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Interviewed at: Maphungwane

Narrator: Mphundle Maziya [RE name from index cards]

Interviewer: Phillip Bonner

Transcriber and
 Translator:

(M)We came from that side. We are Bushmen. We migrated to Sigulusomazimakaziⁱ, and then later returned to establish ourselves here at Maphungwaneⁱⁱ. We were Bushmen and short, but later we became taller than the normal Bushmen. The Bushmen dominated us, so we came to settle here. At Mdumezuluⁱⁱⁱ we found a calving elephant^{iv}. Some of our people remained there, and then we went as far below as Mazimakazi^v, from whence we returned to Vokovoko^{vi}. From Vokovoko we settled at Mjonela[RE spelling]^{vii}. From Mjanela[RE spelling] we came to settle at Shololo^{viii}.

The Ngwane^{ix} started from Tembe^x and migrated to below that side of the Lubombo^{xi}. They went as far as Shiselweni^{xii} where they found Sotho^{xiii} whom they fought ie. at Mdzimba^{xiv}. But it was not so easy, so they came for allies from us at Maphungwane. With our combined forces we fought and conquered the Sotho. So the Swazi settled there as they are today. The evidence for this is that, even today, there are still Sotho objects at Mdzimba.

After that we returned to this place. The Mahlalelas^{xv} we left here they are today; the Langa^{xvi} clan is ours and those of Lomasha^{xvii}. These clans are all ours: Maphungwane, Lomasha, Mahlalela^{xviii} and Langa. The Ngwane were inferior to us; we were superior. The Ngwanes rose up because of rain-making, and we remained the inferior.

I am emphasizing the words of my father. Indeed we came from there to Sigungu^{xix} of Mazimakazi, from whence we returned to Lubombo. We first settled at Tshelane^{xx} and then at Shololo.

(Q)Where were you when you were still short?

(M)We were where the Bushmen were – I do not know the place.

(Q)How did you become tall?

(M)I do not know.

(Q) Why did the Maziya go to that hill.

(Q) It is where they originated. I do not know the name of the hill. I only know Mdumezulu, where we found the calving elephant. It was long before the Swazi migrated to Mdzimba. The Maziya found no people at Mdumezulu. There were no wars occurring during the journey of the Maziya.

At Mdumezulu—where we waited for the calving elephant and were on the verge of death from starvation—we became separated. There were those who pushed on and those who remained behind for the elephant. The latter were christened Mahlalela because of waiting. After eating the carcass of the newly born elephant calf the Mahlalela followed us, but when they came to us we no longer accepted them and drove them off as far as the Nkomazi^{xxi} river, next to Mawewe^{xxii} land. All this happened before the Swazi came to Mdzimba.

The Mngometfulo^{xxiii} were at Manyiseni^{xxiv}. They are of Zulu^{xxv} origin.

Madolo^{xxvi} and Tembe — they were at Delagoa Bay^{xxvii}.

The Maziya genealogy:

Mafu
Maphungwane
Jilobi
Ngegweni
Nqobongo
Butinba
Sigwemyana
Mazokololo
Mandzindza
Maliwa
Mehlwana
Ngubane
Mphundle — present

When they were at Mdumezulu they were under the leadership of Mafu^{xxviii}; on their arrival here Maphungwane was their leader. The driving of the Mahlalela to the Nkomazi was under Mlambo^{xxix}'s leadership. When the Maziya and the Swazi began to know one another and to combine forces it was the leadership of Maliwa^{xxx}. They combined during the days of Ndvungunya^{xxxi} [RE note spelling]. The Maziya and the Ngwane used to combine forces even when they fought the Madolo people.

We were here and Ndzimandze^{xxxii} of Ngwane had his home in the bushveld. The Ngwane came to kill Ndzimandze. Hence we felt that if they could kill Ndzimandze they could kill us. So we decided to ask for protection from the Swazi. Thenceforth we fell under the Ngwane, because we thought that under them we were secure.

That Ndzimandze was there in the Bushveld, which extends as far as the Nkomazi river, long before the Swazi migrated from Shiselweni. He was our neighbour. The chief of the Ndzimandze at that time was Ngwenjama^{xxxiii}.

The separation of the Langa clan from the Maziya: it was during the chieftainship of Nqobongo^{xxxiv} when the leader of the Langa clan—Moyenjane^{xxxv}—[RE spelling] detached himself. The cause of the separation was the fact that hitherto they had contributed to the Maziya

anything they got — such as when they killed a leopard they usually contributed the claws and the moustache (which were the precious parts). At that time they sort of revolted and detached and went to the Bushveld. Their chiefs: Mayenjane (Maliwa)[RE spelling]. Mbandzeni^{xxxvi} who had undergone circumcision and later fled to Gasa^{xxxvii}. Jozane^{xxxviii} was the first born who later returned to re-establish a new home in the ruins of Mbandzeni's home. Mbandzeni had fled when he heard there was an army approaching who were going to kill him. He never returned from Gasa — which is across Ngwenya^{xxxix} river, past Komati Poort^{xl}. He died there. Then Jozane remained a chief. On his death Mantanta^{xli} succeeded. Mantanta was then succeeded by Zwakumbane^{xlii}, who was followed by Mlimi^{xliii}, the present one. One of the princes was Mnyafula^{xliv} whose home is at Lukhetseni^{xlv}.

i. Sigulusomazimakazi (variant Mazimakazi):

ii. Maphungwane:

iii. Mdumezulu: range of hills 27km east of Manzini and 12km south-west of Mpaka in central Swaziland.

