

Client: Wits University

Tape: 30

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INTERVIEWER: 18th of September 2005 and I'm in this place of Warmbath ... oh Mabula, (unknown name). My name is Jose Manuel Chimupe ... and aa... I'm working under what is Rand University ... I'm a researcher of the war history. As well, I know many..., Koevoet people and 32 Battalion people but umm... today I came to interview with... Koevoet members And.... I'm going to ask some couple questions and ee... as the world he need this history I believe that it will be perfect ... so ... I'm starting with my brother .. Malakia Ipinge here... Malakia Ipinge I think this is the time, which I give to you...

MALAKIA IPINGE: Thank you ... (muffled voices) ... (laughing) ... Um ... My name is Malakia Ipinge ... (whispering) here by Badplats and I'm born 1966 ... and 12 December (unknown).... And I'm member for Koevoet... I join 1983 ... 09 ...(whispering) ... 21 day... um ... I come (unknown name) the first I started for the Zulu Fascia group in Opua ... is uh 1983 until 1989 ... and I'm left 1988 and I come work for (unknown name) Oshakati ... Owamboland ... is ... uh ... 1989 ... until 30 ... until 30 April '90 ... (whispering)

INTERVIEWER: Carry on... Okay ... You can speak the language... ok

TRANSLATOR: for Malakia Ipinge

MALAKIA IPINGE: (in his language)... she translates :- When I start my work ... when I start the work I went to the (unknown) of poverty ... ja .. when I start that job on 1983 ... eh I started to go to Opuu land ... then I went to go 1983 ... the month it was October ... I started to go the ... (hesitates) bush ... ja... eh when they started to go there ... they went to sleep at Ruacana ... then ... when we work up we went from Ruacana ... we woke up at 7 o' clock at the morning ... then uh ... after ... when we ... when we woke up we went there ... to the bush ... when we went to the bush ... we ... we went to ... for uh ... for uh ... (unknown name) then from there we found two ... feet print ... then we follow those footprint it was ... facing the bush ... then when we follow those footprint ... we found the two men ... men ... the Swapo ... the Swapo ... they were the Swapo men ...then from there we start to fight ... then after we have finished to fight ... we ... we took only one man ... then another man is lost ... ja ... then in the bush there we stayed there for seven days... then after seven days we went back to the camp ... again there to the camp we stayed there for seven days ... then after seven days went back again to the bush ... then when we went back to the bush ... we went to work in Angola ... then ... at that they went to sleep at Nagotsuni... Kanautoni ... then when we ... from ... Nutoni ... we went for patrol facing where? (Unknown name) ... facing (unknown place) ... that night we spent the night at (Unknown) Early at the morning ... coming to the... time around 6 o' clock we heard the dog barking ... so there we were ... there were two groups ... there was Zulu 5 Sierra ... Zulu 5 Tango ... and the other ... group they were

walking at the ... to the feet ... (she asks:- what is the name of the..) Zulu ... it was the Zulu 5 Derp ... and then from there we ... the ... the... the noise... was heard by the ... by a man ... Corlett ... Sergeant Corlett... then after there we went straight ... to where ... the... to the facing the house where the dog was barking... then when we were reaching there we found that ... eh ... there ... the Swapo member that were past there ... eh... plus or minus... okay ... the soldiers.. The Swapo soldier... plus or minus there were sixteen ... there were sixteen men.... Then we walked for 500metre ... then from there we called the other soldier from Oshakati ... it was Zulu Mike ... and Zulu Alpha ... then those tow groups when they came ... we haven't been there with him for 5minutes ... then the contact start... then we lost three of our mans ... then all those fifteen ... mmm ... Swapo soldier we have killed them ... and then when we came back the other 102 mans ... eh... they said uh They called them army ... you know Marambo ... they say that eh ... they were lying ... and then the man that they called the Commander Fouche ... they say that those men we have to put them in the... on the ... on our cars ... then we bring those men until in Ombarano... so when we bring those men ... there... some of the people were saying ... no ... we were just talking lies.... We have only killed our brothers ... eh... inside them ... when we making the research we found inside of them there were some letters ... that they've been given that they were .. On their way to Ungagela ... then we took those letter ... to give them To ... I mean to To ... the community ... the (unknown) ... then... ee... we... buried those mens ... ja ... we buried those mens... we buried them in Ombarando... then from there we

separated ... with some of our mens.... Zulu Alpha and Zulu Mike ah ... they were on their way to Oshakati ... Zulu 5 Sierra ...

INTERVIEWER: There ... um ... which people did you ... they buried the Swapo?? Those fifteen... Swapo???

MALAKIA IPINGE: Ja its fifteen Swapo... ja they were this fiteens...

INTERVIEWER: They buried them in the...

