

FOCUS 2 : A musician's response

DOCUMENT 1 : Meet Sampa the Great – Part 1 (1993-...)

Task 1: Click on the video and listen to Sampa's introduction to her song:

<https://youtu.be/23zqf3tgPn0>



What is the topic of Sampa's song (one or two sentences to answer)?

Task 2: Read the article (doc 1) and answer the questions with complete sentences.

What can you say about...?
Sampa's occupation?

Sampa's origins and the different places
where she has lived?

Sampa's current situation? (where she
lives and what she does)

Sampa's feelings throughout this article?

Sampa's challenges when coming back to
her hometown?

Doc. 1

Meet Sampa the Great – part 1

Kate Hennessy, *The Guardian*, Mon 9 September 2019

Raised in Zambia, the rapper moved to the US and made her name in Australia. Returning to her roots – and carrying the weight of representation – terrified her.

1 Sampa the Great was terrified before she stepped on stage to play her first ever show in Africa earlier this year. The show was in the Zambian capital of Lusaka – and the artist, MC and poet's cousins were in the front row.

"I'm based in Australia and all the monumental moments in my career have happened there," says Sampa (born Sampa Tembo). "But I'm from Zambia. My fear was that they wouldn't get it – and their opinion matters most." She sums up her concerns: "A person coming out of Africa and playing globally while still being themselves and pushing for their own culture – to go home and not be understood."

10 Fortunately, the shows went well. "They sang back to me – it was amazing." But Sampa's anxieties weren't unfounded. Raised between Zambia and Botswana, she left for California at 19. A few years later, in 2013, she moved to Sydney to study music production. [...]

All the while, she was craving home – Zambia. "It was affecting my joy," she says. "Then I went home and they were like, 'You're different.' People can hear the change, the displacement, in the way I speak Bemba ¹. It shook my core. I became the diaspora², which was a perspective I had sympathised with but didn't think I'd have myself. I didn't expect to be the displaced one." [...]

20 It's been a complex ascent for Sampa. "People were labelling me Australian hip-hop without finishing the sentence – 'from Zambia, based in Australia'. I felt a sense of being lost in that narrative because it wasn't fully describing who I am." Her career was growing so fast "on a different continent" that people from home were believing this narrative.

25 She was thrust³ into a role she says she wasn't ready for. "You walk into an industry that doesn't look like you and you become an ambassador because there's not a lot of representation. I was afraid I'd do something that would reflect wrongly on a whole group of people." To cope⁴, she [...]

- 1. Bemba : a language spoken primarily in north-eastern Zambia.
- 2. diaspora: a group of people who live outside their country of origin.
- 3. thrust: forcefully pushed.
- 4. cope: manage, survive