

13.3.70

INFORMANT - MANDANDA MTHETHWA

Area: Sigodzi

PRIME MINISTER

Sesuka enyakatfho - sayo KaNyawo - saya eningizima

We came from the North and went on to Nyawo country. We went to the South

Sashiya Ngwane Ikanyawo. Sesika saya eShiselweni

We left Ngwane at Nyawo, then we left for eShiselweni

eningizimu sesuka saya Ku Ndungunya - Kunembo

In the south we went with Ndungunya to Embo

KaZulu - sishka e Tsheni laNgwane - saya Ngwamba

in Zululand. We then left the rock of Ngwane and went to Ngwamba.

Saphindze - saya eshiselweni - kwaba nguNdvuyane Wa Ngwane

We then returned to eShiselweni. That was Ndungunya of Ngwane

saya Ka Lobamba eMdzimba -

From eShiselweni we went to Lobamba, the old, near Mdzimba.

Ngengcile Ku Somhlolo lowatshi nibobheko sive lesitaku

I have skipped Somhlolo who said " wait for a nation that is coming

sita nemculu - ningatata idayimane niyobe nilibotisile

It is bringing a volume .Do not take money. If you do so you will be killing the land." 37

Ndungunya ntala Somhlolo - lotala Mswati lowaya

Ndungunya gave birth to Somhlolo the father of Mswati who went

eDlomodlomo - waya Ka Hoho. Wabuya eMdzimba lapho. Waxabana nebelutu.

to eDlomodlomo and then proceeded to Hoho. Again he returned to Mdzimba and then he defeated the Basuto.

Besuthu belwela baya eMadshadza laba laNgwaneka

The Basutos crossed to eMshadza(1) Then this country remained the Ngwaneland of

laka Somhlolo.

of Somhlolo. 54

(1) A mountain in the eastern Transvaal - crossed here probably means present boundary.

Kubhubha Mswati kuma Mbandzeni utshatsha
Then at the death of Mswati Mbandzeni was installed.

imphi uphindne uyohlasela besuta eMshadza
He again went up North and fought the Basutos at eMshadza.

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nase babuta Kuthi nasesinisitile inkhisi nakitsui seyiwuchitshile
eMshadza tshine senitakusitshini

When the Swazi warriors asked what happens since our King has helped to defeat the Basutos, what are you going to do with us?

Kwantshiwa inkhosi ilwela livelayo iyakufa itibusa,

It was said the King has been fighting for his own land and he will die ruling himself

nesituk^ulwane, nesitukulwane? Yebo ngukho loko

with his descendants - with his descendants? Yes, that is

lokhholwa yinkhos yakini yaka Ngwane nitokulwela

what the King of Ngwane will get and you have fought for that. You have fought

livelayo. Nangampelake solo sema ngakolokoke sema ngako lokoke kutshi kwatshiwa

for the land. Truly we are still waiting for that

inkhosi iyakubusa nesituklwane saya ngisoke situkulu

the King shall reign with his descendants. These are his descendants(1)

saya lesi lesikhona lomuhlgke. Phiudzeke leseyibusa lomuhla

of the present king. Again the present King that is ruling

yapkak imphi nakuxabene emaNgisi nema Jalimane bathi

has sent out soldiers when the Germans and the English quarrelled.

They said

"Wena wekunene" yelekelela nauku umkhosi, nausi impi

"Wena wekunene" help us. Here is trouble, here is war.

se sitd nayo lapha kuwe ekhaya wayinika emasotjake

We are bringing it with us to you and he ordered the soldiers out.

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(1) the present rulers.

Question A

What had happened when Somhlolo went to eDlomodlomo? Was the intention to build a royal kraal or to escape?

Yebo, abeyekwakha umuti, uyabona phelanje eNcakini,
Yes, he went up to put up a royal kraal called eNcakini,

nyabona phelanje eMbhuleni, uyabona phelanje Emjindini 110

for instance there was eMbhuleni and Emjindini

Question B

Some people say that the purpose for going to eDlomodlomo was to hide, because there was trouble in Swaziland.

Ngitakutshi intfho lengingete ngayichaza, ngingete
This is what I cannot explain, I have

ngayichaza
no explanation.

Ngitakutshi ngulaba baka Maseko, baka Maseko lengihatiko
I think these were the Maseko people. It is the Maseko people I know

lababanga bodvwa babese bayachitfhwa lapha batibita
who quarrelled between themselves and they were sent away because

ngekutshi babo bangemakhosi khanapha kule Nquabaneni 145
they called themselves kings in Nquabaneni

bachitsheka bahambake.
Then they were sent away and they left.

Question C

Did this Maseko trouble occur when the princess Lambobota was married to them? 146

Kuleyonqabane ya Lambobota bachitfhwa. Lambobota
In that fortress the Maseko people were destroyed. Lambobota

baxabana naye wase wenya tidvwaba emantini sewuta
had a misunderstanding with the Maseko people. She took her skirts,
dipped them in water and then came

lapha enkhosini sekutshiwa ngumntfhwana bani lo
to the King, who asked, " Whose child is this

tidwaba tinje base bayachitfwa baka Maseko.
whose skirts are like this?" and the Maseko were destroyed.

