

MAHLAKULA

<Typescript copies of Mahlakula's evidence are to be found in Files 6 and 27 of the Stuart Collection - eds.>

14.11.1900

File 73, pp. 122-3.

Also present: Mtakati, Ndukwana

122 14.11.1900. I, this afternoon at 3.10 p.m., had a conversation for 15 minutes with Mahlakula and Mtakati, members of Chief Mbuyisazwe's tribe.¹ The former was about 27 and the latter 37 years of age. Ndukwana was present. Mahlakula was defendant in a native civil case I tried today, deciding against him.²

The subject was Kimberley, natives working there. Mahlakula has worked at Kimberley on two occasions and intends returning there again soon. He prefers Kimberley to Johannesburg, where he has also been, for various reasons. One is that labourers at K. are paid at the end of every week instead of monthly. He worked at J. before the railway reached there. Wages at K. are 27s for police duty. M. worked at K. in a mine (second visit - last year) for about two weeks, and then became a policeman. People working in mines get higher wages, as well as occasional rewards for making good finds - sometimes as much as £3. Natives cannot get liquor at K. as they do at J. There is no drinking in the compound or getting drunk to the same extent as at J. European supervision is stricter over police, and things go better for it. Basutos, Amaxoza, Hottentots, and Zulus work at K. There are many Natal natives there. In the magistrate's court some native who understands English generally does interpretation as it is required, the magistrate being unable to speak Zulu. Natives sometimes swallow diamonds and, if these are found in their excrement, natives are punished.

123 Mtakati worked at K. a number of years ago and introduced M. to the place, took him there. One reason why both like K. and want to return is because they are attached to, and know, their masters. The impression given me by these men is that the arrangements at K. re natives are satisfactory.

This talk was due to the telegram in the Witness re the Daily News interview with Rev. Moffat.³ [Vide p. 18 of ordinary notebook.]

MAHLAKULA

Notes

¹Mbuyisazwe was chief of the Hlubi people living in the Klip River division.

²Stuart was at this time magistrate in Ladysmith.

³Presumably John Smith Moffat, missionary and public servant.
See Standard Encyclopaedia of Southern Africa, vol. 7, p. 483.