

Zonnebloem College  
6th July 1904

S. T. Molema Esq  
Box 11 Mafeking

sailing the 7th July 1904  
by the Gascon Castle Line

My Dear Father

I am ready to sail  
to-morrow by the "Intermediate-  
Gascon Castle Line". As you  
have heard from Mr Parkhurst  
that I could not be allowed to  
land into America unless I had  
an additional sum of money,  
father Joshua has consequently  
send me some money by which  
all difficulties will be overcome.  
I then ask you father to remember  
in all your daily prayer that I  
may have a nice and safe  
voyage. The principal of this school  
has been very good to me  
during my stay at Cape Town  
and I am very thankful  
to him for his approbation  
and good nature.



When my brother Moliri is grown up and fit to be sent to colleges please father do not send him to Jonnebloem. Why?

1. Jonnebloem as you know is too close to the town and one is liable to get bad companies with this place
  2. Many boys of this College are Coloured boys and as a rule they indulge in liquors.
  3. English speaking is not enforced as it should be.
  4. The general health of the place is bad to upcountry people.
- All these and other reasons made me to come to the conclusion that boys of our place should not be sent here for education. The American Colled known as Bethel is bad indeed. Lovedale is by far more the best Native school I know - through it I am able to plunge through the sea. GoodBy Father

I remain

Your Son

S. J. Molire



18th Oct 1904

Wilberforce University  
Greene County  
Ohio U. S. America

Chief S. T. Molema  
Box 11 Mafeking  
Bechuanaland South Africa

My Dear Father

You will be glad to hear from me again that I am in America safely and sound. I went over the deep blue water smoothly and when I reached England I think I wrote you a letter. My voyage was good only the weather was not very true between our passage to America. The sea was somewhat rough and at last we reached New York where I took the Train as soon as possible to Philadelphia where I was welcomed by Bishop Coppin D.D. who took great care of me according to your orders of the personal letter that I handed him. It is very very lonely here that I do not receive the Toranta I thought I would receive it regularly because it ~~will~~ could make me feel at home



I am to day in this great Negro  
University where young men from  
different part of the globe gather  
for the cause of higher and  
sound education. May I only  
be ~~so~~ blessed that I may acquire  
as much as education as it  
is possible. I sent an account  
of my journey to Mr Haas for  
publication I do not know if  
he will do that which I think  
it may be of interest to some  
people who are pleased with  
the prosperity of human beings.  
I received this class report of  
my sister Selene from Livedale  
and I now send it to  
you. She is making a  
very nice time with her study.

I am sorry that circumstances  
separated me with my sisters if  
it were possible I wish to go  
with them wherever I go

I remain

Father

Your Dear Son

S. J. Molema

2<sup>d</sup> for letter coming  
to America



I. L. PURCELL,  
*Attorney and Counsellor at Law,*  
PHONE 735. RESIDENCE PHONE 1509.  
120 WEST BAY STREET.  
JACKSONVILLE FLA.

Chief Silas T. Molema,  
Mafeking, Cape Colony,  
Bechuanaland, S. Africa.

My Dear Father:--

Yours of the 13th. inst. duly received and in reply beg leave to state; that words fail me to adequately express my joy for being a distinguished recipient of the same. As stated in your letter, I could not help but have all sorts of strange feelings, when failing to hear from you, but was never tempted to entertain the idea that father loved me the less by reason of such long and continued silence.

I am free to admit that as a son, I feel clear in my conscience that I have played my part and did all that was and is my duty to do by writing to you. Once I was forced to feel that I have become an unknown quantity in my father's own house that even my dear sister Seleye, who I love so much would not write or answer my letters. Father would never even tell me the change of life in my sister's (Seleye) marriage, and all I know of it is from the outsiders. Indeed this is enough to cause one to have perturbation of mind, but my love to parents has not been changed nor even shaken.

Nevertheless, father Joshua has been telling me how all parents, sisters and brothers are and in my letters to him have never forgotten to have all my parents remembered for me.

My aim in life is a very high one, in short my ideals are as high as the stars and shall never stop until I have accomplished all that is possible. I am more than delighted to note the progress of my brother Molire and the way planned for him (Medical Course) is indeed fine, and hope none shall be in his way towards



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that end. The sons of Molema should be leaders among the Bechuana just as our grand-father was the instigator of civilization to the Barolong, so his grand-children should perfect those fundamental principles that he laid.

Pursuant to the decision of fathers Joshua, Silas, Messrs. Platje and Mbelle, I am getting ready to suspend my law studies in America to proceed to England and shall drop you a card at my arrival there. What has become of the following brothers and what are they doing in life, Ephraim, James and Officer; cousins Joel Motshegare, Phetogane?

Should you desire to write me right away direct my letter to 126 Franklin Street, Dayton, Ohio, U. S. A., and same will be forwarded to me wherever I may be as Dayton is my headquarter, while abroad. Gld to hear all about home news and hope you succeeded in getting land dispute in your favour, as I have never known the Barolong to lose in any suit that they instituted for adjustment with the courts.

Remember me dear father to all my parents, sisters and brothers and the nation at large. I hope you will keep on improving the condition of our people till we shall come, when we, young people, with all the advantages before us hope to do better and start where you have left. Let me close my letter with best love to you and all parents my dear father. I am

Your own dear son,

October 18, 1910.  
SJM.

*Belopiso J. Molema*



Mapetung, Dec 27-1913

Chief Silas T. Molomo  
Madibela Dist Mapetung

Dear father:-

Father Joshua Molomo instructed me to write as I do. The Chief Lepoko this morning invited all Barolong Headmen to come before him on Tuesday morning. He has something that he wishes to tell them.

Father Joshua thanks the Chief refers to the matter of Letswae vs. Joel Phetengere, and he wants you to be present.

Father I have taken molato (debt) and promised my debtor to pay him with a sheep & I had reference to the one at Ramotlakeng. Please dear let me have it by Sunday to-morrow. Send

Ditshaga to drive it to Mapetung please father. I am sorry I missed to come up for Christmas at Madibela. I hope all are well.

Yours very truly

S. T. Molomo



Serowe, Protectorate  
August 9-1915

Chief Silas T. Molima  
P.O. Box 11 - Mafeking  
" "

My dear Father :-

I have arrived here well and  
four your old friend Chief Kgama  
and Ratsosoa all well. I am pleased  
to say that the Bangwato Nation have a very  
nice Church house, which will never  
be excelled by any building to be  
made by Native Races of S. Africa.

