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| CLIENT         | : University of the Witwatersrand – Historical Papers |
| SUBJECT        | : Cabinda   |
| IDENTIFICATION | : Tape 36   |
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| DATE           | : 2 June 2009   |

Please note:

1. When typist is unsure of names, speakers will be identified by title.
2. Transcriptions are typed verbatim, and typist, when unsure of jargon, industry terms or individual's names, will type phonetic spelling followed by (unsure)

**Interviewer:** Interview Pomfret 17 June 2005 ...

**Cabinda:** My name Georgina Beethoven Dala Cabinda...I was born on the ...10<sup>th</sup> of March 1976...while my parents where refugee from Angola...so I was born a few kilometers of Namibia and Angola...but I still call my self...cause I was born in Angola...but I grew up thirteen years of my life in Namibia...in a small base...which all the soldiers in battalion by then...as far as my memories can go...one started staying in tents...as we living in tents ...time was going on...my father was a teacher by then...at school...sometimes...this all this students teach me up that you know as young and the school was not very far...from home...I would go on...on usually without shoes...without a shirt...to follow daddy to school...and someone will always bring me back home...to mummy...but then it grew up until I started studying...By then...people moved from tents and started moving into wooden houses...made wood...quite a cozy house...I remember the first one we had was...a three roomed house. It was two rooms plus a lounge...and then we moved to bigger one...it had four rooms...plus a lounge...and later on because my father was...was...a sergeant, we moved to another place, where the houses where they had now three rooms...a built in toilet...and a lounge...and they added the kitchen...now the houses as far as I could remember where I was...was a house ...it was old...done in blocks...block one block two...it was about let me say...twenty houses surrounded ...around and in the middle house we had a common toilet...for everyone to use...so the houses did not really have a toilet in the houses...but we didn't actually mind a lot using the toilets because the bush was just near by

and we had the Okavango River along. That was a source where we got water. It was a small village but we stayed like a family there in that place...and we had a wonderful school...I start my pre-schooling in there...and I tent building and made up of ...of ...of zinc...and then when I started grade one, I moved to the school ...it was also a school...I would say...not a semi-circle it was like a...half really C...that was made and in the centre we had taps...we had the primary side on the right...and the secondary on the left...so you had to move all the way from grade one...and go up then and when you move over to the next side for us was just like success made...you know you move from primary side...but we where like same buildings...and by then...out teachers...most of our teachers that where teaching primary school where... our own Portuguese speaking people ...that had experience in teaching from Angola...they came from there...we had some of them that where teachers... and including my mum and dad that where also teachers by then...we started teaching...the learning was all done in the mother tongue...it was Portuguese for us by then...until we got to grade...now we call it grade four...where we started with a bit of English, Afrikaans...and that's how we went along...an then on the senior level most of the teachers where national servicemen...which was white South African...guys ...young guys...who I think also...either they where qualified here as teachers or...they where interested in teaching...so that when they went over there...instead of going to...to the battle ground...they would end up teaching...so we had these teachers with us...very nice young teachers but...happiness never lasted...because they only stayed with us for a year...they came from January to

December...and the next year you get other teachers so...we got used getting teachers...every year or every second year...an I mean we grew up then...and the way it was silly was when...I don't know but we felt we where treated ...treated a bit special...despite by then... we had a racist government...but uh...but for us living in Buffalo we never noticed that much things where cause...all the ...the white people where staying in the army base...and we did not have a lot of young white kids...around...I think most of them...I remember that there was...I think a Sergeant Major...that had his children there...whether they studied there I didn't know...maybe they studied in Rondo which was the nearest town which was about 200 kilometer's...but we didn't really have this...this... much of a difference between this white and black issues...maybe we where to young to notice that... we didn't have electricity In Buffalo...so we depended on the candle...to study ...you know you would study from...at night we would use the candle...but at least the school...after some years... the school ...they managed to install electricity...we had a hall in the middle...where by you could go watch cinema...they always provided...I think it was Wednesdays and then Fridays...I think three times a week...they provide cinemas.