MALAKIA IPINGE: Ja in

INTERVIEWER: Ok! Thank You

MALAKIA IPINGE: then from there we went back to Ruacana ... then from Ruacana we back to Opuu ... then we stayed there again ... for seven days... then after seven days we went back again ... to the bush ... then eh... on our way back to Ruacana ... we find one of the Swapo men (Asks) he breaks the poles ... he broke down the poles... then when we went there at that pole ... we found some of the men ... the... the army mens ... the army soldier I mean ... they were (asks) One or two? 102 Battalion ... and from there we went searching them ... then from there we just do ... walked for 45 kilometers... then

we find that man Then that man Or what??? That man stretched the arms
... ah The hands up I mean ...

INTERVIEWER: Pulled his hands up, ja ... rise his hand.

MALAKIA IPINGE: Ja ... he rise his hand ... then after some of the people they wanted to ... to... to go and arrest that man. Then that man started to fight. Then at... at some of our soldier ... he ... he didn't even shoot one from us .then we killed that man. Then from there we went back to Ruacana again. Then we slept at Ruacana. After we slept at Ruacana... then some of the men they came to ... looking for that man we have killed... they said those men they were from ... they came... call it They ... they ... they Came they called Okahama ... so then we heard those men they've approached the river ... then we followed them to the river... then we found where they approached... then we followed their feet... until where ... we ... they were slipped. Then there when they've heard us... then they came back approaching the river come back where they... they've came from. When we have found that they've came back... then we came back again to our camp Ruacana. Then when we reached Ruacana about 12o'clock... then eh ... I mean ... eh... eh... aero plane ... eh ... that aero plane that eh... always controls... upward there ... then they say that they saw five mens there... (Whispering) they say that they saw five mens approaching the river... then we went to sleep... to stop those men ... somewhere nnn.... To the houses near the river... then those men they haven't came at those houses...

then the other soldiers they went back home... then those mens... I mean the....
(noise interference) the girlfriend soldiers they went to sleep... they sent one...
the... the... then the Swapo soldiers they sent one boy to go buy food in town...
then that boy he had... he couldn't even reach the town then the ... Koevoet
soldiers... they arrest him. Then after that they called us to the camp... then eh...
the Koevoet there were two ... Koevoet soldiers car going in front... then they
went straight to where the boy comes from... in ... I mean... ja... to where the
boy comes from... then when they eh... the Swapo soldiers they heard the noise
they start to run away.. Then those two Swapo soldier... they haven't run...
facing the bush... they've run facing the town... eh... the first soldier... count
him... (Interference) then we found one Swapo soldier... up at the tree... then
were found him with the gun that called RPG7. Then that ... that Swapo soldier
when he have passed there we haven't see... we haven't see him. Then one of
ours... our Koevoet soldiers... he looked back ... then he saw that Swapo man
up at the tree. Then he shoot that man. Then after that, we followed the other
one ... then that the man who... the one who was following ... he was the...
the... Commander of the Swapo soldier... we followed that eh... man until we
found him in the bush... then we arrest that man... then we took that man with us
to our camp... then that ,man he give us all the information we needed. The at
the following day... then he took us straight to the other three men where he left
them... then those three mens they were ... they... they...they were trying to fight
to go back to the river. Then after that were ... forcing ourselves to follow those
mens ... um ... to find ... there... to find them... then after that we found two S...

soldiers... Swapo soldiers. Then those two soldiers.... Swapo soldiers... we fight them then we killed them there .then after that when we see that we finished the war... eh... when we want to go back home... then the other Swapo soldier ... he was under the tree... that man eh... he was thinking to kill us... then after that he heard some noise there after... at his back ... then when we turn with the Koevoet soldiers.... Then when we just turn ... we see him face to face with him ... we just cleaned his face there... then after that we went back to the camp. Then when we went to the camp, we stayed there for seven days. After seven days we went back, again... after that we went to spend the night at Ruacana. Then eh... the Swapo soldier... they sent some of the... the... mens to go and search for the soldier, where they have been killed. We followed those men... they were three, until at the bush where they called Cashachete. Then after that, we slept just following their feet ...eh... the other man was arrested at the Zulu Victor... they were arrested at the place where they called Umthanda... then those (asks) so those men... ja They ...they... Zulu 5 they took that ... um soldier... Swapo soldier to bring to the ... to the... (Unknown) soldiers... uh...-ok Zulu Victor... he took that boy... I mean the... Swapo soldier to the ...Zulu ... Zulu 57 and 05 Echo, 05 Tango, and the Zulu 11... that man his name was Zacaria... Then when we took that man ...there we took him straight to the ... to that man we've arrested their ... their Commander at where? At Ruacana... Then... that man Zacaria said that... this mans was the ones that I was looking for. Then those two ... soldiers they went until to Angola we haven't even found them. Then after that we went back to our camp... we stayed there for seven

