

Letter dated 20 December 1896

Archive: Killie Campbell Africana Library, Durban.
Letter reference: FUZE, Magama Magwaza Papers, KCM 90/13/1/8.
Letter date: 20 December 1896
From: Magama Magwaza. Francis Plain, St Helena.
To: Miss A. Werner. 15 Sutherland Road, Tenbridge Wells, England.
Other details: Hand-written, in English
Transcriber's note(s): The government did not pay Magama allowance and he did not receive food rations and clothes because he was at St Helena as per Dinuzulu's private arrangement, not government's. This correspondence suggests to include a letter to be forwarded to Miss Colenso, in this collection that letter is not included.
Letter contents: Magama Magwaza is complaining that at St Helena he is not treated well, that for Christmas the island's government gifted everyone in the Zulu exiles' party with money, even the nurse/midwife Mbodiya and all the children, except for him.

OFFENSIVE WORDS/TERMS: Nil

Francis Plain, St Helena
Dec. 20. 1896

Miss A. Werner
15 Sutherland Road
Tenbridge Wells
England

Nkosazana

I will be glad if this note finds you still alive as it leaves me, and at the same time I may say Happy Christmas to you Nkosazana, and trust all [is] well at my home as I was told by Miss A. M. Colenso's letter of the last mail from Bishopstowe. For the present I am living at the Island as an orphan who has lost his father and mother before being able to help himself. I was allowed by Natal Government to come to assist the Zulu Chiefs by writing their letters and ^to^ teach the children and to stay with the Chiefs so long as convenient to [me?] and their own wishes as long as they are kept exiles on this Island. And now when I am there it goes on the others way (as you will see in the enclose[d] letter to Miss Colenso). But I know very well it is not Sir Marshall's fault, it rest within remarks on my letter to Sir M. Clarke, to throw or cast away my request. So then on the 12th inst. every one was given £2 – male & female - & children 20/ to 10/- & the old woman Mbodiya £1 – 10/- & I was given nothing for Christmas or for new year. Awaiting Miss Colenso's only kind regards to me & to all of our people. I shall keep quiet for a time.

Sincerely your servant
Magama Magwaza

LEGEND:

^ ^ insertion

[?] incomplete, illegible word(s)
[] notes/words by transcriber, not part of correspondence

TRANSCRIBER:
Sizakele Gumede for FHYA, 2022.
Student, MA in Historical Studies, UCT.