

NTULIZWE ka MAQUBANDABA

8.8.1920. High Brae.¹

File 49, item 8, pp. 1-4.

1 Ntulizwe ka Maqubandaba ka Godide ka Ndhlela.² I saw Wheelwright over two years ago at Pietermaritzburg.³ He was with Ntshелеle ka Godide.⁴ Mr W. referred me to the magistrate at Nkandhla (T.J. Jackson) and Mlokotwa ka Mpumela.⁵ My object was to return to my old kraal sites. I went to Mr Jackson, who referred me to Mlokotwa. I went. Mlokotwa said, 'I am unable to preside as chief over my own *indhlunkulu*; let the authorities do what they think proper.' I informed Mr J. of this; he told me to go and *court (gomisa)* Mlokotwa again. I went, and he said, 'I have already given my views,' and added that the government should itself do what it sees fit. 'I can do nothing.' I went to Mr J. who said he would help to court Mlokotwa for me, but nothing came about.

Mr J. was then transferred to another district, and Mr B. (Bokisi?) assumed duty at Empandhleni.⁶ I went to Mr B. about six months ago. He told me he would see Mlokotwa and tell me the result. I heard he saw M. who said he was afraid of agreeing to my coming back to my old kraal sites; it would be like putting a snake into one's pocket; it would come out and cause the people who at present were *konzaing* M. to break away and *konza* me. I did not personally go to Mr B. as I was detained in Pietermaritzburg. My 'father' (*the son of the left-hand house of Godide*), Somzica, went, and was told as above.⁷ Mr B. added that on his asking why Mlokotwa likened me to a snake, Mlokotwa said that my coming to live on our old kraal sites was analogous to harbouring a snake, for the people would break away and *konza* me (Ntulizwe).

I have for some two years past had a case against Kofi ka Diyiza ka Godide, my claim being 6 of my sisters, or the *lobola* received by him for them - 105 cattle.

2 Mr M. Ofterbro gave judgment in my favour.⁸ Kofi appealed. The Native High Court finally decided the matter last month in Durban, when the magistrate's judgment was upheld.

I was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment with hard labour for alleged participation in the Bambata rebellion. I am, however, the victim of intrigue on the part of Mlokotwa, son of Mpumela, and Mndeni ka Godide. I did not at any time join or have anything to do with Bambata's forces. I was not a rebel. I informed

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Mlokotwa, when he came with three *companies (viyos)* to the Macala in April 1906 that I would not have anything to do with the rebels.⁹ A number of his men wanted there and then to rebel. I said I would go and look after my cattle, and advised him to go and join the troops then stationed at Ntingwe. Mangati, by this time, had joined Bambata and gone to Nkandhla.¹⁰ I refused to join the rebels before Mlokotwa appeared, and Mangati is aware of this. He urged me to rebel, but I refused and advised him not to rebel.

Mpumela, Mlokotwa and Mndeni being present, also myself, told Mr McKenzie that I had nothing to do with the rebels.¹¹ He said this in the magistrate's office, though not at the trial, for I believe his son, Mlokotwa, and Mndeni kept him from giving evidence as he was in my favour. *They greatly upbraided (tetisa) him* about this. I heard of this from Somzica *who was with them there*. They wanted to incriminate me so that the way would be clear to continuing to enjoy my grandfather Godide's inheritance. Only one man gave direct evidence against me at the trial, viz. Qibiti ka Matole, who lived, and still lives, in a kraal quite close by Mpumela's. This man (a Christian - *kolwa*), says Nsuze,¹² *preached (shumayela 'd)* for Bambata's troops when at Macala, and so was a rebel. Yet he escaped being punished, no doubt because he was a protege of Mlokotwa and Mndeni, and because he volunteered to perjure himself by saying he saw me (Ntulizwe) among the rebels at Macala, whereas I was not. His evidence was that he saw me sitting *in the rough shelters (emadhlangaleni)* at Kwa Macala, doing nothing, but could not, in answer to me at the trial (such as it was) say the colour of my shield or state what I said to the rebels.

3 Ndabaningi, son of Sigananda,¹³ gave evidence in my favour, i.e. denied that I was among the rebels. In addition to this, Mangati, a rebel ringleader, who was long in hiding, declared to Mr Colenbrander (Manqanda) at Nkandhla that I was not a rebel.¹⁴

Those who were looking after the cattle with me were Ngqekeza (living) ka Jikajika and Hlabazihlangana (since deceased) ka Godide. Neither of these were punished or imprisoned, whilst others also with me, viz. Nkankane (living), Mnyaiza (living) and Mgangadi (living) were put under arrest but released a couple of months later, I fancy on account of not having been rebels, and because they were old men.

I am, I say, the victim of a conspiracy on the part of Mlokotwa and Mndeni. I was, on the evidence of a single and biased witness - *who was brought on account of a grudge (amagqubu)*, i.e. he was not brought because a bona fide witness - sentenced to 10 years hard labour. This sentence was later reduced to 3 years, a period I served at the rebel camp near Durban. There was no real trial of me - men were got simply to point out who was or who was not seen among the rebel *impi*.

I deny having at any time associated myself with or joined the rebels. Not one of Bambata's men still living would admit having seen me among them. More than this, all those of Mpumela's tribe - including Makolwa (living), the *induna* appointed by Mpumela to take charge of his levy when called out by the Government, a man however who rebelled - who actually rebelled, denied that I was with them.

