

MKAKWA KA SIPIKE

4.11.1897

File 74, p. 76.

Also present: Ndukwana? Mtshелеkwana? Zulu?

<It is not made clear in the original whether Ndukwana, Mtshелеkwana and Zulu were present when Mkakwa was interviewed, or whether Stuart, under date 4.11.1897, drafted a composite note on the subject of taboo, made up of the independent testimonies of these four informants - eds.>

76 Taboo.

Chief Mkakwa tells me that his - the Myeni - tribe does not eat a *bustard* or a tiger-cat, the reason being because a person of their tribe doing so would become mad.¹ The zebra, however, is eaten.

Ndukwana says the *bustard* is eaten in Zululand, whilst the zebra is not eaten because the meat 'smells'.

The goat is not eaten by Mtshелеkwana or his tribe, the abakwaMate-njwa, otherwise the abasemaNyiseni.²

Zulus and Swazis do not eat fish, but Tongas do. So do the Tuli tribe formerly under Mmini.

At one time, Zulu says, pig was not eaten in Zululand or Natal; nor was fowl eaten. It is contact with Europeans which has done this.

Notes

¹Mkakwa was chief of the Myeni people living in southern Swaziland.

²Mshелеkwana was chief of the Mathenjwa (Nyiseni) people living at the northern end of the uBombo range.