I have written to father Joshua as  
I write you, that since you are a  
personal friend of Col. Panzera and  
since he is about to leave Mafeking  
for England, when you get a chance  
tell him that "I am your son &  
have been brought up in good society  
that you would be very much pleased  
if he would see that I am well treated  
by the Officer under whom I am  
working. He is said to be a very  
cruel man, who treats men as dogs.  
Tell him that I am lame and  
cannot do much walking over



long distances. That I shall do all  
I can to be obedient to my higher  
Officers."

Since the Resident Commissioner is  
has been your friend for a long  
time, I am quite certain that he  
would write to the officers under  
whom I have to work at Tsau & tell  
him to do all that you have  
asked him, and my life at  
Tsau can be pleasant.

Give my best regards to my  
sisters, brothers, mother & to  
you, Papa

Your own son

S. J. Molen

PS - Should you write address my  
letter simply to "Serow"



Maun, Kgamiland

January 9-1916

Chief Silas Molema,  
Montsion Stadt,  
Mafeking, C.B.

My Dear Father:-

Again I am writing to you at my new place. The Mathiba section of Batawana People have moved from Tsao the old place to Maun, the new Stadt where they have build their new homes. In my last letter to you I dealt at length with the nature of the country and the People and this time shall say nothing about it.

I have read in the Mafeking Mail of Nov. 13-1915 that Joshua Molema your brother has been appointed Acting Chief for two years, later I got a letter from father confirming such matter. I am very sorry that I am very far away from you and cannot give you immediate help in the way of advice, however you will hear from father Joshua my views on this matter, which I think you



will attend at once if you think as I do. I know how you regretted very much when I came up here I think ~~God~~ God was speaking with you, but now it is too late unless you see your way clear to act as I think.

You have spent thousands of pounds educating me to help you and now is the time. Dear Father I shall stop here as I ~~very~~ feel very very very sad when I think how helpless you are in the new nature of things. My thoughts are with you day & night.

Let me hear from you soon and how Modiri is doing & every body.

I am my dear father  
your own son

*J. J. Mole*  
"i"

PS Where is L. T. Platch. now?



Maun, Niamland, March 12, 1916

Acting Chief Joshua Molema,  
Montsion Stad, Mafeking,  
Cape Province

My Dear Father:-

Ke go Kwalela Ke go itise. Ja Ke  
sante. Ke tshidile pentle ka thusho ea Modimo.  
Ke pholozela gore Ke go boletse Kaga losho  
loa go Davide, morwa Sekgoma, Yaenong  
Ke go Kwalela Kaga Kgang etona ea  
Batawana. Kgosi Mathiba are jaale dikgomo  
tsa maphisa cotho tsaga Sekgoma le tsaga  
Davide le dile cotho tse eneng le tsa bone  
ketsa gague. Mme obatta gore Goromente  
a dimonele. Are lefu ele melato cotho  
ea ga Sekgoma otla edula, mme  
mafoko a arome eae Ho-o Mafeking ke  
go Mr. Magregor, gore a a atthole.

Mme le Bra Kare Haitse Sekgoma,  
ona ana le Kgosi Lekoko molato wa  
madi ekane ele £100-0-0, mme madi  
a gaise a duelwe, Ke gone yana



Ke go kwadlang gore oboledi Mme  
 Mapiking mafoko a a a gorome gore  
 ae kwa go Mr. Magregor gore yaka  
 gona le Kgang ea boshwa ywa ga  
 Sekgoma. Goroments a batle Mme  
 Mapiking madi a anteng yalo  
 ka bonako, Mathiba a is a bonelwe.  
 Dikgomo eotte tsa mafisa tsaga  
 Sekgoma ditla rekisiwa ke Magistrate  
 wa rona mono, Mme makgoma eotte  
 a amelate le Sekgoma a duela. Ke gone  
 Hereng a Mme a tseny mafoko a  
 gagae ka bonako mago Mr. Magregor.  
 Ho ou mafoko a ke kwadlang ka ou  
 gompieno Rea.

Gape ke ea go kwadla Kaga  
 Enman. Ke rata ere ja Re aaka  
 a fenywa gore Goroments a mpusetsa  
 kwa gae gone ke e go go thusa, ke  
 lapa gone Re a nthebelele Enman  
 ake Kwaano gonna leja akatte  
 go ema Kgwedi dile tharo, ka ke  
 Parate gore oka aga mono.



Ac

Maur, Mlamand  
April 26/1916

Chief Silast. Molomo  
Montsiana Stadl  
Mafeking

My Dear Father: -

Yours of the 28th March received to-day and was very pleased to hear all the news of my people and I wished I were present and would have done my duty to my people and nation, but in any way I could not have done more than what you have done.

I can imagine what difficulty you are having and everything seem to be against you, but God and right is for you. To-day I am going over to Mababe with the Dr and we shall have to travel a distance of 100 miles on horseback without water, living on wild game which we shall kill on the way. We have received news that murder has been committed there and we are going to investigate. I shall write to you in full when we return.

"Keep on Father" "Go on Sir"  
the nation is yours by God's design  
Your own son  
S. Molomo



Maur. N. Camilant  
June 29-1916

Chief Silest. Molema

Montrose Gadd

Mafeking

My Dear Father:-

Just by the time I received your long communication which told me all that is going on at home I was on a trip through the Batawana Reserve on duty with the Dr but now we are back and I am now writing to you fully as usual.

Your letter is indeed a good one I have it with me everytime I think of home. How wise are your plans! How good is your speech! I feel I could through away everything & come home to help you dear father but I think I shall have to remain here all the while to finish my term as agreed between B.P. Government & myself, that is to say from next August to July next I shall have to work 12 months before I could get leave to come home, and hope the Lord will help & keep us till we meet dear father

Business:- Father I want you to try all your best to get all the money you could and send it to me per some one whom you trust so that I could buy you some cattle here during the But Tax Season of this people. You cannot miss a chance like this. There will be not many of your sons who will come to this far country like I have come and while there is chance take it up. If I can receive from you say £100-0-0 I can buy you about about 70 heifers or so @ 25/- each during the But Tax Season



which begins on September the next. I have told Father Joshua the same thing and I do not want any of you to miss the chance. If I can get the money I would buy cattle and send them three by way of Sekututu to Diitharapany or to Dikhukhung if you would also send me a reliable man to bar them.

There are some 3 or 4 Batwana men sent by Chief Mathiba to Marpeking to officials of the Country. They will likely to call on you for advice. Please ask Emma to tell you their character as I have written her fully on these gentlemen and she will read you my letter to her about these persons.

