

DATE ; 20.12.71

- INFORMANTS : (1) MBHUDUYA MAGAGULA
REGIMENT : LONDOLOZI
HEARD FROM: SIBHUNGU, GRANDFATHER
- (2) GANDA MAGAGULA
REGIMENT : MASOTSHENI
HEARD FROM: MAGENA, UNCLE'S FATHER OF NYATSI REG.
- (3) MAVELEBALENI GININDZA
MASOTSHENI
HEARD FROM : MASINI MASEKO, AN INDUNA OF CHELE REG.
- (4) SIGUNGU MAGAGULA
REGIMENT : MASOTSHENI
HEARD FROM : NTFONGA OF GAVINI REG.

AREA : ~~MAKALWAKO~~ DVOKOLWAKO

We originated from Basuto land and came downx to this place from the Sotho in the west.

QUESTION A

What is the name of the place?

It is at the Basutho. Of course the Sotho have many tribes amongst themselves. We found nobody in this country when we arrived from the Sotho. Then we Sotho settled here.

QUESTION B

Who was the king at that time?

It was Zubuko, the father of Magodongo of Ngwenyama. Zubuko's father was Msuthu, hence the name of the ~~max~~ group " Sotho". I will make it clear:
Msutho begot
Zubuko who begot
Ngwenyama who begot
Madodongo who begto
Mnjoli who begot
Dbokalwako begot
Malamlela begot
Madubane begot
Mtfonga begot
Mnikwaphi

QUESTION C

Had you a king when you migrated from there?

When we were scattered from the Mdzimba by the Ngwane ~~wax~~ our king was Mnjoli.

QUESTION D

What was the name of the village of Mnjoli at Mdzimba?

It was the house of laNqabane that was the house of Mnjoli. It was just at the place where the Boers had their defeat by the English and had buried their liquor.

QUESTION E

Who was found at Mdzimba by Mnjoli?

We were the first Sotho to settle here. They found nobody at Mdimba.

QUESTION F

Did the other Sotho come afterwards. If so can you tell us the names of these clans?

MAGAGULA DVOKALWAKO cont..

These were the other clans governed by the Magagula kings such as Mnjoli, Magodongo and Ngwenyama. They were all known as Sotho because they were governed by Sotho. They were : Maseko, Mnisi, Mcina, Malambe, Nkambule, Mawela, Matukuo, Masilela.

QUESTION G

And all these people came with you?

Yes. They are Mnjoli's followers or subjects. They never followed us. They were with us all the way.

QUESTION H

What was the area controlled by the Magagula at that time? What were the borders during Mnjoli's time? What was the land known as?

It was the land of the Sotho.

QUESTION I

What were the boundaries?

It was bordered by the Pongola River in the south, so our neighbours were Zulu. They were at that side of the Pongola River. On the east it was Portuguese East Africa. On the other side as far as Gasa were other Sotho. All those other clans used to come to ask for rain from us here. Actually ~~they~~ they bartered cattle for rain and sometimes offered girls for wives.

QUESTION J

How did the Ngomane begin?

They are our people in the same family, born of the subordinate wife. It started at Sigombeni, during the days of Mnjoli when LaNqabane escaped i.e. LaSingane escaped to hide in the Mbaleni forest - yet it was still her Sotho ~~her~~ land. In actual fact we separated at Sigombeni. Their mother LaSingane, a subordinate wife to LaNqabane, escaped to the other part of the place.

QUESTION K

Can you explain why Somhlolo confiscated ~~the~~ the place at Mdzimba and moved you down to this side?

Somhlolo is the one who killed Mnjoli, our progenitor. After the death of Mnjoli we dispersed. He told us to run away because the Ngwane would come and kill us with our rain making medicine. He himself could no longer escape because he suffered from rheumatism, such that he crawled - partly because of his age and that ailment. He stayed behind. They came and killed him. Dvokolwako and Sibhungu had gone as far as Moynei's area. Somhlolo begot Mswati who went to reign at Mhohho. Mswati begot Mbandzeni who returned to Mdzimba. What I know is that Somhlolo came for allied from one of these Magagula. I think it was LaNqabane. But whoever was there refused. Hence the strife which led to the defeat and expulsion of Mnjoli - actually the killing of Mnjoli. It was at the time when the Ngwane fought the Sotho.

QUESTION L

How did he kill him)?

He had come for rain. Unfortunately Mnjoli had already ordered his sons to escape with the medicine before the Swazi came. They looked for the sons for a long time, after which they found them and brought them back. They brought back Dvokolwako and Sibhungu. On their return the Ngwane begged them to give them their rainmaking medicine - the Ngwane of Tembe had no rain-making magic. By then Mnjoli was already dead.

