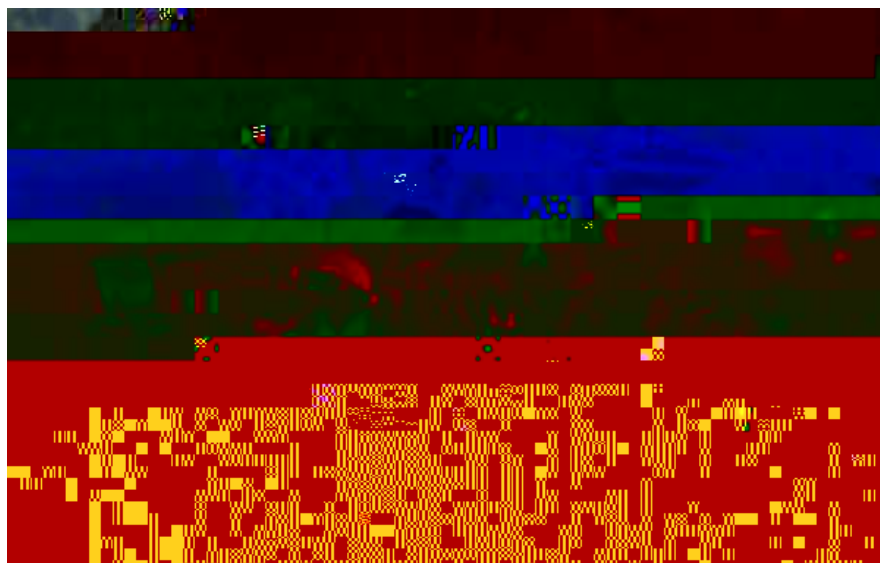


# **How Shall We Overcome?**

**(DR Congo)**

**By**

**Msaada J Nankunba**



## Reflection

by Msaada Nankunba

I'm glad and grateful to have completed this Bilingual Seal Project. The whole process took about three months, starting in early February and ending in May. The Bilingual Seal Project was about writing an essay or creating a project in two languages to depict one's ability to communicate in those particular languages. I opted to write a play in Swahili and English about the violence, corruption, political instability and totalitarian leadership in developing countries in Africa and most specifically in Congo.

It's been long in my heart to write about the situation in DRC because it is my country of origin and I can't forget the trial and persecution that my family went through until we were forced to leave and become refugees in Kenya. There were also some forms of political instability and corruption there too. After we left until even today I have continually heard about the violence and how Congolese are still suffering under bad leadership and the FDLR rebel group from Rwanda. I wrote this play to challenge the violence, bad leadership, and to suggest possible solutions.

My sources of information were relevant videos on YouTube, news programs about DRC, documentaries, and books about the Congo. I also listened to Congolese political music and watched popular movies like Hotel Rwanda about the massacre the FDLR group committed before fleeing to the Congo. I worked hard in hand with my parents and other elders from Congo who have much firsthand experience and knowledge about the country's situation.

The whole process was quite challenging because this was the first time to introduce the Seal of Bilingualism in New York. It seemed difficult to go through some steps because neither the students nor the teachers had done it before. We also didn't have a lot of time to plan, research, and write in both languages which required a lot of time.

I suggest that next time for seniors who are interested, notification of the Bilingual Seal should be given in June at the end of their junior year. This way students could start doing their research and planning in the summer. I realized

that this should not only be to test our literacy ability but also a way of developing and showing our talents and creativity. This would also increase participation in the process

I also suggest that it would be incredible if they change the name and make it the Seal of Multiliteracy because that would give a student, like me, who can communicate in multiple languages the advantage of those other languages

The process was fair because it occurred when there is no examination and gave choice of different things to do as a project or essay. It also was open-ended. It was well organized because we made it through despite it was the first time this was offered. This project has been keeping me busy and working all the time. Perhaps, I realized that with such kind of activities, the number of youth indulging in drug abuse and other forms of crime may be reduced as they would be busy writing their projects all the time. It was good exercise and preparation to work and research this extensively. Lastly, this project has also personally given me the opportunity to research and learn more about my country of origin.