As proof that I was not a rebel, ten of my cattle (oxen) were raided by Bambata's forces. The rest (43) were seized by the Government troops. I used to herd them on the west side of the Macala, *on the Manyane river*.¹⁵

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Mlokotwa is plotting to keep me out of his so-called district. Qibiti is his tool. He is still living with Mlokotwa.

When I came out of gaol, I went to Macala but, at the instigation of Mlokotwa a week later, was ordered by the magistrate - Mpumela then being dead - to quit the district. I went and lived in one of my father's kraals in Ndube's (Mpatesita's) neighbouring ward,¹⁶ and there I am still living. I now pray to be allowed to go back to my ancestral district, having been wrongfully banished therefrom.

- 4 Mr Wheelwright said to me that if Mlokotwa refused to let me get back to Macala, he would call his attention to an order made by Sir M. Clarke to the effect that on the death of Mpumela, no son of Mpumela was to get anything of the Godide inheritance.¹⁷

Mpumela was an *induna*, appointed by Sir M. Osborn (on the advice of Yamela),¹⁸ to look after Godide's affairs until the *heir* (*inkosana*) should be appointed. He was appointed because it was felt he would not *cause a dispute* (*banga*).

My father disputed with Mbuzana ka Godide. He however had only girls, no male issue.

Three magistrates - at Dukuzu [Maritz?], Empandhleni [Jackson], Nqutu (Manyenyeza) [Hignett? Farrer?] - inquired into the Ntuli succession, and found I was the true head and successor to Godide and Ndhlela. This was affirmed at Eshowe by Mfungelwa.¹⁹ Mlokotwa and everyone else agree that I am the head. There was a very well attended inquiry, attended by all Natives of importance.

I conclude that it is because I am regarded as having been a rebel that I have not been instated. And yet I never did rebel.

<From this point on in the original, Stuart's notes are mostly very faint. Some words are illegible - eds.>

I am of the Mavalana regiment, though put in the Dakwa (Dakwaukwesuta) which follows in age after the *Felapakati*, which follows after the *Mbokodwebomvu*.²⁰ I was born when C. returned from England [say 1882 - so would be 38 years of age now].²¹

I was wounded in the right leg below the knee, inner side, coming out about five inches above, i.e. just above knee. I was at Silokomana, a *knoll* on the Tugela side of the Macala. I was shot by troops from the Krantzkop side of the Tugela, I believe the Krantzkop Reserves. The bullet was fired from below <illegible> I was standing. I was with N <name illegible> (living) ka Zikulu. N. was a boy. I had no <illegible> or weapon with me. I ran away on being hit. I was not in the Mome action,²² nor in any <illegible>, nor was I wounded more than once.

I was sent by Dick Addison to Eshowe along with many rebels (among them Macwaneka) [this, as D.A.'s tel. book says, on 17 June].²³ I surrendered to D.A. at Camp Insuze. I showed him my wound.

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Notes

¹High Brae was the name of Stuart's home in Hilton, near Pietermaritzburg.

²The names given are those of a section of the Ntuli chiefly house. Ndlela kaSompisi had been one of Dingane's principal *izinduna*.

³Presumably Charles Wheelwright, Chief Native Commissioner in Natal from 1916 to 1928.

⁴Ntshелеle kaGodide was another of Stuart's informants: his evidence, given with that of Somzica kaGodide, appears elsewhere in this volume.

⁵Mlokothwa was appointed chief of a section of the Ntuli in the Nkandhla division in 1908 after the murder of his father Mphumela the previous year: see Bryant, Olden Times, p. 60.

⁶We have been unable to identify 'Mr B.'. Mpandleni magistracy was located at what is now Nkandla village.

⁷Somzica kaGodide was another of Stuart's informants: his evidence, given with that of Ntshелеle kaGodide (see note 4 above), appears elsewhere in this volume.

⁸The reference is presumably to Martin Oftebro, son of a Natal missionary and, in the early twentieth century, a magistrate in the Natal Native Affairs Department.

⁹KwaMacala hill lies some eighteen kilometres south-west of present-day Nkandla village.

¹⁰Mangathi kaGodide was another of Stuart's informants: his evidence appears in volume 2 of the Stuart Archive.

¹¹We have been unable to identify the McKenzie referred to.

¹²The reference is probably to Nsuze kaMfelafuthi, another of Stuart's informants. His evidence appears elsewhere in this volume.

¹³Sigananda kaZokufa, chief of the Cube, was prominent in the rebellion of 1906.

¹⁴B. Colenbrander was the magistrate in the Nkandhla division during the rebellion of 1906.

¹⁵The Manyane river flows from the north into the Thukela at Jameson's Drift.

¹⁶Ndube was chief of the Magwaza people in the Nkandhla division.

¹⁷Sir Marshall Clarke was Resident Commissioner in the Colony of Zululand from 1893 to 1897.

¹⁸Melmoth Osborn was British Resident in Zululand from 1880 to 1887, and Resident Commissioner and Chief Magistrate of the Colony of Zululand from 1887 to 1893. Yamela was his principal *induna*.

¹⁹Mfungelwa kaMavumengwana was chief of a section of the Ntuli in the Eshowe division.

²⁰The uMavalana *ibutho* was nominally formed by Dinuzulu. According to Bryant, Olden Times, p. 646, this was in 1906.

²¹The reference is to Cetshwayo's return from exile in the Cape in 1883.

²²A major engagement between rebels and government forces was fought in the Mome valley in the Nkandla region on 10 June 1906.

²³R.H. Addison was a magistrate in Zululand at the time of the rebellion.