

DATE : 15.5.70

INFORMANT : ISIAH DLAMINI

REGIMENT : GAVU

AREA : EKUPHELENI (MPHAKATSE)

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM : NKONE OF NDLOAVELE REGIMENT

This village of Ekupheleni was assigned to this area by Mswati. He instructed Sobhiyese to come ~~and~~ ^{and} establish a village here, which was to be known as Ekupheleni (at the end), because it was to be at the end of the land. This same place is where the Mutsi people were killed. Then Sibeyose was assigned to their ruins. There was a cattle ranch which was looked after by the speaker and Nkone Masuku. The same Masuku had gained a reputation through scouting when the Zulu were invading Swaziland. Finally he was assigned to establish the Ekupheleni village.

The first Queen to be sent to Ekupheleni was the mother of Majaba, whose maiden surname was Gosela. Her home was built a little higher than the rest of the homestead, that being done so that Sobhiyese could command a good view of the homestead and so that he could see any raid immediately. For instance, to detect a raid appearing at Sibaya, a little hill below Motshane. That was the very home of Ekupheleni from Ludzidzini. The second queen was LaHlatshwayo who came a little later and had her homestead or village at a lower elevation than the first. Then these villages were incorporated in the latter, to be separated later. It was ~~during~~ ^{during} the time of the speaker that they were separated.

At this time there went Mbandzeni on a visit. These two were then separated later while it was situated in a valley of Magolweni. That of Majaba's mother was then built alone under a different name - Tikhoveni. It was at Tikhoveni that our father Sobeyose died at an old age. In ~~reality~~ reality I was born at the valley of Magolweni. During the days of Sobeyose when there came raids he could no longer run away, but remained at home, while Ndlovula and others ran away with cattle and fully armed. (This is a secret : Sometime, during the later days of Sobeyose it was thought that he should be killed for rituals to strengthen Mahlokohla the king, so that he should be a great man. During those days we used to be informed that there was a raid in the vicinity and we used to take with us cattle and run away, up the Nkhangala mountain. Of course the old man remained at home. To our surprise there would be no raid. One day Mahlokohla organised a nearly successful conspiracy against Sobeyose. While he returned home ~~he~~ he organised his warriors to go and kill Sobeyose, ~~but~~ but Labotsibeni, known as Gwamile, ~~cautioned~~ cautioned them that Sobeyose should never be killed as he was the person who used to do first fruit celebration rituals at the royal kraal. So killing him would upset the ~~ancestors~~ ancestors. That was how he was saved by the Queen mother Gwamile.

The ranch was initiated by Sobiyose, who was given one by one beast, until they had increased to a large cattle ranch known as Nhlangamisela - given by Mswati. Even Nkone who brought me up did confirm that these cattle were given one by one by Mswati to Sobiyose, who was a king's scout. Ndlovula of Ndlovele regiment also told the same fact - of course Ndlovula was one of our chiefs. The first kraal for these cattle was built at Ludzidzini, long before the Ekupheleni village was established, but the kraal was separate from the main Ludzidzini cattle kraal. LaHlatshwayo, the mother of Ndlovula came after the mother of Majaba.

We used to see the bones of the Mnisi who were killed i.e. the clan who occupied this area prior to the arrival of Ekupheleni village. In fact Nkone was a Mshadza war ~~veteran~~ veteran. The heir of Sobhiyose was Ndlovunja, who begot Londindo, who begot Iuvuno. But Iuvuno died without

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a child so they asked Lotingungumbane of Londdindo, born of LaMabuza to succeed. He is a half brother of Luvumo. The relationship sprang thus ; Lotingungumbane and Ndlovulo predetermined that their first son and daughter i.e. a son of and a daughter of the other, should marry each other. (i.e, they tapped their penis pots or shells). That was no means rare amongst these people. Then Lotingungumbane brought his child to be married to a son of Ndlovula. Then this our Lotingungumbane was named after his grandfather i.e. the father of LaMabuza his mother. The former Lotingungumbane ~~was~~ Mabuza was a dagga addict, who used to go about smoking dagga. The Mnisi people who were killed were one of the peculiar clans who were skilled in medicine. It is said that in the Mantsholo Pool (which exists today) their king use to dive with a burning torch ~~for~~ grass bundles to dig herbs from the pool. Of course the Mnisi village was terminated on the same soil ~~at~~ as that on which the Ekupheleni village stands today.

The reason that the Mnisi people were killed was sheer jealousy of their rain-making and many other medical skills which they possessed. So Mswati killed them. Their survivors fled to the Transvaal. Sobhiyose's ~~father~~ father was Somhlolo. His neighbours were Ndumo of Shongwe; the Mpholonjeni ~~D~~ Dube people. The cattle which were brought to our father Sobhiyose were from Mbuleni - their names were Ludlambedlwe and Sokwati - to be hidden here so that Mbilini could not reach them.