days ... then after our seven days we went back again ... to the bush to work. Then after that we to work somewhere to Opuwa place at the mountain place. The place where they called that eh (unknown name) we found there were eighty Swapo soldiers there. So those Swapo soldiers they heard that...(interruption) helicopter up at the sky ... then ... helicopter was near the river... at that time there was the... the... fence there... the soldiers ... I mean the Namibian soldier they want to go to Angola and the Angolan soldiers they want to come to Namibia. Then some of the men they ... approached the river to go to Angola. For us we just decided to stay there ...at... to the mountain there at Opuwa, until eh... um I mean ... at the end of our days to go back again. Then we went back again to the camp. Again from there we stayed seven days to the camp ... then we came to work at Ovambo... then when we came here to Ovambo we slept at Omabarando ... eh when we... we spent the night at ... at Omabarando ... the Swapo soldiers they came to break the poles ... at night...early at the morning we went to follow their feet... we followed those men. Those men they haven't even slept they just ... ee... continued just going until at Shoshangovo. Then we leave them. We just... ee... after that we were just patrolling in our bush there... soon we went back again to the camp. That year it was 1988. Eh from there it was eh... those men they were not having ... (interruption) car... they... they... don't come from Angola to come in Namibia the Swapo soldiers.

INTERVIEWER: They didn't cross the border?

MALAKIA IPINGE: No, they didn't cross the border. Ja... eh... then after that in 1989... then after that they said that the election will come... the election that called 3-4-5. Then from there then all...eh our Commander they told us that on the 1st April no ... nobody must have eh... eh ... gun or to shoot. Then we the Koevoet soldiers was left because we no that now there is no war it is free now. Then I left my gun in the car and I slept on the floor. Because there was no war. Then at 12o'clock at night it was 1 April ... at the other side of the river we heard the sound of the car. Then we thought that no... those are the ... the Angolan soldiers and the Namibian soldiers they are working together. Then they separated on 30 March... Ja... then when we heard the sound at the other side of the river ... we thought that no... those sound it was the Angolan soldiers they just ...they are just going home Then eh... those cars they were bringing the Swapo soldiers ... we were the... we as the Koevoet soldiers we just sleeping knowing any... nothing. Early at the morning ... we heard one of our soldier man Zulu 5 Juliet ... then those Soldiers of Zulu 5 Juliet they say that they were on their way... they were fo... they were following... a tracks ... of fifteen mens ... eh ... many people they were saying that no... the Koevoet soldiers they are just eh...telling lies, because all the soldiers of ...weermag... 11 they were not working any more as soldiers. Then who was working is only the Koevoet soldiers. Then at 7o'clock am ... then were heard that there were ... shoo... they were shoo... there were shooting ... ja... the... the... Swapo soldiers they

were...shooting the... Koevoet soldiers. For us we were waiting for the ... the... Commander to tell us ... because the... the... our Commander told us that on the 1st no one must fight. We waited until at 10'clock. Then eh... while the... Swapo soldiers were shooting us we lost three, of our men. Then three they were wounded then from 30'clock then we get the answer from Windhoek. Then they told us that now you can fight. We found some of the Swapo soldiers, we found some of them they were... they were already runned away. Then we find only about 20 Swapo soldiers we killed them. We slept at that mountain until the sun break. Early at the morning, then we went to follow the ... the troops ... then while we were walking, we found some... here we found three some four ... then from there we were only going killing the Swapo soldier. Until at the road where it ended where you find the... the Owambo border... (Unknown) then from there we came back. Ok... because there... if you... you... go back to Owambo... there were some of the Koevoet soldiers who were working... facing Owambo there. Then for me myself I went back to spend the night at Ruacana. At about 3 o'clock early at the morning... eh... then I heard one of our Commanders says that ... there is about 800 Swapo soldiers at (unknown) then when it was about 6o'clock at the morning then I ... I put my guns at the car.. Then I put myself on the road... then when I just reached where... at the place there was the river... eh... I found some of the men ... they were ... the Swapo men, there were men feet there...

INTERVIEWER: So you were that moment you were traveling with ... by feet or with Casper?

MALAKIA IPINGE: With the feet.

INTERVIEWER: Ok thank you.

