

DATE : 23.6.1970 .

- INFORMANTS: (1) KING (MANKWEMPE) MAGAGULA
REGIMENT : MALINDANE
HEARD FROM: MJIBHA THUMBADZI - OLDEST MAN IN COMMUNITY
- (2) MEVANE MAGAGULA
REGIMENT : NHLALANGIVILE
HEARD FROM: FATHER, MADLANGIMPISI & MJIBHA THUMBATSI
(MGADKLENI REGIMENT).
- (3) MEMO MASILELA
REGIMENT : LONDOLOZI
HEARD FROM : LUNKANKA, THE ELDER FATHER OF DLANGENI
- (4) MCEDZANE MAGAGULA
REGIMENT : MASOTSHENI
HEARD FROM: GRANDMOTHER, THE SISTER MJIVA THUMBATSI, WHO
BEGOT MOTHER.

AREA : MADLANGAMPISI.

King Magagula speaks:-

He (Mjibha Thumbadzi) said that he knows as far back as Nyandza, who was king of the Magagula. The Magagula arrived at Tshemilembule; from there they moved on as far as the Mdzimba until they arrived at Hhayihhayi, and from there until they came to the area in which we stay today. Nyandza begot Mlambo; Mlambo begot Mdvuba; Mdvuba begot Moyeni - the mother of Moyeni was LaThuse. Moyeni begot Ndlondlo from LaMbukwane his wife. It is this Ndlondlo who later begot Madlangampisi. Madlangampisi begot Simangalise Peter. Simangalise built the village of Nhlalangivile, where we are today. Simangalise begot the present young man who was named after our grand-father, Mdvuba - so the boy is Mdvuba II. His name was Mthwalo and when he was installed as a Magagula chief he was christened Mdvuba II. That is as far as I know. We know that our king Madlangampisi who begot Peter, who begot Mduvuba II ~~is~~ ^{they are} real kings . We are puzzled by what we hear, that is that in books we are said to be indunas. We do not know why - our elders may explain this. The fact is that when we install a king in our area we ~~may~~ perform the necessary rituals such as Subhimbi - a dance that is performed here at the coronation of a king.

* Masilela speaks:-

QUESTION A

You say you come from Tshemilembule, but you do not ~~say~~ ^{explain} where it is and what it is.

Tshemilembule is in the Transvaal, but we no longer remember because even the old man from whom we got the history ~~is~~ ^{or} did not know.

QUESTION B

What ~~caused~~ ^{caused} the Magagula to leave Tshemilembule?

They said they were following game.

QUESTION C

Can you tell me all the halts that they made on their migratory journey from Tshemilembule and who were their leader?

I cannot say who their leaders were but the history ~~is~~ says : From Tshemilembule they arrived at Mbabane and from there to Mdzimba; from Mdzimba they went to Hhayihhayi and from there they went to Mancele at Mawulwane, where Moyeni, whom I know, died. Moyeni's grave is at Mawulwane. He is well-known by the present ~~generation~~ generation.

MAGAGULA - MADLANGAMPISI AREA cont...

Moyeni

On his arrival Moyeni found the Masilela here. He found them here and lived in peace with them. Of course Moyeni came here being a king. When Moyeni was a child, the son of LaThuse, there was a young father, Ngwanga, who was to act for Moyeni while he was a child, and was later to install him. Ngwanga remained as chief regent when Mdvuba died. But the Sotho realised that Ngwanga did not like the king to be and so they took away the child and hid him amongst the Sotho. To trick Ngwanga they dug a grave and as Ngwanga appeared from his home they began to wail. They informed Ngwanga that the child was dead and buried in that grave. They further told him that the council was wondering why Ngwanga had not informed them about it. Thence it was fully established that Moyeni was dead, and so Ngwanga was comforted and remained a full-time king. During his hay-day Moyeni turned up from his hiding place. Of course he had not died.

