

Chechule Wavhala Bottom

A Frog Wearing Bell-bottoms

Ndapita ku madzi

I went to the water

Ndaona chechule anavhala bottom

I saw a frog wearing a bottom

Ndapita ku madzi

I went to the water

Ndaona chechule anavhala bottom

I saw a frog wearing a bottom

Ndayenda ku madzi

I walked to the water

Ndaona chechule anavhala bottom

I saw a frog wearing a bottom

Ndayenda ku madzi

I walked to the water

Ndaona chechule anavhala bottom

I saw a frog wearing a bottom

Chechule anavhala bottom

A frog wearing a bottom

Chechule anavhala bottom

A frog wearing a bottom

Chechule anavhala bottom

A frog wearing a bottom

Chechule anavhala bottom

A frog wearing a bottom

Chechule anavhala bottom

A frog wearing a bottom

Ndayenda yenda ine

I walked, I walked

Ndaona chechule anavhala bottom

I saw a frog wearing a bottom

Ndapita pita ine

I went, I went

Ndaona chechule anavhala bottom

I saw a frog wearing a bottom

Ndayenda yenda ine

I walked, I walked

Ndaona chechule anavhala bottom

I saw a frog wearing a bottom

Ndapita pita ine

I went, I went

Ndaona chechule anavhala bottom

I saw a frog wearing a bottom

Chechule anavhala bottom

A frog wearing a bottom

Chechule anavhala bottom

A frog wearing a bottom

Ndayenda yenda ine

I walked, I walked

Ndaona chechule anavhala bottom

I saw a frog wearing a bottom

Ndapita pita ine

I went, I went

Ndaona chechule anavhala bottom

I saw a frog wearing a bottom

Ndayenda yenda ine

I walked, I walked

Ndaona chechule anavhala bottom...

I saw a frog wearing a bottom...

This is a feel-good song – comic relief, as it were – to break from the more serious stuff the band sings about in the albums. The “bottom” being referred to here is a pair of trousers known as “[bell-bottoms](#)” in the West, and often referred to in Zimbabwe as a “revo” (short for revolution) back in the day: snug at the top and flared at the bottom. According to Mr. Manatsa, seen from a certain angle, a frog can look as if it’s wearing such trousers.

The cultural context to the spoken message is that Mr. Manatsa is giving his audience advice about playing the guitar: don't just thump, but work the wires gently, as if you were roasting maize. He was here putting a spin on a common Shona saying, “Kukanga waya” which means “roasting wire” (for the purpose of eating it). It refers to someone who's going through an extremely lean period – so lean that they're jokingly considering cooking & eating wires – as well as a statement on how, in such financial straits, sometimes just getting the basics can seem an exercise in futility, like roasting wire would be. Notably, his “kukanga waya” here (that is, his guitar playing) is a thing to be enjoyed, not endured.

Language(s): Nyanja / Chewa

Songwriters: Zexie Manatsa & The Green Arrows

Original Album: Waka Waka Selection

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