Sewuyasalake lomntfhwana lowabe sewubeka
Then the son (i.e. of Lambobota) remained

lenkhosi yaka Maseko - Ngugogo wa Shologwaneke.
with the Maseko chiefs - this was Shologwane's grandfather. 157

Question D

How did the Mthethwa get into contact with the Swazi's?

Ngati kutshi baka Dingiswayo batala inkhosi yaka Zulu 177
What I know is that the people of Dingiswayo gave birth to a Zulu King.

Tshine lapha kaNgwane besilumisa emakhosi, 181
We (i.e. the Mthethwa) came to the Ngwane to doctor the Ngwane kings.

Sitinyanga temakhosi. Kungena kwetfhu lapha
We were the King's doctors. That is how we came here,
emakhosini sikhona le eShiselweni. Silumisa emakhosi
to the kings at eShiselweni. We continued doctoring the kings

Silumisa emakhosi, yasuke inkhosi yaciya itshi 185
we continued doctoring the kings. The king became sharp (i.e. shrewish)
after

ingayidla lemixtshi yaka Mtshetfwa bese iqedza
eating the medicines of the Mthethwa people. He finished

bantfhu iyababulala iyitfhu kutshelisa, saseke
the people. The medicines made the King enraged. Then

sesiyalahliswake sekuta kungena laba. 188
we were stopped and the Ndwandwe people taken in.

baka Ndwandweke. Letaka Ndwandwake tisuka
The Ndwandwe medicines

cha tibuyisan ekhayanje iyatfhekutshela
had the ~~power~~ powers to make the King come back home(1) The king gets
angry

(1) make him normal.

itfhukutshela lwandle kwatisa kutshi atika-

He gets angry because the seawater gets high and low because

fakwa letisuka letitshi inkhosi ayibulale bantfhu.

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there are no medicines that make the King sharp, to kill.(1)

Question E

Was there any difference between your incwale and that of the Ndwandwes?

Vele yinye phela solo yesuka phansi, ayi

The incwale is still one and the same. It

ntshintshwa kwantshintshwa tihlati kuphela,

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does not change. What was changed were medicines only.

kutshi asekungene nati letinye tinyanga

It was said, "Let us use a new type of doctor

sesibone kutshi tona titakulingisa leti taka

to see if they will do the same as the

Mthethwa yini, baka Mthethwa bane mitshi

Mthethwa doctors. The Mthethwa doctors have medicines

~~zaxx~~ lemibi inkhosi itshi ingadla tihlahla tabo bese

which are bad. After the King has used these then

iqedza bantfhu nangempela batshi kube basebente

he finishes people, and surely after these new doctors had worked

yabuyekhaya inkhosi.

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the King became normal.

Question F

Do you know if the Swazis were once under the Zulus?

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Azange aphantfwe

No, they were never under them.

Question G

Do you know if the Swazis were once under the Ndwandwe?

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BeNgguni cha

No.

(1) This means the Mthethwa medicines kept the King high or angry all the time. The Ndwandwe "let him go up, but brought him down again.

Question H

How did the Swazis get in contact with the Ndwandwes?

Usho laba baka Nggungunyane? Ngati baka

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Do you refer to the Nggungunyane people? I know the people of

Nggungunyane lababegidza incwala. Baka Zidze

Nggungunyane who celebrated incwala . Zidze people

nganginemanga. Kungati labatiko.

no, I would be telling lies. There may be some people who know.

Question I

What was the exact time you were born?

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Ngitelwe nase atakuhamba Mbandzeni vele ngitelwe

I was born at about the death of Mbandzeni, I was born

Bhunu asasebaleni ngobe Bhunu ubedwe aslijaha

after Bhunu had been born. Bhunu was installed when he was a man in his late teens

Ngangiluswane . Ngobe lusekwane lwa Bhunu lutsatfhu.

I was a baby(1). Because Bhunu's "Lusekwane's"(2) that I remember were three.

Kwatshi ngenwala yesine kwatshiwa kubekwa incwala

It happened that on the 4th incwala, the 1st part of the incwala

lencane kwabe solo kutshiwa bayethe, bayethe, kwaba

was celebrated, people kept saying "bayethe, bayethe" but

sikhatshi saBhunu sekuhamba

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it was the time of death of Bhunu.

Question J

Was La-Mgangeni daughter of Langalibalele?

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Abese abeke Mdzabuko - kwabe sekutshivua kunenkhosi

She had already installed Mdzabuko - it was heard that there was a king

le, lena abusiyo in hosi laMbandzeni laphoke

that this was not a a king, referring to Mbandzeni. There and then

(1)i.e. when Bhunu was in his late teens.

(2)i.e. Incwala ceremony.

kwesuka lutfhuli khonake kwabese kuyawubulawanwa
everything was disturbed and killing began.

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ULa-Mgangani ngitshi mine nguye uLa-Langalibalele
Langangani, I say she was the daughter of Langalibalele

ngobe bashonjalo batshi nguLa-Langalibalele .
because that is what they call her, La-Langalibalele.