MAGAGULA OF DVOKALWAKO cont..

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When the Ngwane were close Mnjoli gathered his sons and informed them that they must escape ~~had~~ because he felt that the Ngwane were nigh at hand and would soon besiege them and deprive them of their rain-making magic. He himself had no power and they the Ngwane would kill him at his home.

Moyeni. His house is a smaller house than this one, but what I learnt is that Moyeni was given a war wand, while our house was given the rain-making wand. It was like this: when it was reckoned that a woman was great she was moved away and settled elsewhere. Here house would be established there, just like the one who bears the first born of a ruler, because there are two important houses in a polygamous home. It is the elder one who is not an heir, so that the heir remains in peace.

QUESTION M

At the time of Somhlolo when all this happened there arose afterwards two different chiefs?

After the death of SomhloloMswati was enthroned, whence came Maloyi of Kutsimuleni and Malunge, the father of Jokavu, the princes who were brought to our country while we were living there. Jokovu was at Lubunga and Maloyi was brought down to us. It ended there. The chief was we Magagula. We are Amakazimbele. We were found in this country we Sotho,

QUESTION N

Do you know exactly how Mnjoli was killed?

It seems that they beseiged the village and spears were thrown at him in vain. He did not escape but it took a long time to kill him.

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In fact he had instructed his sons, Sihungu and Dvokolwako to flee before hand, warning them of the dangers should they all be killed with their rain-making magic. He further told ~~them~~ Sibhungu that, with all the charms, he would have an advantage when paying lobolo for his wife when he ~~chose~~ chose one. The army of the Swazi found Mnjoli in his village, whilst all his sons had escaped with the rain making ~~magic~~ magic. They killed him in their search for the rain-making magic. They thought he had swallowed it. After killing him they went to the extent of cutting him open to find out if he had actually swallowed it. The corpse of Mnjoli was dragged to a nearby forest. The elderly ladies later followed the blood trail but they could not see the corpse. Even today no-one knows what the Swazi warriors did with the body of Mnjoli. The sons who fled beforehand were Sibhungu and Dvokolwako.

QUESTION O

Who is Mhlanala?

Mhlangala of Ngwenyama. Mhlangala of Magodongo of Ngwenyama.

QUESTION P

At the time of the killing of Mnjoli were the Swazi settled or were they migrating?

It was when Somhlolo arrived that Mnjoli was killed. Somhlolo was from Gollel, where he had killed Dlamini the Sotho?

QUESTION Q

Is it true that long before the Swazi arrived that the Magagula were ruling the rest of the clans here?

Yes it was ~~in~~ the Sotho. Of course all the clans were Sotho because they were governed by Sotho.

MAGAGULA OF DVOKALWAKO cont..

QUESTION R

Did Moynei have any rain-making magic?

He had a war wand.

QUESTION S

How did the Nyakatho x originate from here. Did they separate from you?

It was by traditional propogation. The greater and smaller houses of a polygamous man. They were a nearby great house, which was supposed to detach and go somewhere else. It seems as is they were the heirs, but owing to their developing abnormal upper incisors they were kicked out and deemed a smaller great house.

QUESTION T

Who begot the two great houses which later separated?

It looks as if was around people like Magondongo.

QUESTION U

How did Bhundla separate from you?

We cannot be precise because they were scattered during the Zulu war time. It was during the Zulu war which cpatured people like Masala, the brother of Malamlala and Ngulube and Sintowane.

QUESTION V

At that time who was great here?

It was Mnjoli.

QUESTION W

When the Zulu followed Somhlolo did they pounce upon the Magagula too?

It was the Zulu army which helped Somhlolo to beseige Mnjoli when Somhlolo was after the rain charm. It was a convoy of four men which was sent by Somhlolo to ask for rain making from Mnjoli, but the latter killed three of them. The fourth escaped and went back to report to Somhlolo, who then asked for assistance from the Zulu who were nearby, and killed Mnjoli in a ~~desperate~~ desperate search for the rain-charm.

QUESTION X

Who was great at that time?

It was Mnjoli, the father of Dvokalwakao. At seeing the four men who had come for the rain magic he said, "Where do these come from?". Then he killed three of them and the fourth escaped and reported to Somhlolo that Mnjoli had killed them. Somhlolo negotiated with a nearby Zulu army and found allies to attack Mnjoli. Mnjoli prophesied this attack and ~~cautioned~~ cautioned his sons to escpae with the rain-making magic which was sought after by the enemy -hence the cause of Mnjoli's death. Then later, after the Swazi had tried in vain to conquer Moynei, they came to attack Dvokalwako. Moynei descended the mountain and found the army asleep. He then jumped over the warriors to escape down to Mfuna, where he had children. In fact he bore x children there during his exile, when he fled at the face of the Zulu army. At that time his son, a chief-to-be, was killed by the Swazi army.

