

## ISIMANJE EMAGAMENI EZINYONI

by Adrian Koopman

KUSUKELA ngonyaka wezi-2013 kuya kowezi-2017, kwakubanjwa imihlangano ethile lapho kwakudingidwa khona amagama ezinyoni. Izinhloso zale mihlangano zazimbili: okokuqala, ukuhlola nokuqinisekisa amagama ezinyoni asebhaliwe ezincwadini iminyakanyaka; okwesibili, ukuqamba amagama amasha ezinhlobo zezinyoni lezo ezingakabi nawo amagama ezincwadini ngaphambili.

Ekuhloleni amagama amadala kwaqinisekiswa ukuthi amagama amaningi ezinyoni ezijwayelekile ayaziwa, afana nalawa; 'iphothwe', 'intengu', 'igwala-gwala', 'inswempe', 'isikhombazane', 'indlazi'.

Ukuqamba amagama amasha kwadinga ubuhlakani. Nazi izibonelo ezintathu:

- Inyoni eyaziwa ngegama lesi-Ngisi elithi '*Cape Gannet*' yinyoni ehloka olwandle njengomcibisholo. Yathola igama elithi, 'isicibamanzi'.
- Inyoni i-*Indian Myna*, yasuka e-India yalethwa eThekwini ngeminyaka yezi-1890. Namhlanje itholakala ezindaweni eziningi eNingizimu Afrika. Le nyoni yathola igama elithi, 'usothathizwe'.
- Inyoni i-*Rose-ringed Parakeet* nayo futhi iphuma phesheya kwezilwandle; manje isiyande ngaseThekwini naseGoli. Le nyoni inezimpaphe ezimbalambala ezisamgexo entanyeni. Yathola igama elithi, 'unocu'; kususelwa kucu intombi elunikeza insizwa eyishelayo, itshengisa ukuthi iyayivuma.

Phakathi kwalawa magama amasha, kukhona amabili engiwathanda kakhulu ngoba asebenzisa isiZulu samanje, hhayi isiZulu esijulile esitholakala ezincwadini ezifana nezichazamazwi. Elinye lalawa magama amasha yileli elinikezwa i-*Yellow-billed Hornbill*, enegama elidala elithi 'umkholwane'. Abantu abaningi KwaZulu-Natali, abasha nabadala, bayibiza le nyoni ngegama elithi, 'uzazu', ngenxa yomkholwane owumlingiswa efilimini kaDisney ethi *The Lion King*. Imifanekiso engezansi ikhombisa inyoni uqobo lwayo, nomlingiswa osefilimini:

Elinye igama engilithandayo ngelithi, 'uswenka'. Mangichaze: zinhlanu izinhlobo zezinyoni ezibizwa ngegama elithi, 'Bee-Eater' ngesiNgisi. Zozinhlanu zibizwa ngokuthi, 'inkotha' ngesiZulu. Izinkotha zonke yizinyoni ezimibalabala, ikakhulukazi uhlobo olwaziwa ngegama elithi, 'White-fronted Bee-eater'. Iyona eyathola igama elithi, 'uswenka'. Leli gama libolekwe egameni lesiNgisi elithi, 'swanky', ngenxa yendlela inyoni 'eggoka' ngayo.

Umfanekiso osesandleni sokudla ukhombisa 'ubuswenka' bale nyoni. Iphrojekthi yokuqamba amagama esiZulu ezinyoni yazama ukuqaphela amagama okuyiwona wona asetshenziswa ngamaZulu ahlala KwaZulu-Natali, kungakho nje sithola amagama awulimi lwesimanje emagameni ezinyoni ehambisana nalawo magama ayisiZulu esijulile.

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From 2013 to 2017 a series of workshops was held on the Zulu names of birds. The aim of the workshops was twofold: to check and confirm the names of birds that have been recorded in print for many years; and to create new names for bird species that have never had a name in print before. Checking the older names simply meant confirming well-known names like *iphothwe*, *intengu*, *igwalagwala*, *inswempe*, *sikhombazane*, *indlazi* and many others.

Creating new names required some clever thought. The Cape Gannet, which plunges into the sea like an arrow to catch fish, was given the name *isicibamanzi*. The Indian Myna, which was brought to Durban from India in the 1890s and has since spread to many parts of South Africa, was given the name *usothathizwe*. The Rose-ringed Parakeet, now spreading in the Durban and Johannesburg areas, which has a colourful ring of feathers around the neck, was given the name *unocu*, from the ucu bead necklace a young girl gives to a young man to recognise him in courtship.

Two names caught my attention because they use the popular language of today and not the ‘deep Zulu’ of dictionaries and other books. One is the name given to the Yellow-billed Hornbill, with the old name *umkholwane*. Many people both young and old in KwaZulu-Natal today refer to this bird as *uzazu*, taken from the name of the hornbill character with this name in Disney’s film *The Lion King*. The pictures opposite show the bird as it really is, and as it is in the film.

The other name that I found interesting was the name *uswenka* for the White-fronted Bee-eater. There are five different types of bee-eaters in



umkholwane, *uqobo lwawo* /  
*The Yellow-billed Hornbill* umkholwane



*uZazu efilimini i-The Lion King* /  
*uZazu in The Lion King*



*Inkotha noma uswenka*

KwaZulu-Natal and in the past they have all shared the name *inkotha*. All five bee-eaters are very colourful birds, and the one that is best known is the one called *uswenka*. This word is borrowed from the English word ‘swanky’ and it means the bird is really ‘cool’ and ‘with-it’ in the way it dresses (see the photo opposite).

The Zulu bird-naming project has tried to recognise the bird names that are actually used by Zulu speakers in KwaZulu-Natal, and that is how modern language (*isimanje*) is used in the names of birds together with those names that come from ‘deep’ Zulu.