iv. 'we found a calving elephant': [give other references to this metaphor]

v. Mazimakazi (variant Sigulusomazimakazi):

vi. Vokovoko:

vii. Mjonela:

viii. Shololo:

ix. Ngwane:

x. Tembe: the Tembe people live east of the Lubombo mountains around present-day Maputo.

xi. Lubombo: mountain area along Swaziland's eastern border.

xii. Shiselweni:

xiii. Sotho (variants *beSutfu*, Basotho, Basutu): generic term for the early inhabitants of Swaziland who did not originally speak *siSwati*.

xiv. Mdzimba: mountains in central Swaziland, lying mid-way between the towns of Mbabane and Manzini. This mountainous area was area of refuge for Somhlolo at the time of the Ndwandwe threat in the earlier part of his reign.

xv.Mahlalelas: a common Swazi *sibongo*. The Mahlalela are related to the Maziya people, and occupy an area on the northern Lubombo (SWOHP, Bonner series, Mdanda Mthethwa, 23-04-1970)

xvi.Langa:

xvii.Lomahasha (variant Nomahasha, alias Mashakana): according to informant Gija Mahlalela, Lomahasha Mahlalela (son of Mkhuneni), is a chief in the Mahlalela genealogy (SWOHP, Bonner series, 7-4-1970). Bonner states that Nomahasha was the chief of the Mahlalela people during the time of Mswati II (Bonner, *Kings*, p.95). Lomahasha is also a present-day border town in north-eastern Swaziland, so named, after an early Mahlalela chief.

xviii.Mahlalela: a common Swazi *sibongo*. The Mahlalela are related to the Maziya people and occupy an area on the northern Lubombo (SWOHP, Bonner series, Mandanda Mthethwa, 23-04-1970)

xix.Sigungu:

xx.Tshelane (variant Ntshelane):This is a place on the flat land below the Lubombo, 23km south of Siteki and a little to the north-west of the Ubombo ranches [RE what is ranches? shouldn't it be ranges]in eastern Swaziland.

xxi.Nkomazi (variant Komati, Nkomati, Nkhomazi): A river which arises near the present-day town of Carolina (Transvaal province, South Africa). It follows an erratic path before entering Swaziland about 15km south of Havelock mine. Flowing in a north-easterly direction across Swaziland, it exits the country near Border Gate in the north-east. [RE and then mouths near Maputo??]

xxii.Mawewe: According to Bryant, Mawewe was a son of Soshangane, who succeeded to the chiefship of that branch of the Ndwandwe after the banishment of his brother Mzila (*Olden Times*, pp.331, p456).

xxiii.Mngometfulo (variant Mngometulu, Mngomezulu): the Mngometulu chiefdom lies in the Lubuli area of south-east Swaziland. Mngometulu people are also to be found astride the Lubombo, in the Ingwavuma district of Natal.

xxiv.Manyiseni (possible variant Manyisela): There are two places called Manyiseni. 1) Located at kaGasa (the Soshangane kingdom) in northern Mocambique. 2) A place between the *luSutfu* and the Ngwavuma rivers in the Lubombo mountains, about 10km south of the *luSutfu* river breach. (SWOHP, Hamilton series, Sam Mkhonta, 4-7-1983 (in this interview Hamilton notes that Manyiseni could be named after Manyisa Mkhonta); SWOHP, Bonner series, Logwaja Mamba 15-7-1970). In this interview Mphundle Maziya associates Manyiseni with the Mngometfulo people, whose chiefdom lies in the southern Lubombo.

xxv.Zulu:

xxvi.Madolo (variant Madvolo): The Madvolo people live on the Mozambique side of the central Lubombo mountains. They came to be ruled by the Portuguese in the late-nineteenth century when the Swaziland/Mocambique boundaries were erected.

xxvii.Delagoa Bay: an important port in pre-colonial and colonial times. This city became known as Lourenco Marques under Portuguese colonial rule; today known as Maputo.

xxviii.Mafu:

xxix.Mlambo: in this context this person could be 1) an early Maziya chief (although he is not listed in the above genealogy), 2) an early Mahlalela chief or 3) a royal Ngwane.

xxx.Maliwa:

xxxi.Ndvungunya (Ndvungunye): Swazi king. Successor to Ngwane II — who died circa 1780. Ndvungunye ruled until about 1815 when he was struck by lightning and died.

xxxii.Ndzimandze: In an interview with Magangeni Dlamini, Ndzimandze is described as the brother of an early Swazi king, Nkosi II (SWOHP, Swaziland Broadcasting Service, 1-6-1977). Matsebula also lists Ndzimandze as a brother of Nkosi II in the royal genealogy (*History* (new edition), chart opposite p.18). From the context of this reference, Mphundle Maziya could be referring to the Ndzimandze chiefdom which lies adjacent to the Maziya chiefdom, 20km south-west of Siteki and 20km north-east of Siphofaceni, in central Swaziland.

xxxiii.Ngwenjama: [RE could it not be that Mphundle mean that the chief of the Ndzimandze was 'the king' - which would link in with royal references of earlier]

xxxiv.Nqobongo:

xxxv.Moyenjane (variant Mayenyane (Maliwa)):

xxxvi.Mbandzeni:

xxxvii.Gasa: probably 'the place of the Gasa', most commonly applied to Soshangane's kingdom in what is now south-central Mozambique.

xxxviii.Jozane:

xxxix.Ngwenya river (variant Mgwanya, Crocodile): This river, running from west to east, lies about 25km north of the Swaziland border, in South Africa.

xl.Komati Poort: Town on the border between South Africa and Mocambique, on the Nkomati river.

xli.Mantanta:

xlii.Zwakumbane:

xliii.Mlimi:

xliv.Mnyafula:

xlv.Lukhetseni:

experimental draft