MAGAGULA OF DVOKALWAKO cont.....

QUESTION Y

Did Somhlolo or Mswati ever fight with the Zulu?

No, Mswati never fought with Zulu because he was related to them. At the time that the Zulu failed to kill Moyeni and killed Dvokolwako it was the time of Somhlolo. Dvokolwako could not clearly speak Swati language - he was fluent in the Sotho language, which signifies that he was a MoSotho. In fact Swati language started during our forefather (i.e. not far back).

QUESTION Z

Was Malambule/^{la}chief over Sibhungu?

Malambulela was a son of Sibhungu. Sibhungu and Dvokalwako are brothers, Dvokalwako being the elder.

QUESTION A1

When did the Magagula start speaking Swati fluently - in whose reign? What language did Malambulela speak?

It was Malbulela who started to speak Swati; his fathers, Dvokalwako and Sibhungu both spoke the Sotho language.

QUESTION B1

Did you have any of your own administrative laws which the Swazi discouraged, and perhaps substituted their own?

We had already been subdued by the Swazi so we practised all their laws and obeyed all their regulations e.g. incwala ceremonies we had to participate in, and all other requirements. Our own kingdom had only its rain-making and field crops.

QUESTION C1

What else did you do besides making rain?

In reality, ~~in order~~ we became kings because of our rain-making. Even the Ngwane got rain-making from us.

QUESTION D1

Do you eat the hand-killed beast?

No, that is for the Ngwane.

QUESTION E1

Why don't you eat it?

We are not Swazi but Sotho. In fact nowadays some people do eat such things through sheer ignorance, but originally we Magagula do not eat it.

QUESTION F1

After our surrender to the Swazi did we pay allegiance to them in the wars that they fought?

They attacked us and we surrendered. Then the regiment of Nyatsi, which was under Sibhyngu was enlisted in the war against the Sotho at the time of Mswati, the son of Somhlolo.

QUESTION G1

Didn't you fight against Somhlolo?

No, we fled at his face.

QUESTION H1

When did the Magagula join the Lixoscobandla?

We were already under Mswati as alienated regiments, such as the Nyatsi, but were not included in ~~the~~ the Lixoscobandla.

QUESTION I1

Who was the first to marry a royal maid?

It was Madubane. He married the sister of Malambo of Kutsimuleni. Malambulela had none. Maloyi, who came during Mswati's reign was the brother of Mswati together with Malunge.

QUESTION J1

Who was the great Magagula when Maloyi was installed?

It was Malambulela - no it was Sibhungu. As far as I remember on his arrival, Maloyi called Sibhungu to him. In fact he was chief regent while Malambulela was young i.e. at the death of Dvokalwako. Sibhungu ruled temporarily, being the younger ~~brother~~ brother of Dvokalwako. Before Maloyi arrived the whole of Kutsimuleni area was for the Magagula. The Magagula did not like staying near their enemy, the Swazi, and so they preferred the Mliba area, which was their hunting ground for elephants. Then Malunge went to inform the king that Lutfotja was too near their enemy, and that it might revive the animosity, which might therefore cause the destruction of the Magagula clan. They preferred an area further ~~away~~ away, such as Mliba. But the king was aware of the fact that should they move further away the charms which they had handed to the Swazi would not be properly manipulated i.e. the rain-making process.

It was the chiefship of Dvokalwako, son of Mnjoli, when the princes such as Maloyi and Malunge were given land to govern. The Magagula Sotho were worried. They did not like staying near the Swazi, and they wished to stay at 'Liba' Mliba; Somhlolo's brother Malunge permitted them to do so, but the king advised him not to let them go far ~~away~~ away because they would be needed in case the rain-making charm did not function properly. They went to stay for a short time with Moyeni, whence they moved to where Mmemo had his homestead at Makhelahe. From there they went down to the place where they established a village called "Kugijimeni," meaning "running". This was because they were running up and down because of the war, whence Sibhungu separated and left his brother's son, Malambulela, to establish his home at the place where Mndebeli has his home today. The Shongwe people by then were at Mvongotsini, from whence they went to build at Muhle. At his new residence Sibhungu ploughed a big field. From Muhle they went to build at Msweli at Mhali, but Sibhungu ~~remained~~ remained behind. Later he went to build his home near Shokoma's place today, whence he parted with Hlokomane, who went to establish his home over that hill with wattle trees. Sibhungu built just above me at Majobe where he died. The old kings were buried in that mountain. When the house of Mhlakuvane, that of Jokovu, was returned, that was when Malunge had fully established himself.

QUESTION K1

~~Did the Mag~~ Who was the first to buy a gun amongst the Magagula clan?

