

DATE : 14.5.1970

INFORMANT : ~~SM~~ SAMBANE DLAMINI

AREA : MAPHALALENI

REGIMENT : MASOTSHENI

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM : OLD MEN OF COMMUNITY

Here at Maphalaleni Somhlolo built a homestead for Nkosikazi LaNdwandwa - Somhlolo built for this Nkosikazi because she was a very diligent woman. Because of this the other wives were very jealous, and so Somhlolo decided to build her a home where she could work independently. Then Somhlolo told the following men to go and find a place for her - Masimba Shabangu, Mbandulo Ngwenya and Nhlelbela Manana. When these men arrived here (Maphalaleni) there was nobody living here except the Basuto - the Mncinas - who were staying under rocks because it was still war time. Then they divided it into several parts and they went back to report to the king that they had seen the land. The king asked Masimba if he had seen the place where he would stay when he was responsible for this homestead of the kings. Masimba stated that he would stay in Lubuyane area whilst he was responsible for this house of the kings. Immediately LaNdwandwa's hut was carried here (half the hut was actually brought from Shiselweni to start this new home). Then Nkosikazi, LaNdwandwa, was brought up here. She had no son and was old. By this time Somhlolo was dead and Mswati was king. She then went to Mswati to ask if she could be given some children who would then be responsible for this area as she had no children of her own.

Mswati chose our grandmothers, namely ~~Nkosikazi~~ ^{Nkosikazi} LaMaseko uLagence, Nkosikati LaGama, who is my father's mother. LaMaseko begat Ngiba. These were the King's wives who had come into LaNdwandwa's house as she was too old to do anything. When she died she left LaMaseko and LaGama. LaMaseko had only one daughter of Mswati - she was called Manxeba; LaGama had no children. When Mswati died his only daughter was Manxeba. After Mswati's death his wives were supposed to go to kuMaloyi ekushimuteni, but neither of them went. Instead LaMaseko decided to go to Prince Zimpisi (I don't remember to which house the prince belonged). LaGama went to Ekushimuleni where she was given a husband and she got my father. LaMaseko got Maphikelela the father of Mahela and Giba from Zimpisi.

My father had a brother. He was called Senzangakhona. Later these two women came back to Maphalaleni. This was when the people of Maphalaleni wanted their king. LaGama was of higher birth than LaMaseko, but unfortunately she had no child by King Mswati, so as LaMaseko had had the child Manxeba if it was fitting that she should get the kingship. Maphikelela, the son of Zimpisi and LaMaseko, was made king until he died (he had a few children). His wives were taken over by his brother, Giba, and this area was under Giba until Mashila grew up to take the kingship. Giba was dethroned.

QUESTION A

So Giba was acting on behalf of Mashila?

Yes - because Mashila was Maphikelala's son, the son of Zimpisi. Maphikelala died when Mashila was still young, so that is why Giba was acting for him. During his reign he became sick and he was no longer able to direct the

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affairs of this area. At that time I (Sambane) was working in Barberton. Mashila came to ask me to go home and help him as it seemed even his reasoning powers were no longer functioning very well. "Come and be in charge of the people!" He said he wanted me from LaGama's house because the others (meaning those of LaMaseko) ~~cannot help~~ couldn't help him. So I came back and he introduced me to the people and told them they should report their troubles to me, and that I would report to him. I was in charge for 5 years, then he died. Even after his death I continued because the people wanted me to do so until things were rearranged.

Today I am ^{re-}building the home because Mashila died when the home was already dilapidated. He was staying at his son's ~~place~~ place. I am re-building this place so that when a new man is installed he should find a home to stay in. In fact I am re-building Somhlolo's homestead.

QUESTION B

Did Somhlolo build this homestead when he was here or whilst he was still at Shiselweni?

He was still at Shiselweni.

QUESTION C

Did Somhlolo fight the Mncinas or just usurp their powers?

After those men had come to report that they had seen the smoke from their homes up in the mountains the king told the men to go and tell the Mncina to get out because the war was over. The king's house is being re-erected in this area.

QUESTION D

Had he fought with them before?

Yes.

QUESTION E

Who are your neighbours here?

They are the Mncinas and also those at Dlangeni and Mandanda. To the south of the Nkomati there is a small area for the Sukati (I don't know how they got this area). I don't know how any of the other except the Mncina came here, and those of Nkaba who came as a ~~xx~~ result of 'Udlambeda!

QUESTION & F

Have there been any ~~xxx~~ famous men amongst your people since Somhlolo's day?

There was once uMshumpula Maseko, Mangenasithebe Fakude, Maliwa Maphosa. These are the three men I have heard about. But during the last wars strong men were Manzane Maphosa, Ngoboyi Maphosa, Gabizitha, the son of Mashila, Magamenkenhli, the son of Mboshwa Nyamane, Magebo Maseko, the son of Mdayi, Gobezandla Mnisi, the son of Maghegwana. All these Bagiya here at Maphaluleni.

I can remember one ~~heroic~~ heroic event here. There was once a lion that came into this place and it was killed by some of the Amajaha with spears, after it had killed someone.

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QUESTION G

~~Queson~~ Could you explain how he was killed?

It was promptly announced, by some people at Kalele Valley, that the lion had killed some beasts. The person who told us was Kopoza - a resident of the valley. This happened when Giba was still alive. The reiment called Ndwandwe took arms to a place where the lion was. Some of them had guns. People like Kupuza and Vimba Khumalo. They searched for the lion. As they were searching it was vomiting in the river ready to attack. As soon as it saw them it roared terribly. One man called ~~Zingod~~ Zingodo Maseko charged towards it. As he was trying to stab it (using a spear and shield) ~~he~~ it stopped him. At that particular ~~time~~ spot there was a fence to prevent some hippos from eating maize in the fields. When Zingodo tried to jump he bumped against that fence and fell down. The lion was on him. Immediately his son, Mampondweni Maseko, jumped on it to try and rescue his father. When it jumped to attack him he stabbed it up its nostrils and through the brain, and it fell dwon. Then all the people came to kill it. Zingodo did not die on the spot. He was carried and died when he had reached home. His home was at Hlaza. Then the lion was carried to the king. That's why the Maphalaleni people bagiya with spears.

QUESTION H

Which river is this?

Nkomati River. This is where the people cut the king's reeds. Usually here at Maphalaleni ~~women~~ women are called upon to come and cut the reeds~~and~~ and put them together under the trees. Then they wait until they get dry. When they are dry the Amajaha carry these ~~reeds~~ bundles of reeds to Ezitheni. The King thanks them and distributes the rees to the Royakl homesteads.

QUESTION I

I believe that at times the Amakhosikazi, kings wives, also come and cut the reeds. Can you explain some of the arrangements made for them at Maphalaleni?

They used to come and stay at Emphakathini (the important homstead where chiefs stay). Usually when they come there are a lot of expenses, such as preparing food for them. The people of the community help to bring food for them. In the meantime the Amakhosikazi cut the reeds with the other women. Even this year I have heard that the Amakhosikazi are coming here to cut reeds.

QUESTION J

When did this custom of cutting reeds start here?

I don't know; it is an old custom.