**Interviewer:** What films did you see?

**Cabinda:** ... ah unfortunately ...mostly the films that we saw were war movies...Second World War...so for us the mentality of war was always there...and I think some of us...we didn't have these aspirations like...when you finished school what...what where you going to be?...By then in Namibia most of us didn't know what was really happening in the out side world...whether there

where things like lawyers...we know about doctors but...army doctors...so most of...in terms of career prospective...we where dumb ..we didn't know much of that...so the movies where shown was that...but as time went on...of course there where those who determined to become...even with in the system they determined to became business people...they started to by there own generators...buy there TV's...buy video...so we would go ..would go every evening you know...you would pay fifty cents to go and watch a movie or two...so that was the life...and sports was very alive...and I would say in school sports was like compulsory...you had to be part of sports...if you not part of sports...you where punished the following day...we had a very nice river where by we could go and swim...you know sometimes we had these long breaks...and you know this very naughty kids...sometimes during break we run quickly to the river just get a dip and then come back to school ...you know it was very hot...um...and what was good was the wild...we had wild there...we had elephant...you know ...our house was staying just in the corner...and sometimes elephants would come .. and I would say five meters from the house... you know you wake up the next morning five meters from the house you get tracks all over around...buffalos...but despite those dangers we would still venture out in the forest...and go and play...cause you know the game we used to play it was like ...we had six they had division of blocks...say alright this guys from this blocks us kids would have would make our base...you know an army base in the bush...and we would play like war...throwing stones at one another...but this was done purely on a playing bases...maybe you injured

another one with a stone...the war would stop...we would treat the other friend...but when we go back to school...that was school work...but when we were outside...so it was a life we really enjoyed...and once we could recall to go back to these old days...but what was sad was you know there were days where by...we would just...because we had the community hall near to the school...and sometimes. let's say there were deaths... when people went out to fight...and sometimes it was difficult for them to announce...you know they would just see... they would go to the notice board...and...make an announcement...sometimes the announcement would be...no there were three injured there...or in there where three injured and five were dead...you know they always wanted to wonder...who are those ...who are those...but for me my dad was always around...so maybe it was a family member...the one that will always bring... the news you know...when you watch these American movies you look at the yellow cap...they would just come and deliver the...the mail there...but for us it was the local...Dominee...the army priest...ja...the pastor ...he would always be the one with this...he is normally had a Land Rover...now when he would...when ladies see the Land Rovers coming and then it becomes a problem...sometimes the Land Rover would mistake the number of the house...you know they want come to one or number two...and it was all ..you know...when the Land Rover was going somewhere...this community was small everyone is following just to find out...where is coming next problem now...and for me that was the worst part...you know as a young boy...you would just see land Rover coming...sometimes its coming to your friends house...and you say

eish...friends dad is now gone...that was the bad...the worst part of it...normally when it came to deaths... I think the worst was when...there where about twelve people that died...and it...apart from just being this twelve people that died... on that particular day...you know...those who where there said those bodies stayed there for about a week...standing there...before they could get out of there...it was this ...this heavy smell of death around town...um and I remember that day when that twelve came...I went to go visit a friend in the hospital because the hospital was about eight kilometers ..it was in the army camp...so we went to visit out friend of ours...and they told us...no...no...no kids are going outside...because they had to wash the dead...right in the lawn in front with hosepipes...from far...so you would just stay there until they managed to wash and put them in and there...you know it was not a very good experience...you know for for...for ...one we didn't know why our parents where fighting... you know...we where just there...us kids... you know just that today they are going to fight the enemy...and there where times when they talked about the enemy...you thought it was like a beast or something...it wasn't human being...because I asked children before... you know why should adults fight...you know for us...it played....we would make these wars and we fight...but it was just friend and friend...after the fight you know there's peace...but we couldn't understand why was it that...every three months a group...a company had to leave...to go and fight for three months and they would come back...when they are there some times we get death here and a death there...which was not very pleasant...but when...always they came...for me it looked like a...heroic welcome...because

we stand right in the entrance of Buffalo...so you would just see... there where times if they stayed for a very long time there...they don't even stop at the army camp...they would just go straight...and it was like you know they where coming with people both sides of the road...welcoming and cheering....and singing...some of us we had cousins...where there...they would come with this army cars and stop right in front of the house...what we liked most was this ..this...army rations...you know that they give out...so you would just go for the benefit of that... so it was in a way happy that at least some have returned back alive...but it was not a very good experience...and I think we started to learn about it as is...as we grew old and old then we started to understand reality what was going on...why are people fighting and so forth...and ...further more ...let me just say...life was good of course...one of the things I still remember...is that the defense force used to supply...I think every Wednesday ... they built in some blocks you know...some simple ones they put a place where people would ...people would go and get food...so people where not buying food...by then...you'll just come and get you ration for the whole week...every thing...maybe what we bought was bread from the local bakers...I think that was needed to be bought was this ...just that...and there was no other problem with the lack of money...people always had money...not like as time stated to go on...maybe people started to be a where...I still remember do you know with my parents ...them being teachers they would always put on holidays in December...and we would always go through out around Namibia...and my mum and dad would tell me...by then...every December there where about ten



thousand or twelve thousand for holidays...which is what you cannot do here nowadays...and you would go and stay in hotels and all this...and ...even when you go out and people knew that you were coming from that particular place ...you had a different degree of respect...although our parents were black...so we were blacks...if they know these guys were coming from there...no they would say these people...they always treated people from here differently.