## Characters in the Play

Daktari

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Abdullah at the Masisi Hospital. A patriot and advocate for civil rights. Thembisa

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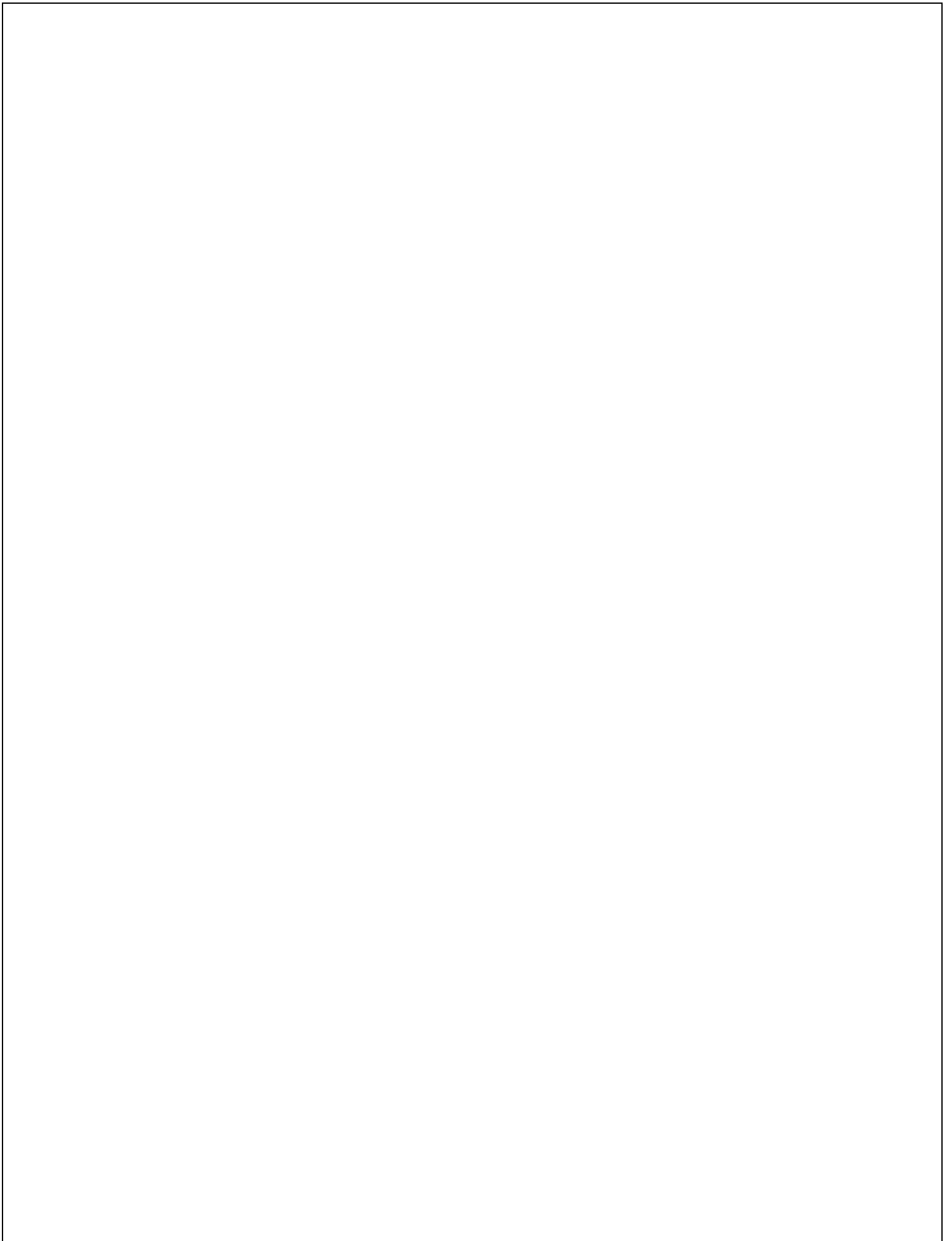
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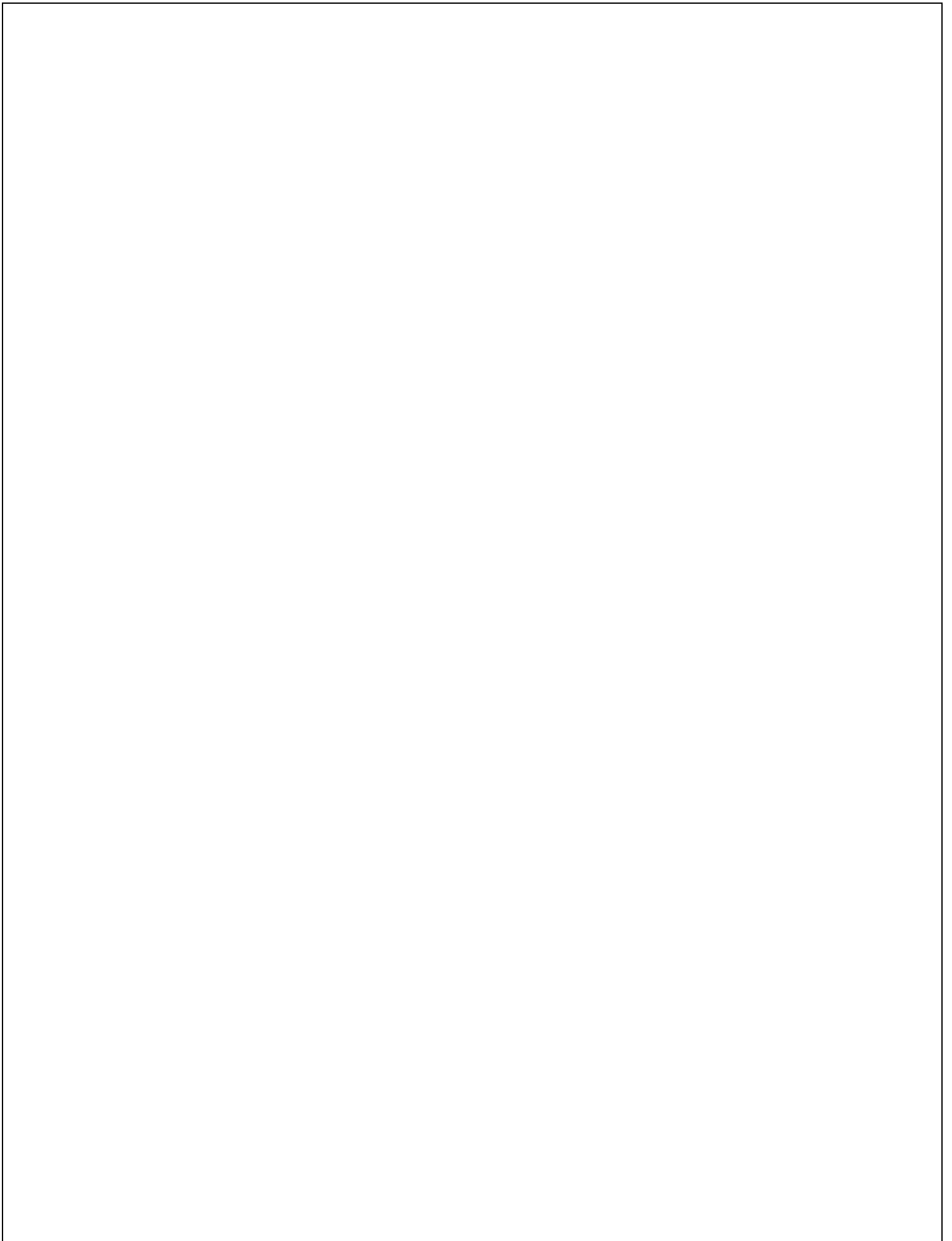
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**BbaAnina(Heisparting)**

