

Proverbs from Bemba speaking languages	Literal translation	Application
Uwabingwa ukowa teminina.	One who intends to swim does not just stand around.	Used when someone wants to get to the point in a ground breaking proposal.
Umweni wakwa kolwe alya ifyo kolwe alyako.	A monkey's visitor will eat what a monkey eats.	Do not be unreasonably fussy about what you are offered to eat by your host.
Muli seka seka emufuma lila lila.	Happiness may breed sadness.	1) Watch out when you are happy and excited that you do not hurt yourself. 2) Laughing at an older person may just earn you a spanking.
Ufyakulya ubushiku bafimwena kumalushi.	What you eat under cover of darkness will be visible in your vomit.	Be careful what you do in secret. You just might be found out.
Uwalya ikanga tabalala.	One who has eaten a guinea fowl does not look like a guinea fowl.	A guilty person will look like everyone else.
Umulandu nga wapitile pamputi napa ulondolola ukapite pamputi.	When narrating a story that involves embarrassing situations, do not leave those parts out.	Used when giving evidence in a trial so as to get all the details and evidence.
Imiti ikula empanga.	Young trees will make the forest	Look after the young, they are the future.
Kabusha takolelwe ubowa.	One who asks questions will be shown the poisonous mushrooms.	Do not be shy to ask questions to find out about things.
Chokwe Proverb	Literal translation	Application
Kuchi mulianga kunyenya isu shimbu makunde achili mundeho?	Why are you passing wind before you have eaten the beans?	You should understand a case or story before you pass comment or judgement.