When the people of Langeni came Moyeni fought them at Mkhutsali, the mountain near the school. When the Swazi arrived to fight with him, they found him a full-time king. It is said that the Langeni force, when attacking him used to beseege that rock, which used to grow. It was just a whole mountain which at times was transferred into one big rock. Then it happened that one day the rock grew. At night Moyeni used to go ~~down~~ down to fetch water from a nearby well known as Siphambosini, then return to the top of the mountain. When the army rose in the morning they could see no way of climbing the rock. There was a cave up the mountain where ~~xxx~~ he used to stay. But it came to pass that the Swazi army grew, ~~xxxx~~ and he realised that they would finally defeat him. He decided to come down with Malingo, his son. When the army awoke the next morning they found that Moyeni had not returned from the foot of the mountain. So they had to leave the mountain and follow his spoor. Suddenly they saw him across - thence they followed him. When Moyeni realised that the army was close behind them he warned his son not to get behind him but to keep ahead of him all the time. Unfortunately his son tramped in his father's footsteps. Moyeni ~~disappeared~~ disappeared, but his son could not disappear and so fell victim of the army. He was killed whilst Moyeni escaped. Moyeni burrowed under the grass until he rose at Madlolo - hence his praises " Sigelodla singa Mmguphane" - those were his praises as he fought with the Langeni. Then Moyeni took another direction and went to the Swazi king for refuge. He went to the king via the Madolo area. By this time his child had been killed. On the return of the army that had been chasing him he was already at the Royal homestead. But the returning impi gave the impression of victory and of having killed Moyeni, yet they had only killed his son. They found Moyeni safely staying at the royal homestead.

In fact Moyeni had surrendered and asked for refuge from the Swazi king. He was granted refuge and allowed to back and settle in his area. Then Moyeni returned and built his home at Bulandzeni, where he lived. While Moyeni lived there, there later arrived one Khambi Sikhondze. On Khambi's arrival he wondered why the home smoked day and night. It was at the arrival of the Nguni of Ndwandwe, who found Moyeni already an alienated king. Before Khambi had arrived the Ndwandwe had come to Matshekwane Masilela, who handed them over to Moyeni. That was Madzanga who was found by Matshekwane Masilela. Madzanga was going with Mkhonzophi Qwabe. Then Moyeni stayed with them. But later some unknown people informed the Queen Mother, Thandile, that there were some people who had been found by the Magagula. ~~xxxxxxx was xxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ A messenger was sent to go and bring the person who was staying with Moyeni to the royal kraal. Moyeni refused to hand him over, and took the person himself to the royal homestead. Moyeni apologetically told the king that he was enjoying the stay with him. But the king (Mswati) informed Moyeni that Madzanga was his relative as he was a Ndwandwe. He was then told to leave him there. Madzanga was given the place of Sigombeni to settle in. But later Madzanga ~~w~~ asked Mswati if he could be allowed to go and stay close to Moyeni, because he was used to him and liked the place. He was allowed

MAGAGULA - MADLANGAMPISI AREA cont...

to go and stay close to Moyeni because he was then used to him, and he was sent to Moyeni who gave him the land of Bulandzeni. This got its name from the fact that he was the 'Mlandza' of the king i.e. son-in-law. Then Madzanga stayed at that place where he was found by Khambi, the king's body-guard, who was from Hhohho. Khambi threw a jealous eye on the riches of Moyeni. Moyeni's village was well-to-do - there were many warriors. The jealous body-guard remarked that the place smoked day and night, which meant that the occupants of the village were ~~starve~~ never starving. He made this remark whilst at Madzanga's home, and as Moyeni was Madzanga's guardian, he was not slow to go and tell him about the guards's remarks. In fact the guard had plainly told Madzanga that Moyeni was going to be killed by the king. Madzanga was shocked and he took further steps to find out what Moyeni had done. He went to the king and asked him to spare Moyeni (his father as he called him). Then the king warned him that if Moyeni did anything wrong Madzanga would from thenceforth be held responsible. Then the warriors who used to stay at Moyeni's home were transferred to Madzanga's, and the latter never forgot the former until death.

At the death of Moyeni, Ndlondlo, his son, took his place, and the homestead shifted to Nkindane at Mjohelisamandle.

They asked from the Magagula, but~~x~~ not from their indunas. One feels some pain when today we are known as indunas, whereas we were never so known before. We then begin to wonder why are we so known, when we have indunas of our own. We have Gamedze, Myabe, Tsabedze, but what are we? What I say is that these Ndwandwe arrived here and expanded. It was all through Madzanga getting permission from his guardian Moyeni. He was gladly permitted to do whatever he asked for from Moyeni. We stayed with the Masilela people peacefully, whom we found here. I think it is the Ndwandwe people who can budge. Even today their children are never sent - so I think they (the Ndwandwe) may say something different and more explanatory.

*

The Ndwandwe people came here after they were found. Madzanga was found here at Nkomazi with Mkhonzaphi Qwabe. They were then people of this place. When it was discovered that Madzanga was here by the Royal homestead, they got the chieftainship because they were relatives of the king. Mswati is a nephew of Madzanga. Madzanga was not heir to Zwide. The heir was Sishemane, who died at Lukbahlamba, and Madzanga fled to this area.

