

Commuting to Town for Work

English translation:

A: How are you?

B: I am fine, and you?

A: I am fine. What is your name?

B: My name is Clemence Nhundu. Nhundu is the last name and Clemence is the first name.

A: Okay. Where did you grow up?

B: I was born in Masvingo, in the rural areas of Masvingo. The name Masvingo used to be Fort Victoria but it was changed to Masvingo in the year 1980, when we had independence in Zimbabwe.

A: Where is Masvingo located in Zimbabwe?

B: When we look at the country of Zimbabwe, Masvingo is in the southern part of our country, when we are now heading towards South Africa.

A: Okay. Can you tell me about how you grew up in Masvingo?

B: I grew up in the rural areas of *Nemarundwe*. We grew up as a large family with our grandfather who was called Nhundu, who had three sons and one girl. All of these children worked in the cities but as for us and our mothers, we used to stay in the rural areas in Masvingo. My father was the second born and he used to work in the city of Gweru which is situated in the middle of the country. My older uncle used to work in Victoria, in the town. So we grew up staying in the rural areas and at times we would go to the city where my father worked, to see him.

A: This issue of having people who stayed in the town whilst the other people were staying in the rural areas, was it a common practice?

B: That is what used to happen in most families because most families used to have the father working in the city. He had a home in the rural areas where the wife would stay ploughing the fields. Other children would learn in the city but most of the children would learn in the rural areas, especially primary education, which is the first seven years of education.

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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