

UMANDELA UTHA' YI HLOME (Zulu)

The 1960s was a difficult time for South Africans. The Group Areas and Bantu Education Acts and a host of other laws had been passed. The further introduction of the Pass Laws evoked massive, deadly protests, including the infamous Sharpsville Massacre. Africans were made to huddle in the segregated townships and so-called “homelands”. Political movements were banned, their leaders detained or killed; many fled into exile or operated underground. Peaceful methods of civil resistance used up to that point had clearly failed, and within the African National Congress (ANC) it was felt that the only option left was to take up arms. This could only be done outside the country. *Mkhonto we Sizwe* and *Apla*, the military wings of the two main resistance movements of South Africa, were born during this time. Most of the activists and exiles took refuge in various African countries; the ANC headquarters were in Lusaka, Zambia.

In the song, the call is made by Nelson Mandela for activists to join *Mkhonto we Sizwe* in Lusaka and fight apartheid.

Umandela utha' yi hlome
Umandela utha' yi hlome hlasele
Si yaya we Mkhonto we Sizwe
Lusaka

*Mandela says let us arm and attack
We are going to join
the 'Spear of the Nation'
In Lusaka*