* King Magagula

I was at the point when I asked why we were indunas in the books. I wanted to know how we turned out to be indunas. After Khambi had reported badly of Moyeni, the king then called for Moyeni to come to him. The warriors were then shifted from Moyeni's village at Ndondakusuka and went to build their homes at Madzanga's village. In other words they were transferred from Moyeni to Madzanga. But Madzanga had his own indunas and we remained ~~xxx~~ with our own kingdom. But the problem was that on the records we were then labelled indunas. At the time we were said to have taken things too high, as we agreed that the warriors should be shifted across the river. Those of Madzanga had come as refugees to seek permission to settle at Bulandzeni area from Moyeni. Moyeni was in charge of this area. In fact their place is that of Bulandzeni on that side of the river. On this side they settled with the permission of Madzanga since Madzanga ~~wxx~~ and Moyeni were friendly.

* Mavene Magagula

Madzanga married LaNgwane and built his home across at Bafati. Then the princess LaNgwane died at Bafati, and Madzanga was angry at her death and decided to abandon the area of Bafati and come to ask for a place to settle from Moyeni. Moyeni gave him a place. Moyeni's home at that time was at

MAGAGULA - MADLANGAMPISI AREA cont...

Nsiti, so that Madzanga and Moyeni were then neighbours. Madzanga stayed. Later at Madzanga's village came Prince Sobatsheka, who then built the village of Mphelisomandla. Dinane was installed at Mphelisamandle, which was his grandfather's home. Then when Ndlaluhlaza was born he (Ndlaluhlaza) built his home up the mountain after permission had been granted. It was at Nkambeni. By then it was the time of Ndlondlo who gave him the land bordered by LaNtshalaza River. These mountains of Mphelisamandle were Madlangampisi's hunting grounds, and that side of Nkambeni is the land of Madlangampisi, where his brothers had settled before the Nkambeni village existed.

Then the Nguni expanded at the time of Ndlaluhlaza, until they were together with LoMncayi, and the land was then for the Ndwandwe. That land belongs to the Ndwandwe even today. Madzanga was given land of Bulandzeni, which was bordered by Mzinenene River, along the Nkomazi River as far as Mashobane Gunwane, as far as Mashobane - that land belongs to Madzanga. He was given it by king Mswati and none can interfere with him. Even Mswati had got it done so after he had obtained Moyeni's permission.

QUESTION D

As you have mentioned the Magagula came from Tshemilembule in the Transvaal, what is the place now called?

There is a camp there now known as the Tshemilembule Police Station.

QUESTION E

Where is this station - is it at Breyton or at Ermelo?

I do not know. It ~~may~~ must be Breyton because it is on the railway bus roads.

QUESTION F

Which clan did you find when you arrived at Mdzimba?

There was no-one.

QUESTION G

Were there not even the Mncina?

We are together with those people.

QUESTION H

You mean that you ~~were~~ were all from one place?

We were all from Tshemilembule as Sotho from there.

QUESTION I

What caused you to migrate from Mdzimba to this area?

It was due to rumours of people who had come to settle. So we had to look for greener pastures. There were rumours spread every day of the Zulu - so we moved away in this direction. We left our indunas the Maseko.

QUESTION J

What is the relationship between the Maseko and the Magagula?

The latter are our indunas.

QUESTION K

Can you explain how the Maseko became indunas of the Magagula?

MAGAGULA OF MADLANGAMPISI AREA cont...

I cannot explain - the elders told us that the Maseko were the original induna of the Magagula.

QUESTION L

But the Maseko have not been Magagula indunas for a long time. How did this come about?

They are to this day our indunas. Perhaps you mean the other ones. Those that are here are still the indunas e.g. at Peter we nominated a Maseko induna.

QUESTION M

Those are but remains - how did the other Maseko become independent?

They fell independent by themselves.

QUESTION N

Can you tell me the names of your Maseko indunas from the beginning.

I do not know well.

QUESTION O

What was your relationship with the Mncinas whilst you were at Mdzimba?

The relationship was that the leader, the king was a Magagula. The Mncinas were great chiefs themselves. They were Magagula great chiefs to the Mncinas. They intermarried.

QUESTION P

What was your relationship with the Mnisi of Manyovu? Were they the first to arrive and who was chief?