I am leaving to-morrow with the Magistrate for to hunt lions and we shall take two week three the wild country on such work. They roar all arounds us every night and we are tired of them. How is mother sisters & brothers.

Your dear son

L. J. Molema



Maun, Ntgamiland,  
September 2-1916

Chief Joshua Silast. Molomo  
Mortson Stadt,  
Mafeking C.P.

My Dear Father:-

For sometime since, I have not heard from you, and am wondering how you and the Barolong are doing with the two systems of Government existing at Mafeking. Some one has written me to the effect that Chiefs Joshua & John Montsiu are not working together, that Chief Joshua sometimes calls up a meeting & those persons that follow John do not attend & also when John calls a Pitso those that follow father Joshua also remain home & things & affairs go on in this manner at my home. How very painful it must be to you father if that is the fact.

I am writing to you privately on the matter that affect you regarding the late Chief Sekyoma's Estate and I do not want this to go out as it is the affairs of the Resident Magistrate's Office and the Resident Commissioner, and that is:- "The R.M. have received word from the Resident Commissioner at Mafeking.



That one Silas Molima of Mafeking called at the R.C.'s office and lodged claim to the Estate of the late Sekyoma of £20-0-0. The R.C. replied you that this matter was in the hands of Chief Mathiba & he (R.C.) would write to R.M. here to ask Mathiba if he admits the said indebtedness, if so when and how he intends settling same." The Chief Mathiba was called at the R.M.'s Office and admitted such indebtedness. He also promised to pay it soon." So I think everything will be all right on your part, but Chief Mathiba is a very slow chief.

Now father, had it not being the money of the Batawana I would ask you to let me receive the same for you in order that I might buy some cattle here for you, but as an Interpreter in this Court I must not have any dealing with the People and I know for myself that they would not deal fairly with me if they know that I have been given the money by you. So I do not want to have anything to do with it. If it were received by you personally, and after you chose to send part of it or the whole of it to me for to buy you some cattle it would be a different matter and a very nice one.



3/

The Chief Mathuba's messengers who were at Mafeking are back and they tell us that they found you alone at Molema Square, that you invited them to remain at your place in the Stadt, but they refused for as they say were sent to European and wanted to be near them. They only remained 3 days at Mafeking and did not see anybody or anything. Judging from their conduct while at Mafeking one would gather that (as I have already written to you) the Batawans are still far behind civilization. It will take time to make them see simple facts. I thank you father for what you have done for them in the limited space of time that you saw them and I know you could have done more had you seen more of them.

How is Modiri doing at school?  
Where is Plaagje now? Remember me  
dear father to mother and sisters

I am

Your dear Son

J. J. Molema



K A N Y E, B. P.,

6th. February 1917.

Mrs. Ketlareng Lucas Makgobi,  
c/o P. O. Box 11, Mafeking.  
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My Dear Sister,

You will be glad to hear from me, though it is a long time since I have not written to you. I came from N'gamiland on the 4th of January last and I only remained at Mafeking but few days. To-day I am stationed at Kanye as Court Interpreter, and think if nothing serious happen will be here some months. I heard from Mr. Lucas Makgobi while here that you have gone to Mafeking to see me and at the same time to see Kelebeletse who is ill. I am sorry that I did not get chance to see you after we have been separated for about a year and few months, however I am not so far as I was while at the Lake country. I hope to hear from you and about you all while here from month to month.

When Mr. Makgobi was here he asked me to advise him on some points, and I promised him that I will write to you and that while I write I will put down on paper what I think proper for him to do, and you may please tell him the following.

Let him go to the Resident Commissioner and tell him that, "Sir, I have come to you to ask you to look favourably into my complaint. I am Lucas Makgobi of Phitshane and I am stationed at Matletse in the Crown Reserve, where I have make at great expense a well which gives me sufficient amount of water. Near this well is put the Government Sheep Deep and many people who come to the said Sheep are continually troubling me about the well, and when it falls in they do not even help me to dig it out. I have no objection for people watering there or even getting water for the purpose of deeping their sheep provided such



people share the expenses of repair and keeping the well in good condition and order with me.

The said well is opened free by me to the members of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Police or any Official travelling through the country and to all servants of my proud Government. I appeal to you Sir that you may if you deem it wise, give such paper or papers as will show such people that I am at present the owner of the well, and that I am entitled to collect from any one who uses my well small amount for the purpose of keeping the well in good order and condition.

Tell Leinatsela that these are the thoughts that I think necessary at present and if there is anything in the future that he wishes me to advise him I will only be too glad to do so provided he lets me know.

I hope you are all well and your little boy and Wabatho. I hear that Modumedi has gone to Kimberley to attend School at 'Ma-Mashoko's place. She will have the chance to learn the Dutch language. Where is Telo Junius Lucius Molema? Yanong otlatlhile Emmang Motlhankanyana eo o? Is he not old enough to go to school?

Let me now close my letter with the best wishes to you my dear sister and to all members of my father's house

I am my dear Ketlareng,

Yours very Sincerely,

*J. Molema*



Kanye, B. Protectorate,  
C/o Magistrate's Office

16<sup>th</sup> October, 1917-

No. S.J. 41/1917

Father and New Mother

My Dear Father,

I am writing to you to-day on a subject which I cannot express myself on it very plainly, however since it is the subject which directly affects our family relationship I am bound to say something and hope father will pardon me on my departure from Sechuana Laws & Customs

I have been wondering what father Joshua will do as my late mother Gotschasing left us orphans and some of us are yet young and not experienced, who need motherly care. Therefore I ask you father to please see to it to get for my father (your brother) our mother who will be a real



Mother to us all. We are left by  
Goithaswang who in her life  
time was a true mother to the  
Children of Mma-Ngweta as well  
as to all Molema's Children and I  
trust - That anyone whom you may  
find will try to walk in the foot-  
steps of my late mother Goithaswang.

I am not acquainted of anyone  
in Mafeking or rather I do not know  
anyone in Mafeking who can be  
as good as late mother Goithaswang.  
But I believe there are many true  
women who can be just as good  
if properly looked for.

I know the Bechuana always  
marry relatives, but I myself do  
not care very much for this  
selection, as they are often the  
cause of much trouble and often  
hated, and at last death of so  
many of our dear mothers. If  
in your opinion you can find  
a Tingo or Molegalagadi woman  
who can be a mother to us



III

Please do not be afraid to choose.  
We want a mother. Father  
Joshua is old, as you shall  
hear from the Copy of his letter  
to me, which I enclose for your  
information.