**Interviewer:** People from Buffalo Base?

**Cabinda:** Ja they tended...I don't know why but ...differently...you know there was some places whereby they would say...whites only...by then...but you know there were some of these soldiers that were very naughty...they would...just go in there...police would come and they would find out they were from there...they would say ok...its not a problem...and just leave...so in terms of...I wouldn't say they benefited...in the long run they did not benefit...but by then everything was going smoothly ..by then...until this resolution...I don't know I think 435...that came...

**Interviewer:** Ja...

**Cabinda:** ...to Namibia ..that people had to leave...some stayed...some stayed

**Interviewer:** Did any of your friends stay behind in Namibia?

**Cabinda:** No I don't recall...don't recall any friends...

**Interviewer:** How old were you when you left Namibia?

**Cabinda:** I was thirteen ...thirteen years old...by then ...I still remember when...we left on the...27<sup>th</sup> of April...that's when we left ..Ja

**Interviewer:** What did ..what did your parents tell you? Did they prepare you for this?

**Cabinda:** This is the biggest question...you know ahh...December of that year...the previous year '88...mum and dad just said now...now what we going to do we have to go and say good bye to the family members that are around in Namibia. So we went around to Bamba, Oshakati we went to Swakopmund, we went to Vendu, Grootfontein you know where we had Friends...just to say good bye... I personally...did not know because by then...I was in standard Five...now one was not aware what was happening...all I know is that is what happened...by December we must say good bye...and by...January we got back to school...and then when the schools closed... in March for the March holidays...that is really once that see what was really happening...they said we where going to South Africa...ja by then...

**Interviewer:** And how did you feel about that?

**Cabinda:** You know in a way excited...you know ..you where staying in Namibia...and then south Africa was seen as this very big...nice country where you, where you had everything...You used to hear about Johannesburg...and about Pretoria and about this soccer stars....soccer teams that...no we had...we where very limited in terms of media by then...media was very limited...we where at least excited...now we are going to place you know...when they tell you, you are going to have houses made of bricks...you are going to have electricity...you going to have a very nice school...this excitement is building...you want to know,

where am I going? By then they told us, then they started demolishing our old school....

**Interviewer:** What did you feel when you saw your school being demolished?  
Was it sad?

**Cabinda:** I don't know the kind of...know you see the kind of feeling you know that you are going to a better place...

**Interviewer:** Ja

**Cabinda:** I's like....

**Interviewer:** Ja ...

**Cabinda:** ...it's like you are excited...and by then my dad was...was...when we left he was the principal of the school...so a lot of the property of the school that they could not carry...so we had to take it home...so we bought it with our own lovings and everything...but the trip was...was...a trip with excitement...where are we going...where are we going...where are we going...until we learned it's Vryburg...

**Interviewer:** How did you travel from Namibia to Vryburg?

**Cabinda:** Ahhh..from...from...Buffalo itself until...Grootfontein, which is roughly about five hundred kilo's...we traveled with busses...you know this busses with ...its ahhh...truck and then...a trailer of a bus...you know those ones...

**Interviewer:** Ja ...

**Cabinda:** ...the old mine ones...

**Interviewer:** Ja...

**Cabinda:** No that's the one we used...up until...Grootfontein...from there we board a train...then from the trains we came right through to here...we went to De Aar...you know from De Aar...up to Kimberley, Kimberley to Vryburg... and then in Vryburg we moved then we changed from trains...you know these local busses...until we came to Comfort...and then people where...held or put in tents.

**Interviewer:** Oh...so you where back in tents again?

**Cabinda:** Back in tents again...and it was a lot of tents...I don't know how many ...but you just see the number of houses where the number of tents...in Esperansa...It's a lot of tents...

**Interviewer:** Where people concerned about this? About the tents...Did you sense people around you where worried...that ...that this is not what they had expected?

