

DATE :

17 May 1970

✓ on card

INFORMANTS:

- (1) MLINGWA DUBE  
REGIMENT : LONDOLOZI  
HEARD FROM : NZIMA
- (2) SIL.... ZWANE  
REGIMENT : LOMKHEHLE  
HEARD FROM : JABHANE'S & FATHER WITH WHOM HE STAYED AT  
THE ROYAL HOMESTEAD
- (3) MACHANGO KUNENE  
REGIMENT : LISAKA  
HEARD FROM: HIS FATHER.

parallel sections  
not noted

AREA : MPALONJENI

#### QUESTION A

Can you tell us about the Dube people and how Zembe's house came into being.

This house established here at Mpalonjeni, came to be where it is by the hand of Mswati. Mswati brought Jabhane Dube to this place. Jabhane brought a herd of cattle with him. Mswati sent Jabhane to this place to look after king's cattle. It was formerly a grazing place. When Jabhane died Zembe was left behind. However, Zembe has now died.

#### QUESTION B

Can you tell us more about your grandfather - where he came from; what he did when he came here?

Jabhane came from Ngomane. He came to Swaziland during Mswati's reign. He became Mswati's boy, and later his right hand man, or the most responsible and trustworthy of his men. Jabhane was given the duty of milking cows to feed the royal children. As a result king Mswati sent him to Mpalonjeni with a herd of cattle to look after in that place. Jabhane ~~id~~ did not stay at Mpalonjeni, but went to stay at ~~Mpalonjeni~~ <sup>Ehlanzeni</sup> (in the bushveld). Jabhane then appointed Zembe to look after the people and also to look after the cattle. The people wished Jabhane's son to be put in charge, but Jabhane opposed this and appointed Zembe who was then in charge; he was in charge of both people and cattle. At ehlanzeni Jabhane built a homestead known as Embo. Then when Mbandzeni was hunting up in the Lebombo mountains he decided to give Jabhane a place known as KaMbukwane. This was at the end of the Anglo-Boer War, when many white men came to Swaziland. The white men asked Jabhane to appoint his heir or successor to be in charge of Mpalonjeni. Then Jabhane appointed Zembe. So from that time Mpalonjeni was under Zembe and since then has been known as Ka Zembe. People pay tax under Zembe's name. Jabhane's heir has nothing to do with us. We deal with all cases under Zembe. The heir however has a final word on all cases e.g. in the matters of cattle or when we have quarrelled. The heir reports these to Zembe's governing board at Ehlanzeni, and if these cases are more delicate they are then forwarded to the Swazi king

#### QUESTION C

Are you inhabitants of Ngomane originally?

The Ngwane people, under Mswati, attacked the Dube people at Ngomane and killed them. After that they captured Jabhane who became the king's boy. The Ngomane people were kings themselves, and were living undisturbed. What happened was that the Ngomane people criticised the pots of the Ngwane people, saying that they were ugly, and they destroyed these pots. When the Ngwane people were settled they went to burn the land of the Ngomane people. When the conflagration was on they attacked the Ngomane people whom they destroyed. But Jabhane also was captured. There were two girls captured with him. They were LaMagazi and Laboyani Dube. These two girls carried Jabhane on their backs (Ngomane is Jabhane's grandfather). So ~~the~~ the Ngwane people captured Jabhane and brought him ~~up~~ up in the Royal homestead. The Ngwane people (Dube) are settled at Buthfonga.



Queries and Dube:

- ① what do they mean when I/gowane were settled - in 1808's reign? Disturb. after his death?
- ② Was it gowane K. when was attacked? - are you sure it was used, not South?
- ③ what was Tabane's father? - (gowane)?
- ④ Are grazing places named all over baso - just this area -
- ⑤ who else were charge of K's cattle

QUESTION B

Can you tell us more about your grandfather - where he came from; what he did when he came here?

Jabane came from Ngomane. He came to Swaziland during Mawati's reign. He became Mawati's boy, and later his right hand man, or the most responsible and trustworthy of his men. Jabane was given the duty of milking cows to feed the royal children. As a result King Mawati sent him to Ngolonteni with a herd of cattle to look after in that place. Jabane did not stay at Ngolonteni, but went to stay at Mawati's (in the bushveld). Jabane then appointed Nembe to look after the people and also to look after the cattle. The people wished Jabane's son to be put in charge, but Jabane opposed this and appointed Nembe who was then in charge; he was in charge of both people and cattle. At Ehlamant Jabane built a homestead from the bush. Then when Mbandzeni was hunting up in the Lebombo mountains he decided to give Jabane a place known as Kamphwane. This was at the end of the Anglo-Boer War, when many white men came to Swaziland. The white men asked Jabane to appoint his heir or successor to be in charge of Ngolonteni. Then Jabane appointed Nembe. So from that time Ngolonteni was under Nembe and since then has been known as Ka Nembe. People pay tax under Nembe's name. Jabane's heir has nothing to do with us. We deal with all cases under Nembe. The heir however has a final word on all cases e.g. in the matters of cattle or when we have quarrelled. The heir reports these to Nembe's governing board at Ehlamant, and all these cases are more delicate they are then forwarded to the Swazi King.

QUESTION C

Are you inhabitants of Ngomane originally?

The Ngwane people, under Mawati, attacked the Dube people at Ngomane and killed them. After that they captured Jabane who became the King's boy. The Ngomane people were kings themselves, and were living undisturbed. What happened was that the Ngwane people criticised the acts of the Ngwane saying that they were ugly, and they destroyed these acts. When the Ngwane people were settled they went to burn the land of the Ngwane people. When the conflictation was on they attacked the Ngwane people whom they destroyed. But Jabane's son was captured. There were two girls captured with him.

DUBE cont.....

QUESTION D

Are the Dube people still at Ngomane?

We are not very sure, but our fathers tell us that many Dube people escaped to Natal and Rhodesia.

QUESTION E

Did the Zulu ever attack the Ngomane people.

We don't know.

QUESTION F

What else happened during Ngomane and Mswati's reigns?

We don't know.

QUESTION G

How long did Jabhane stay at the Royal homestead?

We don't know.

QUESTION H

Who was Jabhane's chief wife?

LaGamedze.

QUESTION I

Why was LaGamedze made the chief wife?

Because it is the Swazi custom that the eldest wife should become the chief wife in polygamy.

QUESTION J

Tell us more about the King's cattle grazing here?

Jabhane was in charge of the king's cattle. The following place have the king's cattle: Etidvwahini, Wolinyana, Kalidi, KaMfanyana, Ndlebezengwe, Ndvokzeborn ( at Makhololo or Ludzeludze). Royal cattle in these grazing lands were all under Zembe who used to move in the midst of these cattle. He used to ride on striped ~~horses~~ horses. The grazing land went as far as Mbabane river. The cattle used to graze up to Ntabamhlophe. Most of the first cattle here at Mpolonjeni died. Most of the cattle killed human beings. They used to chase people and pierce them with their horns to death. There were no trees, only grass of Umnyetane type.

JABHANE'S PRAISES

Man eater who swallows the Ngomane Basutos,  
All are suspicious of you - I am the only one not suspicious of you.  
You, who eat the buffalo's calves.  
Hail to the great one - Bayethe.

---