MALAKIA IPINGE: So... eh... and I went to... to... facing those men. I found three Ohimben (unsure) men ... then three (unsure) men they started to cry. Then they say it's only you men only... call of your... your mens... ja... because these people who are there... I mean the... the...Swapo soldiers... they are many you can't even face them... few of you. Eh... Swapo sent some of the community to go and tell the... to tell the community ... ja... ja... to tell the... the... soldiers of (unknown) to come and fight. Ja... then when we came there it was around 2o'clock. Then he told... our Commander says that we must go... forward then the Kasper must be... at the back ... then we walked for 300 metres... eh... where... there ...there where we facing ... the Swapo soldiers they were not there... eh.. The helicopter that the... walked to the other side ... Commander... one of the Swapo Commander ... who was there... then he.. He... Commanded his soldiers that... shoot that ... (speaking in their language)I mean the Swapo Commander told his soldier to shoot that helicopter... eh... that helicopter after that.. it went back to... (Unknown) then after that ... he says that

we must wait...eh... Then after that ... while he was telling ... our commander says that we have to wait... he was waiting... for the... Impala helicopter ... to ... to... shoot... oh... the map... those men... were working ... as the... the... the... Map men... they saw that the... there where the soldier.... There... I mean... there ... what is this...Swapo soldiers where they were there were many houses there... they can't fight... there... then our commander... says that we have to go forward... then ... so our commander he was up...up at the... helicopter... then we that the... Koevoet soldiers... we were walking at the back.... They we started to fight our war with the Swapo soldiers...there we killed about 300 Swapo soldiers. Okay... so then we heard the... Our Commander from Windhoek says that no... now we have to stop... this war... then we went back home. The...then... eh from home there we were just walking sometime we go to... to the bush... sometime we come back... then Swapo soldiers went back to Angola... Ja... eh... that year it was 1989. It was around May and June... then for me myself I went to work eh... to Oshakati. Then I went to when the... the... Where they called Zulu Hotel. We working only in the camp. And from there we don't go to the bush anymore. On 9 March, they took us at work. Eh... then from there we couldn't even get something even a pension... something like that... then we went back home. The time we were working at Koevoet ... eh... Our salaries... was only six hundred rands ... If you... you... were injured ... when you go to the hospital ... when you come back they will never pay you. You won't even get something. If you are dead... they ... they will just took you to... To... your family... if they get at least about fifteen thousand, they are lucky.

Then at the year called 1990... eh... Because of that... eh... the other government... Who were fighting with the government of South Africa they leave us there in Namibia... then for us our self... we also follow the... the South African government. Then we came to South Africa... then they took us to work ... as a security... we got... uh... looking for the cows there on the farms... eh... we start Monday to Friday... eh... they will pay you ten rand ... a week... eh... from then the government they talked and then they put us to (unknown) per month the salary was five hundred rand. Then when we came fro Namibia, we came here with all our family, our children, and our wives. Then we worked as a... South African Police starting from 1992. From 1992 to 1994 then the Independence of South Africa it comes. Then from there we started to be (unknown) as... eh... what has happened to us... the time we were at Namibia. Then we leave the job. Then they say that no... we will just give you the leave... eh... at the leave... they just give us the salary about three thousand rand. Eh... after I ... we... our leave ended... when we wanted to go... to go back... there. Six months ... six months...

INTERVIEWER: Oh, it was ... like ...

MALAKIA IPINGE: The leave it was only for six months.

INTERVIEWER: Ok! After six months then you have to go back...

MALAKIA IPINGE: To go and start work again...

INTERVIEWER: Ok! Thanks

MALAKIA IPINGE: Then the Government they don't want to allow us to work again. Eh... then for the... that amount they have give us... about three thousand rand... eh... at that (inaudible), they called Rooibek ... where we were staying before. .. Eh... because of our mind then we went the... looking for the other farms ... eh...because we just... eh... allowed ourselves that no... if we go to the some of the location... is our family who we ... they will get lost... then we buy our farm... then we buy that farm ... the... the... about four hundred... eh... fifty seven... fifty seven... fifty seven thousand rand...four hundred and fifty seven thousand rand. Then from there to that man where... we... We... bought that place... then he told us that no ... you have only hired that farm. In each person when we buy that place... we... we... paid one thousand five hundred rand. then that man at the first time he promised that ... if we should give me at least on point five hundred rands... each and every person, I will give you a shelter to live in. Then... eh... on the year that called 99, the owner of that farm

says the no... we should leave that farm. Then for us we fought that no, we can't leave the farm because we give him a lot of money. Eh... then... we... we... we... we... looked for a... a... um a lawyer somewhere, who was staying at Nylstroom. Then that lawyer... we realized that that lawyer was the family to that man we had bought this farm. But now they say that the Government is the one that has bought this farm... there... where we stayed until now. Eh... is where I am that myself Malakia Ipinge. Thanks a lot.

INTERVIEWER: Malakia Ipinge um ... thank you very much for everything. I'd like to.... I'd like to ask you maybe include anything else that you say or maybe a question.

MALAKIA IPINGE: ok!

INTERVIEWER: You got anything else to say or that's all?

MALAKIA IPINGE: Ah ... that's all!

INTERVIEWER: Thank you! No question? Thank you very much Malakia Ipinge.

MALAKIA IPINGE: Thanks so much.

INTERVIEWER: Ok.

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