | | | |
| Zm zm zmm | | | (sounds of wind in the grass) |
| <i>Mama ye</i> | mah-mah YEH | <i>mama</i> = Mother Earth; <i>ye</i> = wow | Mother Earth / Wow... |
| <i>Woza, 'mfana. Oh, woza!</i> | WO-zah, mFAN-ah. Oh, WO-zah. | <i>woza</i> = come; <i>umfana</i> = son | Come, son. Oh, come! |
| <i>Busa le lizwe bo!</i> | BOO-sah leh LEEZ-weh boh! | <i>busa</i> = rule; <i>le</i> = this; <i>lizwe</i> = land; <i>bo</i> = (adds emphasis) | Rule this precious land! |
| <i>Busa lomhlaba!</i> | BOO-sah LOM-hhla-bah! | <i>busa</i> = rule; <i>lomhlaba</i> = earth | Rule this earth! |
| <i>Busa ngo thando bo!</i> | BOO-san GO TAN-doh boh! | <i>busa</i> = rule; <i>ngo</i> = with; <i>thando</i> = love; <i>bo</i> = (adds emphasis) | Rule with love! |
| <i>He um hem, ya oh ha.</i> | | | (imitation of animal sounds – bull, donkey, horse – to connect with animal spirits) |

| THE LIONESS HUNT (Zulu) | | | |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ah ha hayi (ya) | | | (roaring sounds) |
| We baba. | WEH bah-bah. | we = oh; baba = father | Oh, father. |
| Zingela, siyo zingela, baba. | zeen-GEH-lah, see-YO zeen-GEH-lah, bah-bah. | zingela = hunt; siyo = let's go; babo = father. | Hunt – let's go hunt, father. |
| Hi baba. | HAI bah-bah. | hi = oh; baba = father | Oh, father. |
| Sqhubekeni, siyo zingela. | S<click>OO-beh-KEH nee, see-YO zeen-GEH-lah. | siqhubekeni = let's proceed; siyo = let's go; zingela = hunt | Let's proceed – let's go hunt. |
| THEY LIVE IN YOU (Zulu) | | | |
| Ingonyama nengwe 'namabala. | een-gon-YA-mah NEN- gweh nah-mah-BA-lah. | ingonyama = lion; ne = and; ngwe = leopard; ne = with; a= the; mabala = spots | The lion wears the leopard spots. (connotes royalty) |
| Oh oh iyo | OH OH ee-YOH | | (ancestral echoes that imply "This is it!") |
| Mamela! | MAH-meh-lah! | mamela = listen | Listen! |
| Hela, hem mamela! (Setswana) | HAY-lah HEM mah- MEH-lah! | hela = pay attention; hem = (adds emphasis); mamela = experience | Pay attention and experience this! |
| THE STAMPEDE (Zulu) | | | |
| Yona yona yona | YOH-nah YOH-nah YOH-nah | yona = it | (Here) it (comes)! Also: You've messed up / You've done something wrong. |
| Baba, wa mi baba! | BAH-bah, WAH MEE BAH-bah! | baba = father; wa = oh; mi = my | Father, oh my father! |
| THE MOURNING | | | |
| Hamela, hamela, hamela. | HAH-meh-lah | | (breathy expression of grief) |
| HAKUNA MATATA (Swahili) | | | |
| Hakuna matata. | hah-KOO-nah mah-TAH-tah. | hakuna = none; matata = worry | No worries. |
| SHADOWLAND (Setswana, Zulu) | | | |
| Fatshe lesa lea halalela. (Setswana) | FAT-see LEH-soo LEE-ah HAH-lah-LEH-lah. | fatshe = land; lesa = ours; lea = is; halalela = holy | This land (of our ancestors) is holy. |
| Ngizo buyabo. (Zulu) | GEE-zoh BOO-yah-boh. | ngizo = I will; buyabo = return | I will return. |
| Beso bo (Setswana) | BEH-soo boh | beso = people; bo = my | My people |
| TAMATISO (Zulu) | | | |
| Tamatiso, a so a helele ma. | tah-mah-tee-SOH, ah SOH ah HEH-leh-leh MAH. | tamatiso = tomato sauce (urban slang); the rest is a play on words/sounds | (popular South African nursery rhyme underscoring children's fondness for ketchup/tomato sauce) |