Please let me know my dear  
father what you have done in  
this matter. I have written to  
Sisters Mrs Lettane & Kettareng on  
this subject as requested by my  
father, and have asked them  
confer with you whatever  
they have in mind.

I am my dear father  
your own son

D. J. Molomo  
—————



m Kanye, Bechuanaland Protectorate,  
o/o Magistrate's Office,  
4th. January, 1918.

No. S. J. 1/1918.

Chief Silas T. Molema,  
Montsioa Stadt,  
M A F E K I N G.

FIRST AND SECOND VOLUME OF AUSTRAL AFRICA

My Dear Father,

I am forwarding to you to-day two  
(2) Volumes of Mackenzie's Austral Africa. These  
books are very useful, and that is the reason that  
after my father's death (the late Chief Lekoko) I  
kept them, and as they were bought, as far as I  
can remember, out of his own pocket, not out of  
that of the Tribe, I considered them as mine (?).

I trust they will be delivered to you in  
good order and condition. After you shall have  
finished with them, dear Father, I shall be much  
obliged to you if you will have them returned ~~them~~  
to me. When they are with me there is no fear  
that they will ever be lost.

These books are no more published and unless  
they are kept very safely, we may be in want of  
some valuable information, which cannot be had from  
any book than from them.

I have arrived at Kanye safely and my Magistrate  
was more than pleased to see me. Though the train  
had left me, he did not say anything against me. I  
am his favourite. He sends his greetings to you  
all.

Your own dear Son,

*S. T. Molema*  
Court Interpreter.



KANYE, BECHUANALAND PROTECTORATE,  
c/o Magistrate's Office,  
26th. April, 1918.

Chief Sélas T. Molema,  
P. O. Box, 11,  
M A F E K I N G. C. P.

MY DEAR FATHER,

Your sad letter of the 22nd. instant has been received by me with very deep sorry for the announcement of the death of my mother Molalanyane Molema. Until I received your letter I had just got one from Emma S. J. Molema, Mrs. Bathoen had also received a letter from Dick L. Marumoloe on the same subject. When I heard of it, I was sick with sadness. The Bangwaketse such as Mokgabi, Mrs. Kgositse, Mrs. S. B. Gaseitsiwe, the widow of the late Chief of the Bangwaketse and others came over to comfort me.

Your letter arrived when I was fully aware of my mother's death and I have informed all the people you asked me to tell. I have personally lost within two years two mothers who have never at any time had misunderstanding with me, such as mother Goitshasiwan and mother Molalanyane. They were about of the same age, experience and same ling nature to their children and to those under whom they were placed to be Guardians. I sincerely regret of their death. W

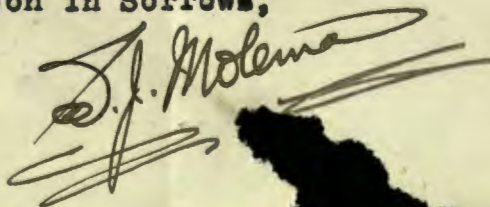
"Who shall follow their footsteps?  
"Who shall now comfort us at  
"Molema's Kgotla and abroad--  
"Who can truly unite the Molema's  
"Orphants as did they in life.  
"PEACE BE TO THEIR ASHES."

God alone knows better. He will comfort even my brother who is far beyond the Seas. May mother's soul rest in the bosom of Abraham.

Father, you will remember my suggestion about the Burial Ground. We young people would like though our mothers die during our absence from home to cherish their memories and keep their Graves well cared for and cleaned. I once suggested that the ground just next to Bethel's Grave, near to where the Town of Mafeking used get gravel from and close to the Imperial Reserve Fence be secured by either you Molema People and let our mothers and family be properly buried there and we could in years to come keep such Graves properly cared for as civilized people do--You the Molema have to do the lead just as you always lead in modern improvements as you have done in Sanitary Closets.

I am, my dear father,

Your son in Sorrows,





K A N Y E,

5th. August, 1918.

Chief Silas T. Molema,  
P. O. Box 11,  
M A F E K I N G. C. P.

My Dear Father,

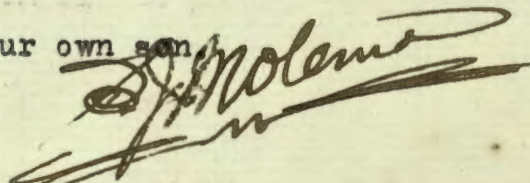
I have received your letter of the 2nd. instant and was very sorry to hear of the health of my father not at all showing any sign of improvement. For some time I have been putting it off and off to write to you and ask you about the condition of your brother my father, ~~but but~~ but you have before I write to you, written and in your letter you asked me to come over for few days. I have been asking the Govern. ment to let me come to Mafeking in case my father does not improve in health.

As you will see from the attached copy of a letter I have written to-day the Magistrate, applying for 1 month's leave, it has been my whole desire to come over, but the difficulty of going through details with the Government. I think they will let me come to Mafeking, but it may take some days before I can come, as this letter I addressed to the Asst. Res. Magistrate, Kanye has to be sent to Mafeking for approval. You may see Mr. Ellenberger as you did when you wanted me to give evidence in Kimberley and if he approves of my application to tell me as soon as possible so that I may come at once.

They will refuse my application, but I am afraid it will take some days as the Resident Commissioner is coming up to Kanye next and my presence will be needed. My mind is not here I am daily and nightly worrying the life out of myself about the health of my father. However I trust in God that he will be restored to health again.

I am dear father,

Your own son,

  
over



P.S.

The Government will probably  
allow me to come to Masakini  
on the 15<sup>th</sup> instant till 14<sup>th</sup>  
September - I shall not hear  
from them until the 12<sup>th</sup> inst.  
And if my application is  
granted I will take train at  
Lohatsi on the 15<sup>th</sup> instant  
hoping by that time father  
will have recovered from  
his illness

SJM



K A N Y N,

5th. August, 1918.

APPLICATION FOR ONE MONTH'S LEAVE

Sir,

My father, Joshua Molena of Mafeking is reported very ill and has been so for over a month. He was for some days, taken to the Victoria Hospital, Mafeking for treatment but has not made any sign of improvement.

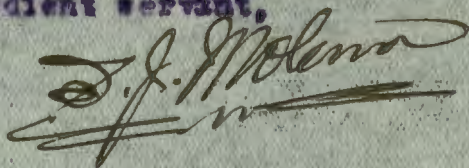
I therefore, have the honour to apply for one month's leave, to enable me to go to Mafeking to see my father during his illness.

