

***Amabhantiti*** – children's song from Kwa-Thema Township near the town of Springs in Ekurhuleni, Gauteng Province, South Africa).

Language: isiZulu slang

The song translates to

*Amabhantiti, Amabhanti,  
atheng 'iBluseal.*

*Awuyeyeni, iBluseal.*

*Ungatheng 'ivaselin 'enjenge 'iBluseal,  
Awuyeyeni, iBluseal.*

*The convicts, the convicts,  
They bought Bluseal.*

*Awuyeyeni, Bluseal.*

*Do not buy a Bluseal Vaseline,  
Awuyeyeni, Bluseal.*

*Amabantiti* is a song used to encourage young people to be law abiding citizens. The song further implores youths to avoid breaking the law, which might lead to their arrest and possible imprisonment. In Zulu language, the term *amabhantiti* refers to prisoners or convicts. Although the deeper meanings of this song (the likelihood to be sodomized in prison) may not be very clear to the children, the song advises them to avoid horrific situations such as physical assaults, sexual predatory and other violent lifestyles (which they can be exposed to as prisoners) by obeying the law.

isiZulu slang Text is translated into English by Mr. Bennett Nkwayi Mulungo

*Mr Prince Lengaosa transcribed this song in 2021 for Jiwe Music (an online African Music library). Jiwe Music is a non-profit organization which seeks to both preserve and make African music easily accessible to the African continent and beyond. It accepts contributions from all genres of music. This song falls under the category “children’s songs.*

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Voice

# Amabhantiti

## "The Convicts"

*Jiwe Music*  
*African Rhythms, Cast on Stone*

♩ = 120

Doh is C

**A**



isiZulu slang children's song (South Africa)  
Trans. **Prince Lengasa**

Voice

s . s : m | s . s : s . m | s . s : l . s | f : f | : l : l

Ama-bha -nti - ti, Ama-bha -nti - ti a the - ng 'iBlu - seal. Awu - ye -

1.

2.

V.

3 | s : | . f : s . f | m : m | . s : s . m | m : m | : s : s

ye - ni i - Blue-seal. Ama-bha -nti- Blue-seal. U - nga

**B**

V.

6 | d' . s : s . s | l . s : l . s | f : f | : l : l

the - ng 'ivase - li - n 'e - nje - nge Blue - seal. Awu - ye -

1.

2.

V.

8 | s : | . f : s . f | m : m | : s : s | m : m | . s : s . m

ye - ni i - Blue-seal. U - nga Blue-seal. Ama-bha -nti-

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