

## Letter dated 26 November 1896

Archive: Pietemaritzburg Archives Repository  
Letter reference: A204 Colenso Collections, Magera Papers, vol. 104, Letters dispatched 1890-1899  
Letter date: 26 November 1896  
From: Magera Magwaza. Francis Plain, St Helena.  
To: Miss Colenso, no address  
Other details: Hand-written, in isiZulu  
Transcriber's note(s): Miss Colenso referred to, is Harriette Colenso. The letter is worn out and in pieces. Its importance is in the information it carries, that Magera Magwaza wanted one of his wives to be brought and join him at St Helena. The letter's marginalia is about Tshingana who arrived on the island with one wife but then also wanted two more of his wives to be brought and join him on the island.  
Contents: Magera Magwaza expresses his wish to have the Zulu kings' izibongo printed so that they are not lost to posterity. He is also asking for money from Miss Colenso, telling her that unlike the rest of the Zulu exiles' party who the government supported and paid allowances to and gave food rations and clothes, he did not receive anything (because he was on the island by Dinuzulu's private arrangement, not government's).

OFFENSIVE WORDS/TERMS: Nil

Francis Plain  
St Helena  
Nov. 26. 1896

Miss Colenso

Nkosazana

Sisahamba kahle sonke lapa, abanNtwana nabalobokazi nezingane nabantu bonke basatokoza kahle emizimbeni ukupela sihlutshwa yilezo zamabukudwane.

Ngifisa ukuhlanganisa izibongo [z]amakosi akwa'Zulu – Ndaba, Jama, Senzangakona, Tshaka, Dingane, Mpande no Cetshwayo – uma ngingatola ukusizwa kambe ngingatanda ukuba loko konke kucindezelwe kungalahleki, ngoba sengesaba ukuti izibongo lezi zizaulahleka zingabe zisaziwa ngabazovela emva kwetu; kodwa kangazi ukuba uDinuzulu uyakuvuma yini ukungisiza ngaloko na? Uma engavumanga ngiyakucela kuwe ukuba welekelele kucindezelwe izibongo lezo zamakosi.

Ngitanda kakulu ukuba Inkosazana ingelekelele ngaloko ukucela engikucele kuwe ngokusweleka kwomkami lapa, nangohlamvu lokungondla, ngobapela bonke abakwaZulu abahlezi lapa uHulumeni uyabondhla ngokudhla nezingubo zokugqoka nezokwambata, kepa mina angisizwa nga'luto, loko kubuhlungu kakulu kimi. Nguwe kambe, Nkosazana, onguBaba nomluleki wetu kuko konke okunjengaloku. Siza umuntu wako okwazisayo, Magera [words cut off, possibly 'Magwaza']

[\*Nkosazana, umNtwana uTshingana ufisa ukucela omkake ababili, okaNkunga nokaQetuka, nomfana wake [?] ucela ukuzwa izwi lako\*]

LEGEND:

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

TRANSCRIBER:

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