**Mugzi**

**BbaAnina**

**Dktai**

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**Dktai**

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**Dktai**

**Mugzi**

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**BbaAnina**

**Dktai**









**Beating news, the Commander of Democratic Republic of Congo's  
army, General Dde Bunba, has officially declared the starting of  
the battle against the rebel group in Eastern Congo, the Hutu (FDR**

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Congolese people have decided, especially those who are adversely affected in the eastern part of the country. The two towns impacted most are Goma and Masisi where about twenty women are violated everyday. Alright dear listeners, this is the end of today's evening BBC News session. Remember it was brought to you by your journalist, Ben Bella. See you next time."

(Someone knocks on the door; Daktai rose from his couch to open the door where he found his longtime friend Mwalimu)

**Daktai** (smiling happily) ohoohi You are highly welcome to my house dear friend

**Mwalimu** Thanks friend. It has been a really long time since we have seen each other from our days at school.

**Daktai** That is true and the reason why I'm so glad to see you. How are you and your family?

**Mwalimu** We are fine only because we are still having the breath of life. You know how life is here in Masisi. What about you?

**Daktai** Well, I'm also fine as you said because of possessing the breath of life. For sure evidence here has gone beyond the limit. I have just been watching the BBC News about this crisis we have today.

**Mwalimu** (Looking at him) I'm happy you also watched the news session. Before I could come here, I was in the restaurant watching it too. It is disgusting. © 2013 by BBC. All rights reserved. This content may not be copied, distributed, or otherwise used without the prior written permission of BBC.

**Daktai**

**HIV/AIDS virus With this kind of poor health facilities, in the few coming years we are certainly going to lose many people**

**Mwalimu** I appreciate your efforts, we will try then to present our problems to our leaders. We can call upon them next week

**Daktari** Good idea, but they can't come to us. We should go to them. Although I am much occupied with my hospital duties, I will create time because it is so important.

**Mwalimu** Thanks, all the best brother. Good Bye

**Daktari** See you!

See

**Daktari** Since then the hospital sanitation has been deteriorating. It has been a big burden to take care of patients as well as looking for water. With no medication and water, I can't predict how many people will be lost because of that.

**Mwalimu** (listened keenly but much troubled)

**Daktari** I guess nurses decided to leave because of the many deaths they have been witnessing. They have the skills and knowledge to cure people but no medicine or equipment. Other factors that resulted to that tough decision is that the hospital has run out of food. On top of this the electricity has been disconnected because the bill was not paid. The whole hospital is at stake. It is smelling bad even in my own office. The smell is unbearable. I can't imagine what I should do with this kind of situation.

**Mwalimu** I can't bear to see all that burden left on your shoulders alone. Let me come there at once. I can't let you down. I'm ready to abandon my teaching profession at this moment to help our people at the hospital because as teachers we are not even able to teach due to the fact schools don't have supplies. Many kids also aren't showing up at school because of hunger and problems in their families.

**Daktari** Thank you very much for volunteering to help me. I'm encouraged. Come and we will know how to deal with this problem.

**Mwalimu** I have conceived an idea. Let me call my three boys and give them loudspeakers to announce

**Daktari**

**Mwalimu** Great! I should take care of that right now. Hopefully people will be coming there in a while.

**Daktari** I had informed some of my friends overseas about all these problems we are going through. I just got an email informing that we will receive donated medication that should carry us for some months. God bless these dear friends for their kindness.

**Mwalimu** Wow! God bless them. That should give us strength to go on despite of all the evils surrounding us. As humanity, our destination is the same. That is why those dear friends are offering help. I hope more good things are still coming.

**Daktari** Moreover, we have received a donation of a truck of corn and beans. We will be having food again as of tomorrow. Even though we still need to do a lot, these aids should help us along the way. Keep me posted about the campaign.