**Cabinda:** Yes...but .you know by then. .the Defence Force ..in terms of budget...they got the highest budget in the country...so it was not so big concern...because we knew...you know you ...you ...living with the Defence Force...when they tell you that tomorrow that "A" is going to happen..."A" happens...so we knew when they say after this time houses were going to be built...and not long after, even...not after a few months after us coming here...we saw already that they were already coming...so we know that houses were go to be built here...but it was a concern...because it was very windy...and tents used to fly out...and when we came here...for us...I don't know whether it was the coldest winter ever recorded in Bloemfontein...but it was for us...because in Namibia they call this eish ...this not cold...compared to here...but it was

extremely freezing...and the tents were hot and there was no river...we got used to this river...all of a sudden there is no river...there was a swimming pool ...yes...but by then the swimming pool was...for whites only ...so when we came here that was the first time this difference between whites and blacks...for the first time...we never got used to that...because where we were living...it's, was ...all the Angolans speaking people...so we never got this...only when we came here...when we had to live close to one another...when we saw because we also had Officers...like Officers...Black Officers...but in Salvador it was ...where all the Officers were putting on street...and all the other people were in the other one...so were places ...where I am staying now...for example...I didn't even of walking there...or by them...and we were taught ....here...is not for you use...but you can use there, there and there...but we got use...it was the system around the country..

**Interviewer:** That must have seemed strange to you ... because you ...you....Back at Buffalo base... you didn't have much contact with the white Officers, really did you?

**Cabinda:** Aah let me say if Officers...but in a sense...yes they used to come to school...

**Interviewer:** Yes, you used to have white teachers as well.

**Cabinda:** We had white teachers...so our contact with white people was that of friendly...it was never that of separation...because we knew they were soldiers...they teach us up to this time...and from this time...we go to the army camp...some stayed there...even teachers where so friendly to us ..that they

would come even to our houses...for ...for ...lunch or something...and sometimes...during week ends they would come to where we were staying...and go with the kids to the river...we had campings...so we were friends with teachers...we never saw with this...but we knew is aware...we knew there was this Apartheid ...we knew a black person cannot do one two three to a white person...but for us it did not matter because...we played ...played along with them...only when we came here we started seeing it you know...in the real picture now...but by then no...not in Buffalo...not in Buffalo...even that the, the, the... Officers...there were times they would come to...school ...how would I call it...just for a check up...at the school...going around and...every time the Officers would pass...we would stand up...then you were paying respect...then they would go...but we where told that ...the Collooojmof (unknown) the base is coming...today...the Cooijfoie like...like...its is new...come to school...and the thing he also had his kids where always around there...they where still young ...but they were always around there...so...it was one of the few young white people that we knew...not that we knew them... what we saw...those two a boy and a girl...that we used to see them around...

**Interviewer:** Ok...so life changed a little when you came to...Mpho ?

**Cabinda:** I would say extremely ...its change extremely and more especially in terms of economy...it change a lot...because we where coming...I would just say...he is speaking...who where coming from an economy subsistency economy for example...to an economy which was...was...was ....more...marketable...whereby your parents where coming from there...where

by they just kept...they kept it at home...you see...now you come and everything must come to the bank...for the first time you're introduced to this issue of credit...you were not taught how to use money in terms of credit...so we come from a place where did not have fridges...we had fridges that were working with gas...stove with gas...we didn't have...some of us had this engines...normal just...providing this generators...for electricity.

**Interviewer:** Generators...

**Cabinda:** But all these things that were working...electrical appliances we never had we saw it on TV...but when we come here...you see this...every one is enthusiastic...everyone is interested in getting one two three...so instead of saving...people wasted...then they got you know...they did this big hole of credit. Now when the life when they...every money that was coming, go straight to accounts. Life has changed a lot...but for one good thing I would say...and also ours eyes...in terms of looking for...for careers...you know you could see much better...what people who do what you can do...but I still remember even in Buffalo...some of us that are finished...by then Standard Ten...some of them made it...only in life. I know of a guy...who ...he did not finish with us...but he studied with us...later on he was very good at...that he...he went to study in Windhoek...later on he got...he got a bursary and studied in U.S.A...today he is Deputy a ...aaah...is it Deputy Director...in Department of...Mineral and Energy Affairs...in the country...that's where he is working. I know of another guy...who also...I think he was the first one to finish Standard Ten with us...He is an

engineer now...where's he is working I don't know...last time I heard, he was working with this "Cabora Bassa Dam " somewhere in Mozambique...

