



# Lesego Rampolokeng The Kalahari Surfers

## End Beginnings

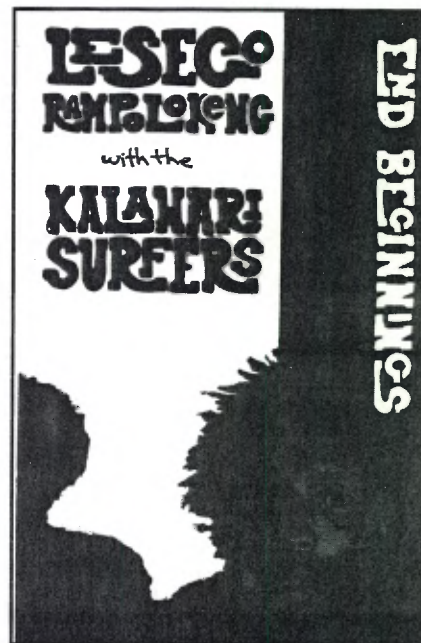
L4 SHIFT (EV) 51 / Barcode: 6004262107747

### SIDE ONE:

Heavy weight;  
Endbeginnings;  
Sebkeng Seige;  
Tapeworms;  
Treason.

### SIDE TWO:

Dark Explode the Blues;  
Transitions;  
The Desk;  
Guerilla;  
Rapmaster;  
Lightweight.



Shifty Records are already known for their work in the field of poetry with music. They discovered the talents of Mzwakhe Mbuli and scored what must be a music industry first by going gold on sales of both his albums without any radio play whatsoever!

This new Shifty release is even more daring. Lesego Rampolokeng is a brilliant young poet who confronts current issues head on without pulling any punches. His book "Horns for Honda", published by the Congress of South African Writers, received rave reviews here and abroad. Lesego is the most powerful black voice to emerge from the 80's with his brain intact. A product of the lost generation who suffered detentions and beatings from our country's notorious security forces he limped through university with part of a Law Degree. He is a rarity, a unique kind of a South African war poet, articulate, in English: "words climbing ladders from battlefields, Lesego poet of breezes throwing bricks through windows" - Sterling D. Thomas .. *Chicago Times*. He is a window into the soul and being of a stream of consciousness activist. His writings are a shocking reminder of our past, a reminder, too, of our present ... picture postcards from the backyard war zone. Well known agit-prop studio group Kalahari Surfers have provided a sophisticated compusynth dub music backdrop that varies from atmosphere to hard dance.

This album should do well with those who liked Mzwakhe Mbuli's work though Lesego has the advantage of being of a new generation and more contemporary. Don't expect to hear this one on your radio!

Cassettes only are available though a CD released in England in a few months should be available on import in the new year.



Lesego Rampolokeng  
by the Kalahari Surfers

Lesego is the most powerful black voice to emerge from the 80's with his brain intact. A product of the lost generation who suffered detentions and beatings from our country's notorious security forces he limped through university with part of a Law Degree. He is a rarity, a unique kind of a South African war poet, articulate, in English: "words climbing ladders from battlefields, Lesego poet of breezes throwing bricks through windows" Sterling D. Thomas ..Chicago. He is a window into the soul and being of a stream of consciousness activist. His writings are a shocking reminder of our past, a reminder, too, of our present...picture postcards from the backyard war zone. Grimimages, not popular in the New SA, the kind of thing the government would prefer to sweep under the carpet. His book "Horns For Hondo", published by COSAW should be a school setwork. It was this that brought us together. I felt that the powerful images could be enhanced by a film like atmospheric soundtrack. The music was built around the words and was designed to enhance them. Haircuts, hype and rapdancebeatbox production would seem pathetic alongside lines that speak of "kicking skulls on the soccerfield ...from the grandstand applause rings .... celebrating the abortion of freedom's child "

An oral poet he has paid his dues performing at rallies and cultural functions. He lists Ingoapela as his major influence but reads Burroughs, Ginsberg and the beat poets of the Vietnam generation. He is fascinated with the new forms of English found in Carribean and the West Indies.

the end of the beginning ...

I spoke to his father one miserable evening at their home in Orlando, Soweto. I was helping move his meagre possessions... being thrown out yet again....a failure in the parents eyes, a parasite, a poet ...what is a poet? Mr.Rampolokeng Senior said to me:

"I spent 5 years selling dagga to put this man through university and now look at him today...still no job ..still no money "

Warrick Sony/Kalahari Surfers

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Like many of Shifty's discoveries we don't expect this album to soar up the nations charts in 2 weeks, in fact to expect any radio play at all would be incredibly optimistic. Why put it out then? Our policy has always been to release original local material that is honest, that has integrity and that we like. This is a powerful work that deserves to see the light of day.