

pata-pata /,pa:ta'pa:ta, ,pa:tə'pa:tə/ *n.* Also **patha patha**, **phata-phata**. [Xhosa and Zulu *phatha* to touch, feel.] 'Touch-touch':

1. A sexually suggestive dance-style in which pairs of dancers touch each other's bodies with their hands. Also *attrib.* Cf. KWELA sense 3.

1968 *Drum* Sept. 5 She entertained audiences all over Europe with her exotic dancing. Here her excellent performances of pata pata, voodoo and the syncopated clock mambo attracted bold headlines. 1976 *Sunday Times* 4 Apr. (TV Times) 5 London's new disco craze, brought straight from South Africa, by the cast of the West End musical 'Ipi Tombi'. They call it the phata phata, pronounced patter-patter. 1980 E. PATEL *They Came at Dawn* 9 Die is mos a party nie a shebeen 'n haanetjie wants to dance rock-'n-roll-pata-pata-take-five the music is kwaai. 1987 G. SILBER in *Style* June 26 The black movie sausage-machine annually churns out hundreds of skop, skiet, and phata-phata flicks. 1988 B. O'REILLY in *New Nation* 14 Jan. 9 (*letter*) The young mingled with the old doing the cassanova, pata-pata or even a bit of fly jazz. 1990 *New African* 11 June 13 Popularised world-wide by the exiled song bird Miriam Makeba, patha-patha - an individualised, sexually suggestive form of jive dancing for boys and girls in which partners alternately touched each other all over the body with their hands in time with rhythm - was a direct result of the popular kwela music.

2. *Music.* A name given to kwela music (see KWELA sense 1), particularly when it is intentionally arranged to suit the pata-pata dance style. Also *attrib.*

1969 *Post* 15 June, 'Cats' in Windhoek..are raving mad with mbaqanga, the Soweto originated song-dance mood which came soon after pathapatha (touch-touch) a dance tempo popularised by..Miriam Makeba. 1976 *Drum* 8 Mar. 46 I am doing some research into..African music in South Africa, with emphasis on kwela, jive, pata-pata. 1990 *Learn & Teach* No.7, 10 In the 50s and 60s, Sparks and other musicians thrilled fans all over South Africa with their kwela and pata-pata records.

3. *transf. slang.* Sexual intercourse. Also *attrib.*

1977 P.C. VENTER *Soweto* 127 A stranger to the tsotsi's dangerous world could..save his throat if he has some knowledge of basic words and phrases...Phata-phata - sex. 1979 A.P. BRINK *Dry White Season* 84 'Others looking for phata-phata' - illustrated by pushing his thumb through two fingers in the immemorial sign.