Thanking you in anticipation for a favourable reply,

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant,



The Assistant Resident Magistrate,

K A N Y N.



M A F E K I N G,

15th. September, 1918.

Chief Silas T. Melema,  
M A F E K I N G.

MY DEAR FATHER,

Yesterday I heard that there were at Willow Dam 8 head of Cattle belonging to the Estate of my father the late Chief Joshua Melema, whereupon I went and found the said cattle at the Cattle Post of one Tshipikwena, at Willow Dam.

The servant of Tshipikwena told me that these Cattle were brought to him by a Mekgalagadi or Melala of Chief Joshua Melema from Ditlharapeng and asked him (Tshipikwen servant) if he would keep the said 8 head of Cattle as Joshua's servant has been ordered to bring them there by order of the younger son of Chief Joshua Melema who now attends day School at Mafeking, whose name is called Sebopisa.

I was not alone there, I called Kgwadibane to be a Witness of what may take place at Willow Dam and he went with me to that Cattle Post. The said Cattle are now in my custody at Signal Hill and they will be brought from that place by your order.

I am sorry to have to leave Mafeking without your presence. I hope you will arrange with Mekgabe about anything that you need for the settlement of my father's



I have seen the Acting Government Secretary,  
Mr. Ellenberger, and told him that under the present  
present circumstances I am obliged to ask the Govern-  
ment to excuse me from my further serving at Kanye as  
an Interpreter to the Magistrate. I asked him that if  
there was vacancy at Mafeking, I will be only too glad  
to take it up, as I will be near my small and young brother  
brothers.

He was very sorry to hear of such, but said it  
could not be helped.

With kind greetings, my dear father,

I am your Son,

*E. J. Molena*



KANYE, Bechuanaland Protectorate,

c/o Magistrate's Office,

18th. October, 1918.

MY DEARRFATHER,

Your letter of the 16th. instant reporting the unfortunate death of my brother ~~Mokgabo~~ Molema received. I am deeply grieved at this death more so because my father the late Chief Joshua Molema has just lately died and I was looking forward for Mokgabo to look after things while I am still at Kanye, praying the Government to release me to come over to Lafeking.

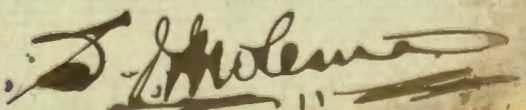
I have been ill for the past three days with the Epidemic, I am up but not well. This report made my knees to knock together, my whole hope is very dark and I do not know what will happen. The Epidemic is very bad at Kanye and the people are dying daily from 10 to 20 per day. Headman Malope Makaba is laid down very ill. Everybody is ill. It is so very bad here because we have no Doctor and no Chemist in the country. We are shut up in the Desert.

The School and churches are closed and we may have ~~to~~ close the Office at any moment.

The death of my brother Mokgabo Molema has affected <sup>me</sup> more seriously than that of the late Chief Joshua Molema. Joshua Molema died at a good old age, and his work as a man and chief had been manifested, but the young Mokgabo Molema is simply cut down as a bud from the flowering tree of life. I wonder what is the feeling of all the parents at home.

Please father let all the children stay at Signal Hill and give strick orders that they must not mix up with any other people. The direction of the Medical are herein enclosed and I hope you will spare nothing to get medicine for the family--there are shepp, goats and what not which God has given you to protect yourself with. Please do what you see best under the circumstances.

Your dear son,





Kanungo,  
1st Nov. 1918

My Dear Father

In previous correspondence I have stated that I shall leave the service of this Government for to come to you at Mafeking on the 1st of this month (5-day) or sometime this week. As there is great difficulty of getting a good man to come to Kanungo to take my place as an Interpreter the Magistrate has asked me very prayerfully if I would not stay with him for at least two or three weeks but I refused for reasons that my family is without me to care for them.

The Resident Commissioner is coming to Kanungo on Sunday the 3rd instant and I shall stay over to see what arrangements he has made regarding my Application to leave the Service. I did not want to leave and through (throw) away Mr Dray as if I was being driven away or have done something Criminal. I shall therefore remain at Kanungo for at least one week waiting for someone to come over.

On representation of my late brother Mookgale I have asked the Government to engage Mr. Kettareny Marekela the son of Skalaphe Marekela and they will employ him. I am



therefore waiting on him to come to  
take up the affairs here as  
an Interpreter.

The Chief Malope as well Mrs  
Paul Montshwa are to-day doing  
well. The Epidemic is great in  
this Reserve and I am afraid  
over 500 persons have died on  
account of the said disease.

Hope you and children  
as well as parents and relatives  
are getting on well.

I am, my dear father

Your own sincere son

J. J. Malope



Mafeking Capet  
15/3/19

Mr Thomas Moring

Sir

I am directed by the  
acting Chief Togo Tsoana  
before he and Mr Lebopion  
Molema left for Bloemfontein  
to tell you to direct to your  
Attorneys to notify them  
about them

I am &c

Silas Molema



M A F E K I N G,

31st. March, 1919.

The Chief Silas T. Molema,  
c/o N.R.C. Rest. House,  
JOHANNESBURG.

MY DEAR FATHER,

I have received your instruction written by Mr. Theo. Gaboutloelw on the 27th. instant. We arrive here from Blenfontein on the date you left for Johannesburg, that is to say on Sunday a week ago, and ever since I have been on my bed sick. I am not well yet but little better.

During your absence I have seen a Motlhaping the father of Mma-Keitseng who told me that you asked him to get all papers about Overseas trip, I therefore gave to him ~~akkapikak~~ a copy of the Memorial. Which he took with him to Taungs

At the Supreme Court Bloemfontein there was much interest and we are hopeful that we will win the case. Even if we do not succeed in every point I am of the opinion that we will get some points decided in our favour. The Court's decision is yet reserved and it will take some time yet before we hear from them.

Thaba Nchu is ready to accompany your delates. Plaatje is anxious to go. The Xosa Delegates are gone e.g. Thema, Mvabaza and Ngcaliya, as you will hear from the letter which comes from Mr. Molebaloa of Capetown. Bora-Tlou were here three days ago sent by the Chief Phoi to get more information about going overseas. I have given them a Copy of the Memorial and told them everything about going over. They left yesterday.---I have handed to mother £1 as you instructed me.

Your dear son

*S. J. Molema*



M A P E K I N G,

April 4, 1919.