**Interviewer:** Ok...

**Cabinda:** So there where guys who made...in life...but they now...here...with family...which was now where people take life very easy ...like...finish school... and just sit around...

**Interviewer:** Did some of them join the army?...as well...

**Cabinda:** Ja a lot of them...you know ahhh...Half of my colleagues that we studied with... some of them are Officers...including my own sister, she's also an Officer. ..right now she's in Koko.

**Interviewer:** Ok...What is she doing with the ...she's a soldier?

**Cabinda:** She's a soldier...a lot young guys...a lot of them...

**Interviewer:** And do you hear from them still? Do they come back to Pomfret ?

**Cabinda:** Some of them do come back ...most of them...due to work you know...just by phone we call one another...because I finished in '94...the '94 group...I was also ..it was just...my decision ...I don't want to join the army...that why I am here...but by then ...the...the Defence Force would send people here...to recruit people...right in Pomfret ...they would come and you would give names...and you would go to Pretoria for medical test ...and then..1995...my other friends went...and I said "No...I don't want to join the army".There's mummy's and there daddy's there...some fingers...Ja but we still have some ...still have some...And we still have some...up to now...still joining. I know last year there where two of our learners...that joined...so they...they are going



there...and there a lot of people say when you know when I get to meet some of these Recruiting Officers...they say no...you Angolans are good soldiers...maybe it's in the blood...I don't know...but we still have some of them...which are in the army.

**Interviewer:** Okay...So you decided you would become a teacher?

**Cabinda:** Actually that was not a decision...there was nothing else to do...I finished '94...'95 January I was at home...February I was at home...March I was at home...Then I talk to the Principal of the Primary School, Mr. Botha...he is still the Principal. Then he said...because by then they were taking in Grade Twelve's...learners that is...so then I said ..doing nothing at home ..let me just join him...I joined him...and then... I started in service...by June I enrolled in the institution...in Pretoria...Distance Education...I managed to qualify...and here I am ..today I am now the acting Principal of the school where I finished.

**Interviewer:** Ok...so tell ..tell me something about the students at the school...Who are they? Do you ...tell me something about their families.

**Cabinda:** I would say... I know ninety percent of the learners right now...and their families...I know mum...I know dad...If I don't know mum or dad I have studied with her brother or sister of them before...I have interacted in a way with one of the family members. I was born and bred with in... this community...every one knows Brilliant...but I know every one...sometimes you never go to their homes...their houses...you know them in person most of them that are now in school here they started studying here in South Africa...but when we came '89 so they do not have experience...taste of life...in Buffalo. Even there

where things that...I wouldn't experience well because by then I was still young...there are others...guys that are much older that would know...know in Buffalo we used to do one two three in our youth...so they...only that now our school is mixed, we've got people from the surrounding areas that are also studying...most of them Seswana speaking...but ninety percent of our learners are Portuguese speaking...and it also gives us ...not like a problem...but ...a concern...because by then in the primary school we are taught by...you know there mother tongue influence in the beginning primary schools years is very important...but now it's a problem we don't have a lot of no we got about...three teachers... that also studied here that are teaching in the primary school...but then it becomes a problem... you know this group of learners come in for the first time... they introduced to a foreign language...it becomes very difficult...so the education is going not in a very fast pace...but in a slow pace...but it is getting there...now the only biggest issue here that we are having currently with the learners...is a community issue...this issue of a lot of conflict...you know they had all this aspirations, all this plans, they want to do this...the moment they hear they are going out...now it becomes a problem...even performance level goes down...

**Interviewer:** When did you first hear that you where...supposed to be moving out of Pomfret?

**Cabinda:** This rumors started...years before...but they actual reality ...like I was self saying before...we heard this before...that we are going out...but it was all in rumors you know...know they said after three years Pomfret is closing after

this Pomfret is closing...but...it was December last year...that we had a meeting with the boardroom of the municipality. That was the first time we had...a General of Morrani...said that next year Pomfret is closing...that he was coming again...this year...so...

**Interviewer:** Was this a public meeting?

**Cabinda:** The first meeting was a closed door meeting...just a few people...

**Interviewer:** Who was invited?

**Cabinda:** Ja I think members of the municipality and I then a concerned group of the community, and some community leaders...so as a teacher I was also part of it...by then...then I went to attend that meeting...that was in December...I forgot the date ...but in December...that was the first time... that we had it like was really this is going to happen. And we still took it lightly because so many rumors had been talking about the moving...but then again in January as he said...he came back again...with the same information...that's when we started asking the question what ...can this rumor be...can it be treated just as a rumor...or was it a concern now...because the same person coming...twice...in a space of a month...then again end of January...he comes again...that date I remember...I think it was the 28<sup>th</sup>...if I am not mistaken...that year again then that was now a public meeting...ja the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> ...this was now a public meeting...public meeting whereby came to inform people that...by the end of... this month...which is apparently I think ...I think twelve days from now the end of the month...there should be no one on Pomfret ...

