



This storybook is about South African doctor called Bongani Mawethu Mayosi.

He was a Scientist who made an important discovery about heart disease.



Bongani was born in 1967, in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape, South Africa.

He went to school in the village of Ngqamakhwe.

Bongani's mother was a nurse, and his father was a doctor.



At home at the end of each day, Bongani's parents talked about their work.

He became interested in health problems, and in helping people.

From hearing about his parents' work, Bongani became interested in the Health Sciences.



At school, Bongani liked Mathematics and Life Sciences.

He worked hard in those subjects because he wanted to be a doctor.

After high school, he studied at universities in KwaZulu-Natal and Cape Town. He was an excellent student.



Bongani won a scholarship to study further, at Oxford University in England.

He also studied in America. Then he returned to South Africa to work as a doctor.

He was a good and gentle doctor, who loved his patients.



It wasn't long before Bongani travelled overseas again.

He wanted to learn more about cardiology.

Cardiology is the study of the heart, and diseases that affect the heart.

Bongani was a cardiologist – a doctor of the heart.



Dr Mayosi worked with other researchers overseas, and they discovered something very significant.

These researchers discovered why some people suffer from heart disease.

This discovery was important for doctors around the world.



Bongani returned to South Africa with specialist medical knowledge.

He worked with the country's Minister of Health and gave advice about the country's health problems.

His dream was to see African countries solving their health problems by using Science.



Bongani believed in himself as an African Scientist. His research discovery was important across the globe.

South Africa celebrated his work and achievements.

He was honoured with the country's highest award for Science, called the Order of Mapungubwe.



Bongani was a Professor of Cardiology at the University of Cape Town (UCT).

Through his teaching, he shared his knowledge with his students.

He understood the difficulties of many students. He encouraged young doctors and others studying Health Sciences.



Professor Mayosi was promoted to the Head of Health Sciences at UCT.

He was always busy with work. He was a teacher, researcher, and a leader.

Bongani Mayosi is remembered as a role model by many people.



From a village school, he became a leader in Health Science at a top South African university.

He became an international expert in Health Sciences.

Bongani achieved so much in his life, but he was humble.



When we learn about Science, we can think of Dr Mayosi.
We can celebrate his achievements, and the achievements
of many other African Scientists.
And we can celebrate the value of African knowledge.



—Questions

1. Who is telling this story? Who is the story about?
2. When did Bongani become interested in health and Science, and why?
3. What is 'cardiology'? What is a 'cardiologist'?
4. What are 'Health Sciences'? Find out more about work in the Health Sciences.
5. As a Health Scientist and Cardiologist, how did Bongani help society?
6. Find out about three other African Scientists.
7. What kinds of social problems do you talk about at home?
8. Explain how your education might help you to solve some of these social problems.



—Books in this series

- Andile Mji
- Asnath Mahapa
- Bongani Mayosi
- Charlotte Maxeke
- Mmantsane Moche Diale
- Mulalo Doyoyo
- Tebello Nyokong
- Tshilidzi Marwala



This story was created and written in isiXhosa, as part of the Zenex Ulwazi Lwethu reading materials project in 2020.