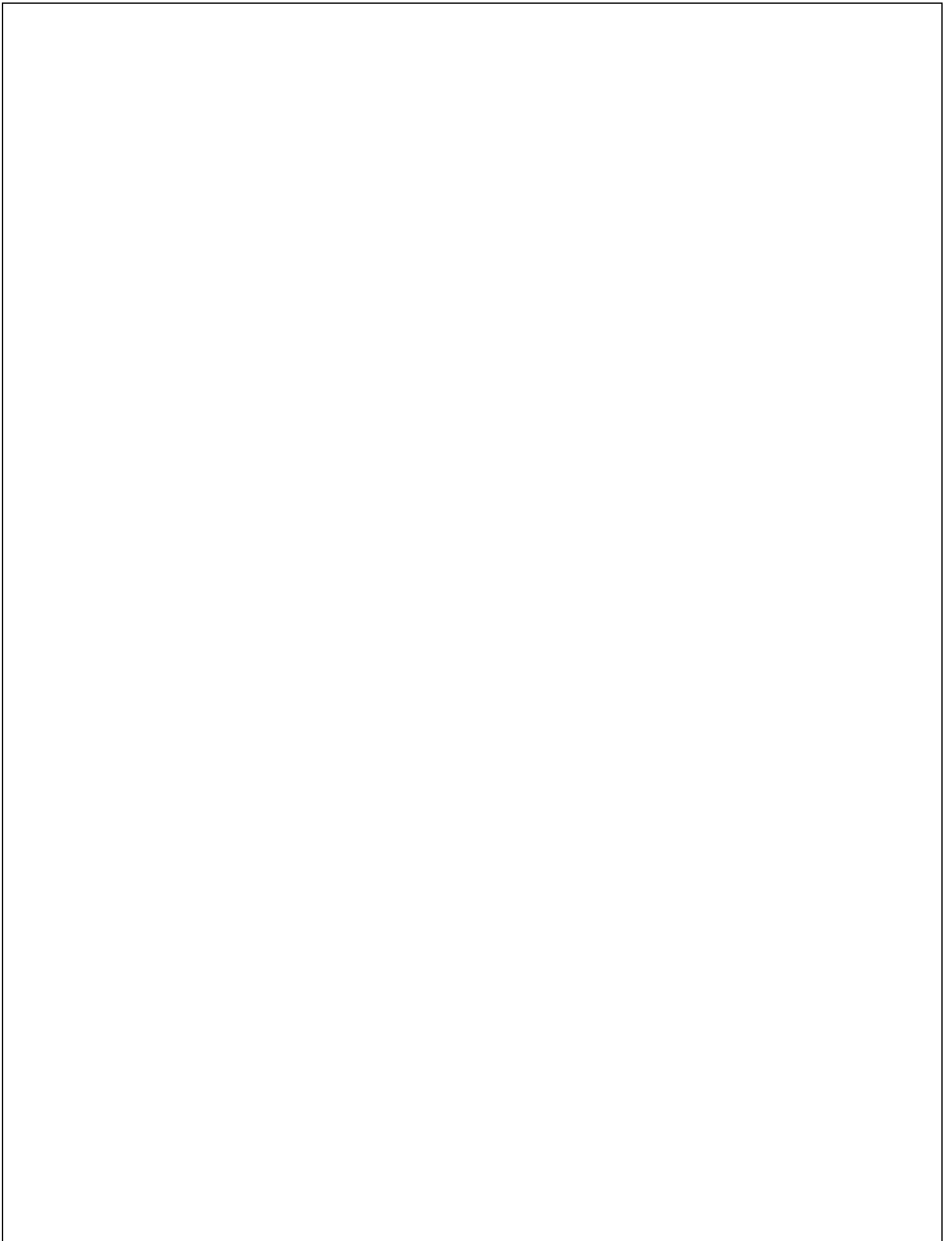
**Mwalimu** Well, we'll talk soon. (He leaves the phone and vent to talk to his children about the campaign. They sit to announce around the town.)

**Mwalimu's Announcement:**

**'Held! Held! To all patriots and residents of Masisi. To men, women, ladies and gentlemen who are listening. In Mwalimu's association with Daktari and all other stakeholders. As you know we have had a lot happen in our country. We don't have an remedy to all these problems. It is like we have gone from the frying pan into the fire. All hospital workers have resigned because of exploiting them in tens of their salaries. Think of how difficult it is for us as a community. If the hospital is closed, then we will be hem**