**Interviewer:** And did he tell you how people where supposed to leave Pomfret?

**Cabinda:** No he just...according to the information it was just like...he was going to first...register of people that where staying here...going to write names...there were people that were going to receive identification cards that they belonged to Pomfret...all those who came on there own voluntary bases...maybe like people living in the surrounding areas... that are now occupying houses...should have already have left by then because they where only catering those who came from Namibia...with the Defence Force...cause they got the registration...and you know it was now a mixed feeling of people...now you are starting a year with such an information...for us we have to run a school...and this information comes...and there was no concern about what's going to happen to schools...what's going to happen to people how they going to move people...

**Interviewer:** Did people raise there concerns at the meeting of ...on the 28<sup>th</sup>...did people ask questions?

**Cabinda:** Ja people did ask questions but...the thing is the questions where not answered...with clarity...you know when some one has got his agenda like its going to happen in one two three...it becomes a one, two, three. And the biggest problem for me, I personally feel...it was the wrong department that came...because this is...although it was a Defence army base before...I wouldn't say to send people from the Defence Force...you know cause they are Military guys...and I understand how the Army works...I have been living in Army Bases

for, for ...quite a long time...you know...and I know when the Army says left, its left...when it says right, its right...

**Interviewer:** Was General Morani in uniform...when he came?

**Cabinda:** When he came let me...No, No he was not in uniform.

**Interviewer:** He wasn't in uniform.

**Cabinda:** The first meeting that he came in the boardroom...he was in uniform...but in that meeting he wasn't in uniform...but people know...he presented himself...he introduced himself as a General...so...people know he was a General...so it becomes a problem you know...you asking this question you don't get your answer...its...some people where not even given the opportunity to answer questions...so there was a lot of suspicions... where raised by people...and from then we where just waiting...when, when when...today is the 17<sup>th</sup> Of June...not even a stone has been moved...and a....

**Interviewer:** But then... so the last time General Morani was here was in ..um in January...the end of January...

**Cabinda:** That was the last time...and he promised to be here...every month ...if not every month.

**Interviewer:** And have the people been registered and given there I.D Cards to say they are part of the community?

**Cabinda:** They have been registered... let me not say registered...cause there are a group of people going around houses...it was for choices as to where do you wasn't to go?

**Interviewer:** Ok...

**Cabinda:** Ja that was...ja to choose a location...you prefer to go like...they said there where a lot of places around the country where you would choose...whether that materialized or not...I don't know...but people where moved around houses...registering people as to say where you going?...where would you like to go?...Three choices ...one, two, three...where would you like to live?...

**Interviewer:** And since then there has been no word...no word from...

**Cabinda:** No word...no word at all...no word at all...you know one of the last word that I got...I when to attend a meeting with our MEC of Education...North West...and I was concern...I said...I am concern about some thing...I just want to know the issue of relocation...because I am a Principal and I don't know what to answer to the learner...they keep on asking...I should be in a position of giving an answer a least...the MEC of Education told me that...yes people are moving...when...doesn't know...and doesn't want to be quoted...so there is something going on...but... the actual people that are effected...don't know what is going on...arguing...that information that are staying outside...some times you go to...you know...you ...you...interacted with friends...or you phone friends that are teachers in other schools ...they ask you, are you still in Pomfret?...cause in the radio we heard one, two, three and heard one, two, three...so we are not in the informed...we don't know what is really happening...on ground level...that's the unfortunate thing...but...maybe we should have heard it for m the local municipality...which most of all is nothing...

**Interviewer:** So the municipality hasn't been involved... you haven't had any...social work with your group for example...I mean there are seventy eight children in the crèche right now...some of them are orphans...has ...is any one come to check on the welfare of these children?