The kingdom was one. The Magagula led all the Basuto and brought them with him.

QUESTION Q

Do you mean that the Mnisi were Sotho?

They are Sotho.

QUESTION R

What was the exact name of the place governed by Magagula at Mdzimba?

I don't know, but I may say that Ngwane, at the defeat of the Magagula seized all the Magagula lands. He seized all the places previously governed by the Magagula.

QUESTION S

Where were the Magagula when the Ngwane arrived?

They were no longer at Mdzimba - as you see this fortress at Mkhutsali where they besieged Magagula. They weren't at Mdzimba when the Ngwane army came, because he had built here by then. This was Mkhutsali, where Moyeni descended whilst the army slept, and fled to Madolo.

QUESTION T

Who was the Ngwane king at the time?

MAGAGULA - MADLANGAMPISI AREA cont...

It was Somhlolo.

QUESTION U

Was it rumours of Zulu or Swazi that threatened you?

It was of the Zulu - the Swazi had not come.

QUESTION V

What were the Masilela doing when you found them here?

They had settled here and were found by ~~Moyeni~~ Moyeni. They then stayed together. Later he asked for a fortress from the Masilela because it was theirs. It was at that fortress that the army attacked him.

QUESTION W

You mean that the Masilela were not a kingdom, just men settled here?

Yes they had their private rulership. They were settled here at Mashasha at "komazi.

QUESTION X

Were you with any Sifundza people?

The Sifundza are our people and we do not intermarry.

QUESTION Y

Did the Sifundza follow the Masilela or vice versa?

The Masilela came first, followed by the Sifundza.

QUESTION Z

How do they come to be related?

They came from the same place - Basutoland.

QUESTION A1

Did the Masilela and the Sifundza have different chiefs?

They had one chief of the Masilela.

QUESTION B1

How did they separate?

People do not stay together for ever.

QUESTION C1

When did the Sifundza leave the Masilela and settle where they are with their own chiefs?

Long ago - we found them already separated. We only found Mpungi.

QUESTION D1

Who installed the Sifundze as chiefs?

They are not, but they are at Shewula where they are kings. This happened long ago.

MAGAGULA OF MADLANGAMPISI AREA cont...

QUESTION E1

Did it happen when the Magagula were here or before that?

The Magagula did not find the Sifundze here - only a few remained here.

QUESTION F1

~~What~~ What was the relationship between Mnjoli and Moyeni?

It's a bit obscure there. It seems as if there are two Mnjoli's. We are not sure. The one we know of is the progenator of the Dokolwako house. That is the one we know. He was a prince at Moynei's Royal homestead.

QUESTION G1

How did Mnjoli and Moynei separate? Why did they do so?

Nothing was wrong, but they just separated the homes. Mnjoli had his home that side of Mbuluzi, but when there was a skirmish with the Ngwane he then jumped ~~to~~ across the Mbuluzi River with his home, where he lived. In fact they are still related. They are still one. They never quarrelled with Dokolwako. In fact it was they were the rulers. Just because they wanted to spread out - in fact the Dokolwako were born of a subordinate wife or a minor wife of their king. They just separated because they were two wives of one man- the elder and the younger separated. One of them crossed the river just because across the river was still their own land. But Moyeni remained on that side with the ~~M~~ major wife. As you can see the Dokolwako land extends as far as across the Mbuluzi River. They were peaceful neighbours.

QUESTION H1

When the Ngwane arrived what did Mnjoli do?

Nothing - but he surrendered and went to Nyakeni, but Moyeni did not approve the surrender - he stiffened his neck.

QUESTION I1

Whose son is Ngomane?

He is the brother of Dokolwako.

QUESTION J1

Who was his father?

Born of Mdvuba

QUESTION K1

Did the Dokolwako originate from Moyeni or Mjoli?

They originated from Moyeni. Mnjoli is the brother of Moyeni. Even today whatever they (the descendents of Mnjoli) do comes here to their grandmother's house.

QUESTION L1

Who begot the Dokolwako Moyeni or Mnjodi?

They were begotten by Mnjoli.

QUESTION M1

Do you know how those of Phica and Dokolwake separated?

No we do not know, but Phica's father is Bhudla. Then Phica separated when

MAGAGULA OF MADLANGAMPISI cont...

when he went to Mafutseni.

QUESTION N1.

How about the Nyakatho people, are you related to any of them - if so how?

Yes, it is our grandmother's house, whence Moyeni and the whole of our kingdom originates. It is at his grandmother's.

