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MAKHANYA Sibusisiwe Violet Kanxele

1. Sibusisiwe was born in Umbumbulu in 1894. Her father had no schooling, her mother little, but they were determined to educate their children. At 15 she went to the famous school of Inanda Seminary and then to the equally famous Adams College, becoming a teacher. At 19 she was headmistress of Imbizana, a one-teacher school. She established one of the first school committees, to enlist parental support.

Cartoon: Sibusisiwe teaching at her one-teacher school, or Sibusisiwe with her school committee, some of whose members would be very poor.

2. She eventually went to teach at Inanda Seminary, and during her ten years there, became more and more involved in social and youth work in the rural areas of Natal and Zululand. In 1927 a Phelps-Stokes scholarship took her to Penn School, South Carolina, and to the famous Tuskegee Institute of Booker T. Washington. Then she went to the Schauffler College of Religious and Social Education in Cleveland, Ohio, where she helped to pay her way by cleaning the bathrooms and toilets.

Cartoon: Sibusisiwe cleaning the toilets!

3. After further study at Columbia University she returned to Umbumbulu with a purpose. She established day schools, night schools for headboys, clinics for mothers, classes in gardening and nutrition. Monuments to her work are the Sibusisiwe High School and the Umbumbulu Community Centre. She died, greatly revered, in 1972.

Cartoon: Sibusisiwe teaching headboys by lamplight. On the board could be

ba-ba ma-ma ca-ca da-da
la-la na-na sa-sa ta-ta

AMEND TO
mama ima
ima mama
mema mame
vmame vmema omama