**Cabinda:** We have got social workers here based permanently...

**Interviewer:** Ok...

**Cabinda:** Because we have a social department...Department of Social...what ever you know...we've got a department with people working there...but I have got just one, one...one small concern...you know at times...I am not saying it is this...its my own personal point of view...at times I feel like...there a lot of issues...to do with the people of Pomfret...because there are so many communities you know...you keep on watching on T.V that this community has got a problem...and all of a sudden the media is there...the Local Government is there...the Provincial Government is there...all of a sudden the problem is solved...but this is not a big problem ..you know...moving people is not easy...maar (Afrikaans) especially if it is not...on there own way...because in South Africa I would call Pomfret my home...my home...unfortunately I say because ...it's a place where... the first place a came to the country and I thought...people are going to settle here...that was giving a problem to some others...not to say people refused to stay or...or people want to go...I just say on my personal point of view I see this as my home...you know to move people from there home...to another one...you know it takes a lot of adjustment levels...and our people some do not know how to speak English, Afrikaans...

**Interviewer:** Ja there are a lot of elderly people in Pomfret as well...that trans...

**Cabinda:** A lot...

**Interviewer:** What do you think will happen to them?

**Cabinda:** You know this is the same question that we tend to ask where by who is leading this process...what will happen to people like this...you know you get a sixty year old or fifty year old...what kind of life is he going to find outside...you know for the young ones ...you know its understandable ...for me I can move...I still have got the energy to go on the extra mile...but here are some of those guys who really they cant move any longer...they can't really move...

**Interviewer:** And do you think General Morani was aware of the situation of these people...some of them are living of very small pensions...and as you said don't speak English?

**Cabinda:** On my own point of view and observation in according in what I see...I don't think...when they plan this relocation they sat around all the problems...and I think this delay...is because now they found that there are a lot of problems...that should have ...that they over looked before saying this...you know the issue of, of, of, of the elderly...the issue of taking learners...how do they take a learner in June to another school...you making him fail...the department ...Government does not wasn't that...and you are taking a child from here...and you putting in place where the schools are full...how do you accommodate him or her? You look in the case of this social grants...some of them are very small pension...but on the other side...I don't how it works but...but if you get your pension in the North West Department it is got a



budget...for social grants...now you choose for example Gauteng...how do you register again to get a social grant over there in Gauteng...you know...a lot of people are dependent of this seven hundred and something that they get monthly...all of a sudden they are moved to another place...they have to waste for three months without any thing on the table...until they are approving...that is if they approve...you know...so ....all these issues for me...I would say they overlooked...that they didn't even...when they where making these plans they did not talk to people on ground level...at least people resigning in Pomfret should have been involved in this process...so that it would become easier...and to tell people in January that by June you are leaving...it is...it is not enough of time...you know for me...if this is to happen like that...for me there will be no difference with the forced removals of the 1960s...no no ...it would be exactly the same... For those who don't know a bit of history...they moving us by force...but he department...the Government condemns forced removal...the department condemns corruption...the department condemns so many things...but if and then at the end of the day the Government would do this...then I don't know what...whether the constitution is protecting people that are staying or not staying here...

**Interviewer:** Do the people of Pomfret support the Government do you think?

**Cabinda:** No they do support the Government...mind there are elections...people I realize this now...and to say the majority of those...I'd say 90 something percent...of votes ..is ANC votes...with in Pomfret...not other parties...

**Interviewer:** Do you have election campaigns here?

**Cabinda:** Last time ... Yes we did have election campaigns...from our local politicians...but the biggest party here is the ANC...I remember last time...DA also came in...and there was this other...from this, this, this...preacher guy he's forgot the name of the party...but he was also around here...but majority supports...I don't know maybe they would change there views now that things are going on like this...but I think the people support the Government...they do support the Government...because what ever the Government...and I know the Government for example...file it says we should not be doing crime...and this communities is, is, people with in the community are not criminals...they don't do crime...no its like...most of the people now, now a days...is petty crimes...like...house theft...you'd find out that they are not from around here...those that come from out side...come and reside and then start doing all these things...so the question is...how are they treating...I know...we are by rights citizens of the country ...but by then...it is also say that we are also foreigners...in reality that I know...because you can see from remarks of people that are around...people within our Local Governments structures...you know....that all this...so at the end of the day you treat yourself...yes I do belong but...with a question mark...whether I am really accepted or...am I not accepted...

**Interviewer:** Have you followed the media coverage of Pomfret?

**Cabinda:** Some times I do follow...some times I do follow... I think most of the programs that ..about media yes...I do cover it...only that some...more especially

terms of when we go to newspapers you know...they would...you know you would read things that...you say this is not happening... I stay with in here...why is it they say one, two, three, four...is happening...so that...that becomes a problem...you know the media has always got a way of twisting things...here and there...but in reality there are a lot of things that...I said...that for me...maybe other people see it...but I don't see it...as, as being true.