My Dear Father,

I have been receiving all the Newspapers that you have sent and I am glad to hear all about the Trouble in Johannesburg, not glad that there is trouble but glad to hear the news of the world. I hope by this time the Strike is all over and that the object of your mission is at an end.

The sub-Chief Tiego Tawana is at home and also the Chief Paramount is at home. We are anxious to have our Deputation start to go over as the time is far spent and we will be late if things are going so slowly as they seem to run. We have heard nothing from the Government about our money and I write to proceed to either Pretoria or by some other means to investigate what has happened about our application. The Superintendent here has been seen and I understand that he says the Government has not as yet replied him with regards to our matter. The Government may be delaying us purposely on this matter, so that by the time they grant us our request the time will have past for us to proceed to Europe.

I therefore ask you please father to ask the Chamber of Mines to let you come home and we will push the matter of the Deputation. The Chief is more taken up by the matter of Michael Gaboutloeloe, than by the matter so important which affects the Barolong at large. The Superintendent of Natives was at the Kgotla the other day about the collection of Hut Tax and the matter of Complaints against Marumoloe. As you were not present I said nothing about money handed over to Marumoloe by people of Molema's Kgotla.

We all are well and hurrying up to the Kgotla to listen into the matter of Tatinyane and Khumonoana.

Your Son Etc.



N R C Post Room  
Johannesburg  
27.3.19

Mrs J Molena  
Mafeking

Dear Sir, Chief Silas Molena are  
ke go bolile fa ake mono le mafosi  
a mangoe a Bechuanaland P. &  
Basutoland, Puttysburg, Cape Colony.  
Ba biduoe ke Baemedi ba ga  
Goromantle le Chamber of Mines.  
Kfosi are ere fa gona le Mafosi  
~~mangoe o mo itlwa. Addu. ke go~~  
fo diuno.

Sape are u the o thase Mofuma-  
fadi Mr Silas Molena ka ponto.  
Kesholofela Mrs Molena o the  
ea o koo fo oona.

Neo Gabonkoto



$\frac{180}{18} = 10$   
 $\frac{180}{18} = 10$

$$48 = 12 - 8 - 0$$

$$45 = 2 - 5 - 0$$

$$165 = 8 - 5 - 0$$

$$120 = 6 - 0 - 0$$

$$378 = 18 - 18 - 0$$

$$1 - 19 - 0$$

$$2 - 15 - 6$$

$$2 - 0 - 6$$

$$2 - 11 - 0$$

$$3 - 15 - 0$$

$$51 =$$

$$75 =$$

$$\underline{\underline{\pounds 31 - 19 - 0}}$$

$$7 - 10 - 0$$

Expenditure

$$\underline{\underline{\pounds 34 - 9 - 0 \text{ Balance}}}$$

17/4/19

$$\begin{array}{r}
 15 \\
 10 \\
 \hline
 20 \overline{) 150} 7 \\
 \underline{140} \\
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 \end{array}$$



MEMORANDUM.

Z. 36.

26<sup>th</sup> Oct 1921

From  
Van

Superintendent of Natives,

M a f e k i n g.

To  
Aan

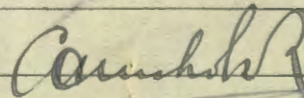
Sebopioa J. Molema

Mafeking Stad.

Greeting,

I received your letter about the Taxes due by native Jim Ziyaya (S.518). This man owes Taxes for three years. I have therefore issued receipts for Taxes for the three years (£1. 16. 0.) and one for writ charges (2/6). The man has still to pay the 3/- levy for three years (9/-) and also £1. for the Ratshidi Litigation Fund.

With Greetings,



Superintendent of Natives,

M a f e k i n g.



OTUKULULAYO  
(UMATUKULULA.)



*Regd.*

**UYIDHLULA  
YONKE IMITI.**

Moriana o tsollisang  
ho peta meriana eahle.

Molemo o tshabisang  
go gaiso melemo eotlhe.

**Ohambisayo ugqita  
onke Amayeza.**

—o:—

*Tumelani izitembu noma  
ama Postal Order ku*

*Mr. A. H. TODD,  
Endhlovini, Red Hill, Natal.*

*Romela litempe kapa  
Postal Order, ho:—*

*Mr. A. H. TODD,  
Endhlovini, Red Hill, Natal.*

*Romela ditempe kgotsa  
Postal Order koa go*

*Mr. A. H. TODD,  
Endhlovini, Red Hill, Natal.*

*Tumela isitampu nokuba  
yiPostal Order ub'ale ileta  
sako uyise ku*

*Mr. A. H. TODD,  
Endhlovini, Red Hill, Natal.*

**ENDHLOVINI**



**ABANTU  
BELATSHWA  
LAPA.**

*Endhlovini,*

*Red Hill,*

*Natal.*

27th, June, 1922.

Chief Silas T. Molema,  
P. O. Box 11,  
MAFEKING.

My Dear Father,

This is the second week since I arrived in this town and have not written to you. It was because I did not want to make mis-judgements and misrepresentations about this place. I wanted to see and know it better than a day's looking round. At this writing I am well and have been so ever since I arrived. The climate is very nice indeed. There is no cold, but we have a very mild and somewhat like the August or September climate. The country around is green and vegetables are looking very lovely. One from our part of the Union might get sick of the smoke and moist weather. A person suffering from Asthma cannot live in this place. I understand in Summer it is suffocating, and I believe it, as just yesterday we were hot. The country is somewhat like the N'Gamiland weather, but it is better because it is close to the Sea.

Natives are treated anything but right, that is the reason why our people cannot like this place. I do not like the way, but I have to put up with it so that I may come out alright in the end if the Lord is with me and gives me health and strength. I am however crying for Letters of Exemption, that is to say to be freed from the operation of Native Laws here such as Laws that ignorant Natives are treated with, for there is no discrimination in Natal. All must be natives and must do like others. Therefore, if it is possible for you dear father to see Mr. Nicholson, the Superintendant who comes from Natal, and who knows many things about this Province, that if he can let him apply for me Letter of Exemptions from the



Native Affairs Authorities in Preterria, to get me such letters of Exemption. I am elligible and my educational qualifications are such that I can get such previlage. But the diffiiculty may be that I am not a resident of Transvaal, in any way we are ruled in Transvaal and there is no reason why I could not be granted such Letters of Exemption.