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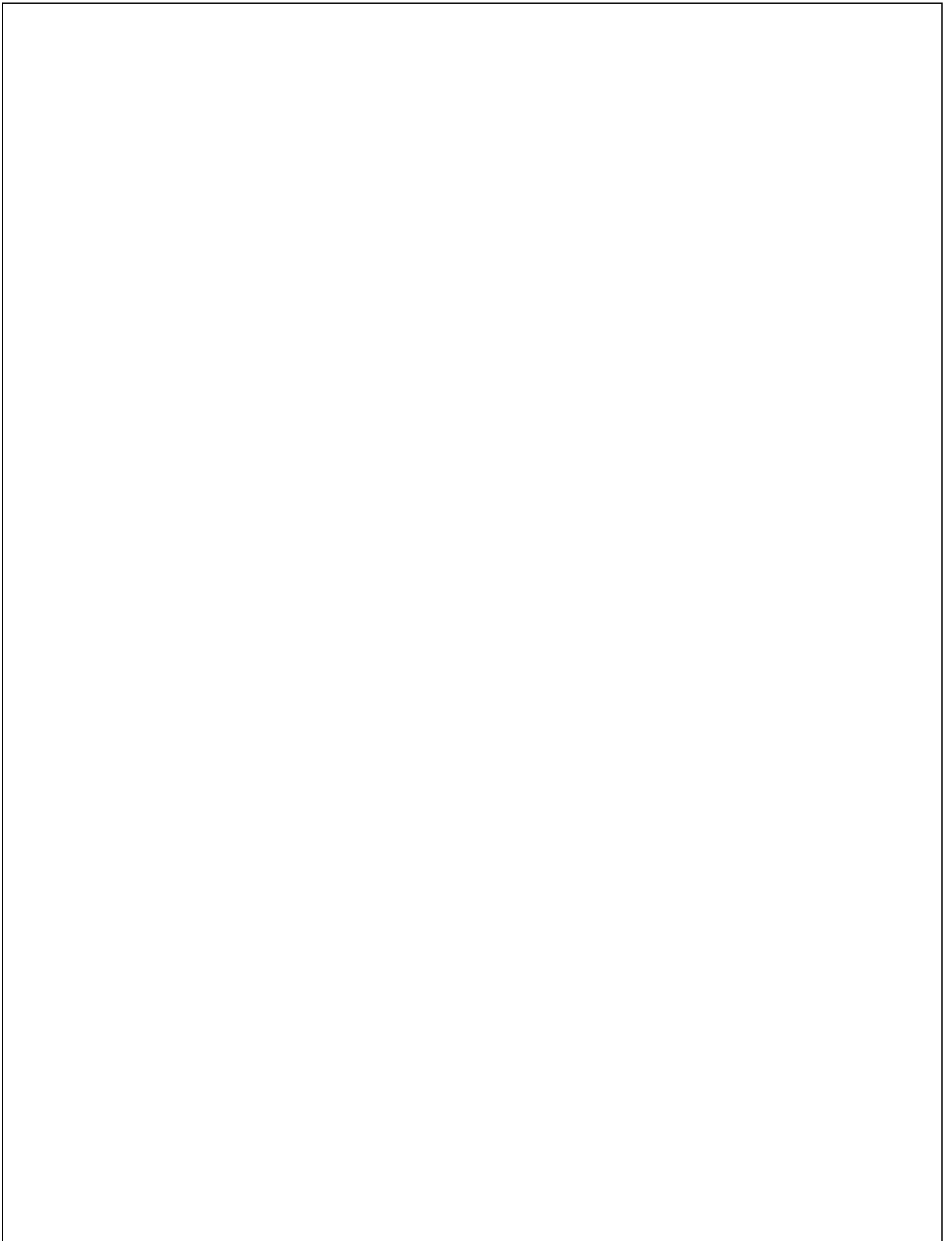


be thankful, that is the mistake of people. Always complaining and  
failing to i c r ic s

r ic p t<sup>ng</sup> c ngmcs

**Menj** **Wchachadal** Z t !o Z pÀf

**Dktai**



**SCENE SIX**

**(Daktai, Mwalimu, Muna Shauri, and Sauti Mwanari meet to talk and encourage each other.)**

**Daktai:** Hwawe you our mother and sisters? Â

**Mama Shauri:** Obviously it's bad. We feel oppressed, despised and abused. It is shameful, for your information, many women are raped and fail to disclose. Some fear that their marriage may be ruined. What we do as a union is to motivate and encourage each other despite what we are going through. Today our country Congo is the most dangerous place in the world to be a woman.

**Daktai:** Here in how do you get all women together?

**Mama Shauri:** Our union is very solid and so far not only centered here. The same idea has spread in different parts of Congo. I'm sure that when the whole country will attain that unity, a change will be inevitable. We have representatives of the women's union in the forests. If there is anything wrong they will inform us and we intervene. Not long ago our sister, Masumbuko, was raped by four soldiers while she was six months pregnant. The condition was very serious and she would have died if not for the help of the representatives and women counselors in the forest. Those counselors brought her to