**Interviewer:** Or maybe Pomfret is being presented in a particular way, in order to justify what's happening.

**Cabinda:** Ja... for me that's the biggest problem...you know if you come here and you give it a bad label...everyone will support the idea of saying, ja if this is the case...then it shouldn't have been there already...in the first place...so now it becomes now a problem...and I mean you have been here for some time, you look around...I mean, to understand people you have to be with people...this thing for staying from far...and ...delegating and go do one, two , three, go do one, two, three...becomes a problem...and this Government for me...shows...a Government with example...I still remember you know...where the ex President...Mr. Nelson Mandela... he was the people's choice you know...what ever he did...he always looked at the people...not upon himself...if he was look upon himself...I think he would have gone out of jail along time ago...and they wanted to ask him to leave...and stay in Lesotho for exile there...but he chose to stay...and he gave benefits...but the way I see it...its...just label...Pomfret is this...Pomfret this...Pomfret is doing this...Pomfret is doing that...but we are here and see nothing of that...so media is twisting at times...not saying always

but at times...some times there are people who give good reports...but there are those who come here with their intention...and now that then becomes now a problem...and if something is written...to erase it becomes difficult...because the person that reads it...the first time the newspaper comes...when correction comes...he might not have money to buy that newspaper...so in his mind it stays Pomfret is that...is the problem.

**Interviewer:** Have you considered what you might do if Pomfret is closed down?

**Cabinda:** So many considerations...you know aahh...on the currently I am employed under the Department of Education...and if Pomfret is closed down with talks we had with our superiors in the department...is that...we are also going to be relocated in...to go and some schools...to teach in some schools...which might not be a problem...because one is a professional...but the only question is where do we go to? If this was home...so...one might be maybe making at least maybe two, three months more months before you settle down...because you can't just settle in the first move...you don't know whether the next stop is the correct one...because you know it's not like...you're your place where you know...this is there...this is there...you still have to acclimatize your self with the place and situation only then can you settle down...so we will be moving ...still be moving....

**Interviewer:** would you say for your generation that this is the only home that you know?

**Cabinda:** Differently yes...that I would answer with conscious yes...because you see...we stayed in Buffalo for some time...then you move here...and that's where you settled for most of us that where ... we started and given families...and we studied and finished...and this is where we know...you know even if you go out...to work there...there are so many of us who went out to work...but they still call Pomfret home...I mean if you go right now in Pretoria there's couple ...a lot of youngsters of my generation that are working there...if you park a bus there ...and you say right...week end to Pomfret...a lot of them will give excuses to there bosses to say there's a problem I am going home...cause this is where they call home. Every time you phone they will just ask...how is it going there? Some of them there families have moved to other places...but they still call home here...because even people that die out there...they come and bury them here...even if you are working some where they will just say in a way...they find a way ...most of them...who maybe they don't have...a steady house...just come and do every thing here...some times families will move from out...that maybe the wife is there...but the majority of the family is here...provided they have money...and they coming there...so this would be home for us...and if they take away your home...fortunately the only thing is that we don't have the power, we don't have the mandate to say don't take away our home...maybe they look at it in a better way...maybe they find away...maybe that this is there place..

**Interviewer:** Maybe that they can see you as a community?

**Cabinda:** Ja as they can see us as a community...now that's right...but now I don't know how they see us...because when they say...they've got um...got good reason to say Pomfret should be relocated...when they talk about us be stories... and I understand its, it's a threat...but on the other hand...there's place worse than... Pomfret...

**Interviewer:** Worst problems...

**Cabinda:** Ja worst ...than we have here...this at least it here...is covered ...you can see around its covered...but there are some places that be ..its open...and people are still staying there...so it raises question ...Why not there? Why it touching here...some would want to say its home for them there ...but...even if its after 1989...but it can still be considered a home. I would ask my self...I am not a scientist but what is the radius of there fact...that asbestos has...if the radius says its correct... then its not only Pomfret that should go...so many communities with in here should also go...do they have the will and power to take them? They will claim that this is our ancestral land...we don't move...but for us...that's why I always say...we are citizens but we are still considered as foreigners...because they will not take this thing as...this is your home...it becomes difficult...this with other issues...

**END OF INTERVIEW**

**Collection Number: A3079**

**Collection Name: "Missing Voices" Oral History Project, 2004-2012**

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:* Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand

*Location:* Johannesburg

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