I have applied to the Government of this Province for such Certificate, and the Magestrate here said he will see the Native Commissioner ofn Natal. If I can get the permission, then I would not have to live and be treated as a Zulu who comes from the wilds, but I would have to be regarded as an educated Native by the Municipality. At the Office wherI work, Mr. Todd has done all the help he could do for a man. He has helped me and advised what course to follow. He is a hard Master, but as yet he has been a father to me and a good advisor.

Dear Father, I have left the Farm "Ditlharapa," and my place at Signal Hill and all my interest under your fatherly care. I shall be glad if you will see that the farm is leased and rent paid so that it could help me in my Debts with Minchin & Kelly and Hill & Hill% I left the small family with you, and when they come from the Transvaal, from reaping they will be sorry to see me absent from home. The rent at the small house at Thari's place, I hope father will help his child Emma with it at all times. Mr. Todd would like Dr. Molema come here, but I told him that we at home would never permit such a thing. I told him that he has been offered £1000 by the Protectorate Government to go and be Medical Officer in Lake N'Gami but he and we refused.

I shall be glad if you will greet Rev. Moshwela and family for me, I will write to them later. Has Goitse-modimo not back from the Bahurutshe Exodus? I shall be glad to hear all about home, about the Chief Bakolopan and Lotlamoreng. I left home so abruptly that I did not have time to see how they would work together. I would also like to know if there is any possibility of getting the oxen that are kept by Mr. Whennahm (Makamakamane) I remember handing you £15 to pay it to him and that I would get the other if possible. I have no oxen to plough with and if it is possible to get them I may try after some months to see if I can get them for the family ploughing.

Your dear son,

*D. J. Molema*



D U R B A N, NATAL,

c/o 10-A Railway Street,

8th. July, 1922.

Chief Silas T. Molema,  
P. O. Box 11,  
M A F E K I N G.

MY DEAR FATHER,

I have written to you some time ago about my arrival in this city and that I was not pleased with the way we are subjected here. Therefore I wanted to get my Letters of Exemption if possible. I have applied to the proper authorities here through my employer Mr. A. H. Todd, and to-day he has received a letter telling him that my application is under consideration and that it would be necessary if I could get two or three Testimonials from two respectable persons well known by the Government, also get the No. of my Registration as a Registered Voter in the Cape Province. That is these informations are obtained it might be possible for the Town and the Government of Natal to favour my application and grant Letters of Exemption.

Therefore dear father I leave this matter under your care and ask you please to see the Resident Commissioner of the Bechuanaland Protectorate Government at Mafeking also the Resident Commissioner or Magistrate or Superintendent of Natives at Mafeking, or Mr. Rollan of Kanye to supply me with the Testimonial of their knowledge of me. I shall deem it a great pleasure if you would see the Clerk of Court at Mafeking about my number as Registered Voter and ask him to hand you the number with certified statement that it is a true number of my registration as a voter and send all these things to me. Also the Doctor Molema's Testimonial.

I am well though there has been a wave of very changeable weather here which gave me a slight headache, but to-day I am doing well. The country is looking good and the work is still alright with me. I shall look for reply and the required information from you at an early date next week. Are the children from Transvaal as I left when they were away?

Your own dear son,

*S. J. Molema*





Regd.

**UYIDHLULA  
YONKE IMITI.**

Moriana o tsollisang  
ho feta meriana eohle.

Molemo o tshabisang  
go gaisha melemo eotlhe.

Ohambisayo ugqita  
onke Amayeza.

*Tumelani isitembu noma  
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*Mr. A. H. TODD,  
Endhlovini, Red Hill, Natal.*

*Romela litempe kapa  
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*Mr. A. H. TODD,  
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*Romela ditempe kgotsa  
Postal Order koa go*

*Mr. A. H. TODD,  
Endhlovini, Red Hill, Natal.*

*Tumela isitampu nokuba  
yi Postal Order ub'ale ileta  
sako uyise ku*

*Mr. A. H. TODD,  
Endhlovini, Red Hill, Natal.*

**ENDHLOVINI**



**ABANTU  
BELATSHWA  
LAPA.**

*Endhlovini,  
Red Hill,  
Natal.*

25th. September, 1922.

Chief Silas T. Molema,  
P. O. Bbx 11,  
MAFeking, --CAPE.

RRA EO O RATEGANG.

Ke koala lokoalo lo ka topo eaga

Mr. A. H. Todd, Manufacturing Chemist. Are ke  
molopele mo go wena gore a ga okake oa mothusa ka g  
go mo romela setlhatshanyana se gotweng Mogau. A  
re o tsile go se leka gore a ga se kake sa dirwa  
molemo. Are o batla lefa eka nna dikgolokoane tsa  
shone dile thataro (six roots of Mogau) le megatla  
ea cone dirooanyana tseo.

Ebile o romela Di-tempe ke tseo lod. (tenpence)  
gore ere fa oka di bona dirooanyana tseo o di pose  
ka cone ditempe tseo. Are o dibatla ka bonako, mme  
oka itumela thata fa oka modirela yalo, ka ele wena  
o go itseng ka go go utluela le go bona bana ba gago  
bo Lekoko le Sebopioa le go utluela leina ya gago  
thata mo di Newspaper tsa South Africa. O batla  
digwere dile thataro le megatla ea cone le dithunya  
ta megatla.



(Continued)

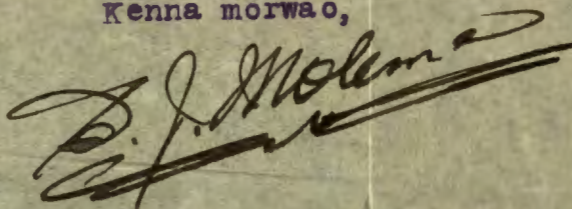
Testimonials di gorogile Rra, me re motlhabang e kgolo le Authorities. Ke thusioa ke Mr. Todd le makgoa a mono a a nketsing. Mme ga keise ke go kwalele ka ga cone. Ntwa e ke e bolelang ke ea gore Goramente a nkgolole mo melaong ea Natal, gase ntwa epe e e boshula.

Ga keise go kwalele ke go leboge. Ke tla kwala ka malatsi a a tlang. Gompiene ke kwala ke kwalela Mr. Todd. Ke sholofela gore otlala modirela yalo yaka a lopa. Mogau otletse thata motseleng ea motho a ea kwa Ditlharapen, gaufe lefa Lokung, lefa Mabudushwane oka bonoa.