QUESTION O1

I do not quite understand when you tell us that Moyeni originated at Nyakatho. You said at first that he came alone and settled here. Is there another more prominent head than Moyeni?

Let us say that the Magagula came as Nyakatho, which gave birth to all the branches of the kingdom. In fact Nyakatho ~~was~~ was the stem.

QUESTION P1

Who was the leader of Nyakatho. Where did he come from?

These people came as one here - hence stemmed the house of Nyakatho. It was Magodoma who started distributing the Nyakatho house. The Nyakatho was in fact the house of Magodoma, which came and elaborated itself as it settled at Bulandzeni. Whence stemmed the rest of the branches. Yet in actual fact the Magagula are one family since Tshemibembule. Along the journey there stemmed many branches from the one family or clan. There are no other Magagula from any direction other than Tshemibembule. It is like this: the Nyakatho village was the main birth village of Moyeni, whence he left and went to establish his own. But the Nyakatho village remained the ancestral homestead.

QUESTION Q1

It looks as if the people across (there) are independent of Moyeni, how is that?

They were not independent to start with, but as time went on ~~they~~ their ties became looser and they became independent - yet they still belong to one another and are bound by Moyeni's chiefdom.

QUESTION R1

Did they start self-government before the days of the Swazi or just during the days of ~~Moyeni~~ Moyeni?

They ^{had} become independent ~~before~~ by the time Mswati intervened by building his village in between them, whence they fell under the Sidwashini village, the village of Mswati. They then fell under Nyakeni village later.

QUESTION S1

Do you know who Mhlangala was and where he was?

I do not remember.

QUESTION T1

Don't you know any Mhlangala as one of the Magagula leaders?

We apparently do not remember, but there is one point in the succession that we missed ~~from~~ from our father Madlangampisi, where he mentioned the eighth king. We cannot trace them since we were never told their names. We do understand that this Simangaliso, born of Madlangampisi was the 9th king. The present one is the 10th.

QUESTION U1

MAGAGULA - MADLANGAMPISI AREA cont...

QUESTION U1

Who was in charge of the rain-making magic?

The magic water was for Moyeni, the great king. He never handled it but his younger brother was in charge of it - in fact his half-brother of the subordinate or minor wife of his father. Hence the reason for Mnjoli to handle it, since it was traditionally never handled by the heir.

QUESTION V1

How did the Magagula get this gift?

We do not know the origin. Just like the kingdom - we do not know its origin. It looks as if they were born with it.

QUESTION W1

Could they have got the rain-making medicine from the Mngometfulo?

Perhaps if there is one who knows we cannot contradict him. But we understand that from their original point in Basutoland they had the medicine. We then assume that they brought it with them.

QUESTION X1

Do you know if the Magagula medicine is used anywhere in the incwala ceremony?

We do not know. We only know that sometimes the king used to call Magagula to him. That's all. But we do not think that there was anything he did in incwala.

QUESTION Y1

What was the reason for the attack on the Magagula?

It was just the survival of the strongest power. There was nothing more than that. It was a matter of putting us under control.

QUESTION Z1

Where and what is the name of the fortress into which the Magagula retreated during the attack?

It is Mkhutsali, the hillock near the school. It is near the Nazarene church.

QUESTION A2

This Khambi you mentioned, who brought bad reports of Moyeni to Mswati - is it the same Khambi killed later by Mswati?

Yes.

QUESTION B2

Can you explain the reasons which led to the death of Khambi by Mswati?

It is rumoured that ~~since~~ Khambi used to give bad reports to the king about other people, and one day the king rose up and said ~~that~~ "No - the king's people are being destroyed by this one man". This suspicion finally led to his death.

MAGAGULA OF MADLANGAMPISI cont...

QUESTION C 2

Can you tell us how Mswati found out that Moyeni was becoming great?

We do not know. Apparently this bad reporter was jealous of the ~~well~~ well to do village of ~~Moyeni~~ Moyeni. This was Khambi.

QUESTION D2

How far did the kingdom of Moynei extend?

In fact there were not many inhabitants, but he used to rule the area around which he built his home. So he could not extend any further.

QUESTION E 2

You said that you found the Masilela clan - who did the Masileal find here.

They found nobody here.

QUESTION F 2

Which of the two, Moynei or Mnjoli, married a royal lady.

Neither of these two did, but Madlangampisi and Madubane did.

QUESTION G2

Who are the greater - Mnjoli's or Phica's.

Phica is ^{below} ~~below~~ Mnjoli.

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