It was Mnjoli, who was a buffalo hunter. The people used to make their own guns. With the guns they used to shoot even elephants.

QUESTION L1

Did the Magagula celebrate incwala before the arrival of the Swazi?

They only danced a dance of great pleasure, after or during the coronation day of a king, known as Sibhivubi. In fact, they never danced the modern incwala ceremony. They used to sing, "Nyakama kufika bobabe bebaphethe luhlavu ngesandla.....", "In the year our forefathers arrived they had corn in their hands.....". That is a sample of the songs they sang at their dance. Another one, "Umbuzani niphela umbuzani kazazi....", "What do you ask him.. what do you ask him. We do not know...."

QUESTION M1

Was there any fasting which ~~pre~~ preceded these Magagula dances?

It was from their very songs for dancing. In fact it looked like their own incwala that Sibhivubi dance. They used to play at the beginning of the year- hence the Magagula incwala ceremony. In reality the beginning of the year amongst the Magagula was marked by the Sibhivubi ceremony in August, after they had gone for their new medicine and other cleansing medicines. It was manipulated and effected by actually ploughing i.e. hoeing in the sacred chants of the clan, and from there they went home to accomplish the ceremony by actually dancing.

QUESTION N1

Where were they hoeing?

It was just here at Ntfontjeni, where I saw them do it one year. They used to make a successful harvest.

QUESTION O1

What duties were assigned to the Magagula by the Swazi king?

The grandfather of Phica was Mswati's scout. His name was Ndlwane.

QUESTION P1

Who used or attacked the Magagula?

It was the Swazi who attacked and scattered the Magagula. Prior to that the Zulu had attacked us, but they never succeeded in scattering us. In fact we defeated them. When ~~the~~ Somhlolo arrived, he being a relative of the Zulu, they informed him that the Magagula were too strong for them. So with combined forces the Zulu and the ~~Swazi~~ Swazi defeated the Magagula - at the time Somhlolo settled in central Swaziland. The Swazi chased the remaining Sotho as far north as Hulu. Hence the saying, "You of Ngwane, what do you want. You started us from Mdzimba". This saying arose at Hulu as the Swazi insisted on driving the Sotho ~~away~~ away.

QUESTION Q1

Is it true that when the Zulu killed Dvokalwako there was no leader?

He was not there.

QUESTION R1

How did the whites gain land around the Dvokalwako area?

The Boers came first, after the prophecy of Somhlolo. After that the English came and disrupted the whole of Paul Kruger's systems. The latter escaped and died in Portuguese East Africa. Then later the Boers were annoyed with the Swazi, because they suspected that it was they, with Thintitha their induna, who ate their cattle.

QUESTION S1

Who governed the Boers, such as those who had farms across there?

They are governed by the English, because the Boers are 'cheeky', while the

MAGAGULA OF DVOKALWAKO cont...

English aren't.

QUESTION T1

Who was the ruler at the time that the Boers arrived here?

It was Mthonga. In fact they appeared at the time of Mthonga when we began to see them. But the farms started at the time of Mbandzeni. But all that was done without our knowledge.

QUESTION U1

Who was your ruler when the farms were introduced here?

It was Madvubane at the time of Mbandzeni. There was also Mabhala (S. Miller)

QUESTION V1

How did they actually make their farms here?

The farms started by sheep grazing by the Boers during the reign of Mbandzeni.

QUESTION W1

Did the Magagula ~~how~~ have the power to execute their victims, or did they send their victims to the king for execution? This when it was Magaguland.

Prior to their succumbing to the Swazi they performed their own executions, but after their defeat by the Swazi they had to send their convicts to the Swazi king.

QUESTION X1

What was Dvokalwako's regiment?

Nyatsi regiment.

QUESTION Y1

How long did he reign?

It was a long time before I was born. It was at the time they used guns they made themselves for shooting elephants. When the elephant was about to fall it was always forced to fall with its face to the west, to indicate the direction from whence came the Sotho.

QUESTION Z1

Were the guns restricted to particular people or were they given to whoever could handle them?

They used to make them themselves. There were no restrictions.

QUESTION A2

What did you do with the elephant carcasses.

We used to eat them.

QUESTION B2

Did you sell any part of the elephant?

No.

MAGAGULA OF DVOKALWAKO cont...

QUESTION C2

Did you have any beads?

There were no beads. Beads came with the whites.

QUESTION D2

Where did they get the iron from?

They used to dig the ore from the ~~xx~~ ground at Sibindzini and at Mdakayana. They used to dig iron ore in the form of stone and then smelt it with bellows. They made spears, rings, hoes, guns.

QUESTION E2

When did they stop doing that?

At the arrival of the whites we stopped.