Ke utlwetse dintho tsa batho koa gae ka kutlo-botlhoko, yaka Mrs. Moshwela, ebile ke romeltse Mogala le Lokoalo loa matshidisho koa go Moruti. Ketla itumela thata fa Rre aka thusa Mr. Todd, ka le ene a nthusa ka mkgwa o montsi thata mono Durban. Mono re bona Pula ea malatsi. Ke gopola gore le kwa gae e ea na, ka re e rapelela thata fa re bua le Modimo-mothati-otlhe.

Batsadi le bana ba dumele botlhe.

Kenna morwao,





Box 50. The Stad Mafeking  
29th January 1923

Morena Selepioa Molena  
Dikharapa BP

Morena

Ke go Koalela ka Taelo ea  
Kgosi go go tse zha madi  
a palani Antrent a ngaga  
dile une a ebug f.b. a  
thoane tse go chela  
kgodi ea tsemany e fela kgoba  
e ise e file.

Morego ga tse ka se zha  
madi a ise a duelo

Kgosi e tse jaanong e a  
gapela, ne Kgosi eka itumela  
z thata zha oka hka go  
duela tse ka se pale teng.

Gape Kgosi eka itumela  
thata zha madi a ka  
duelo koa ntle ga  
matshoanyego a se h tso.

Ka tume dishe  
Lelelwano tota

Dikharapa

Box





required Certificate. I have by this Post written a letter to Mr. D.J. Augly the S. A. P. Organiser, asking him to take this matter up and see if he can have my name reinstated and if left by error be written in the Supplementary List.

At this late hour in my age I do not want to be left behind when humble votes are being cast by my comrades for the good of my country and my home.

I have asked Mr. Augly to see you, should he not know me or recall me to his memory.

My other matters you will hear from David Dickson who left to-day for Mafeking. Hope you are well my father. Tau Tawana, Richard Thetthi, John Mere Letane have received their Certificates as Voters but I have failed. Please look into this matter dear father.

Yours dear Son

D.J. Mokemo



Africander Mine,  
% P. O. Box 121  
Klerksdorp.

2nd May 1923

My Dear Father

I am writing to you to-day on the subject of Voter's Certificate and No. Last year or year before last when I was in Durban, when I was making application to his Excellency the High Commissioner for Letters of Exemption for the Province of Natal, which application has been granted, I asked you to get my number as Registered Voter from Clerk of Court, but I never got a reply on this matter.

Of course Pra, Mr. Ellenberger told me that you had called at their office on my behalf on the above matter, for all that I thank Dear father.

On the 25th of last month I wrote a letter to the Clerk of Court asking him to furnish me with Registered Voter Certificate - as I was successful in my application for Voter in 1922 or 1921. If not mistaken I actually saw my name there in the List. But the Clerk of Court answers me as say he regrets very much that my name does not figure in the 1923 List and that he is unable to furnish me with the



Afrikaner Lease Limited,

**TELEPHONE:**

**AFRIKANDER MINE,  
VIA KLERKSDORP.**

~~ALL COMMUNICATIONS~~  
~~TO BE ADDRESSED TO:~~  
~~THE SECRETARY,~~  
C/o P.O. Box 121,  
KLERKSDORP.

29th May 1925-

Chief Silass Mobma  
P.O. Box 11,  
Mafeking, C.

My Dear Father,

1. Ego amogetse lokwalo lwa gago ka laitanalo yo  
hagolo ihile ke kwadile lokwalo go le romela kwa go  
isena Pra. Re sante re tshedile Moralong. Dincho tsa  
hona ha gago rentse re di utloelwa mo ka kutlobotthoko  
re lotshedisa botlho.

Lotswalo bo Koeny Kenu ko Lotswadile ene ele ko  
 Sena goutlwa fha Kgozi ea Morolong e ene ka thata  
 entse e go gapela Dora Kantho ea maaka le dikgako-  
 lolo tsa batho ba basa itumeleng Aina gaga Modimo  
 fa ba bona cwelelopele le go eletsa boikwa gwa  
 bone. Mme Modimo ome othuse Dora ore tthatanella,  
 Kowena oseteny ale wesi goma ore tthatanella  
 le gone baakanyetsa maemo.

Keelatsa that a gonna gone no modirong wu  
ga Prince of Wales, if possible to read the address  
for that has been my work and the work of the  
Molema's, even my sister Seleya did ~~some~~ so some  
times ago, and even if I cannot do so the Dr. &  
Lekoke are there who are all Molemas. At  
present there is no one who can do that work  
intelligently other than the children of Molema



and they will continue to do their work for many years to come. I think by that my brothers Mvuma + Sefetogi will be present and get to see what is being done so that they may learn and do likewise in their turn.

I have tried to seek Bafiti at Durban in fact I have friends at Durban whom I have asked to be on the lookout for this young man and report to me if they can find him, when I shall try to get him work at this mine near me as other children of Molema + Barolong who are enjoying this privilege.

The friend of mine in Durban whom I have put in search of Bafiti has reported to me that Mottshale is reported dead, but this is not as yet official. I have written to Native Commissioner there to find out and report and as yet have received no information.

With best regards to you my dear father and all your sons + Barolong also Mr Peter Kgama wish to be remembered to you

Your own son

J. Molema



Afrekander Reane Ltd

c/o P.O. Box 121

Helmsdorf

19th March 1926

Chief Dilas T. Mdema  
Mafeking, C.F.

Dra eo orategang,

Ke amogetse letwale lwa gago gompiene  
Ha boitumelo go bogole, mme ke itlhasanetse  
go go araba. Hare, gompiene yena ke  
Hwalete Kgosi Letamone, ke mmolelela  
ja oute onkwalela on behalf of the Barolong.  
Telling him that as you are the next in  
chieftainship to him and as an old Councillor  
I doubted nothing from what you said  
before me on his behalf & on the behalf on  
the tribe, but as the Principal Chief I  
wanted his invitation and promise on  
behalf of the Tribe so that I may have  
grounds on which I could claim my  
salary from him when father is not  
present.

I do not feel justified to leave this  
post and good salary without a  
guarantee that my wages for service  
will be paid monthly, so that I may  
meet my obligations & debts. If I  
could get this guarantee from the  
Chief & yourself as representing the Tribe  
I do not think there will be difficulty  
in joining the Chief's Party to Transkei  
if not at Mafeking, may join them  
at Kimberley, if father will make all  
necessary arrangements about rail  
fare. Let me hear from you & the  
Chief about this guarantee & I will

Then be in a position to give notice. Meanwhile Dra  
to be back with — your own son

D. J. Motswane



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## **Silas T MOLEMA and Solomon T PLAATJE Papers**

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