

INFORMANT: MKHABELA : Mandanda Mtetwa (Interview 3)

AREA: Sigodzi

REGIMENT:

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM:

QUESTION A

Mandanda

The Maziya claim they came long before the Swazi and that they were a different tribe then. What do you know about them?

They and the Mahlalela are the same people. They were a different tribe because they had their own kings and a kingdom just outside Mozambique. They happened to fall under the Swazi at the time and had to accept Swazi rule. They are Swazi and not Shangane.

QUESTION B

They are said to have been Swazi originally, but that they split from the Swazi. ~~Where~~ Where did this split take place?

I wouldn't know this well, but they also came from the north, where they still are; and that is the direction from which the Swazi came when they moved down along the Lebombo mountains. I would say that the Swazi found them in that area called Lomahasha, whose king was Mbuduyi, Josaya's son. There are two streams of the Maziya i.e. Maziya-Mcancu and Maziya-Mahlalela. It is from the latter stream that the king of the whole group has always come, including those in the Shewula area.

Mkhabela

The Maziya came along with the Swazi royalty from Tembe's area, but when the party reached the Lebombo mountains the Maziya decided to stay behind while the rest of the people passed on with the King (Swazi). Mahlalela's and Maziya's are the same people, called after two sons of the same father. The Maziya people split themselves between these brothers in the face of Shangane attack and ran away as far as the Lebombo, where they settled. It is here, however, that the split actually took place, because after they had settled one of the brothers decided to move on to Sigodvolo area, leaving the rest behind. Those staying behind came to be called "Mahlalelas" because, while the others moved out of the area (where they had all settled) they stayed watching an elephant giving birth to her calf. They stayed there until she had delivered so that they could have more than one elephant for meat. When the calf was out they killed both elephants for meat (they were starving). The king of all the Maziya's is Ngubane, the father of Mphundle in the Maphungwane area. I'm not sure whether Ngubane was born in this area or near Mozambique. His grave is however in the forest called X Jilobi, where the Maziya kings are buried.

QUESTION C

How are the Maziya in the Maphungwane area related to those in the Jozane area?

MKHABELA cont...

They are sons of the same father, having their homes in different (above areas). These sons are Iozane, Ngubane (Mphundle's father) and Lomahasha, all sons of one man but with different mothers.

Let's go on to Sifundza people;

these are in Majembeni's or Shewula's area, ^{they} ~~were~~ the first people in the area, the owners of that place, and it is from this clan (Sifundza) in the Shewula area that Lomahasha's mother came (She was Shewula's daughter 'Shewula Sifundza' i.e.). After marriage she asked her husband (Maziya) that they should move out of her father's area, because it was too hot for her, to the top of the Lebombo and build their home there. It is here that she gave birth to her son, Lomahasha, after whom the place is named today. At this time Shewula's brother, ~~xxxx~~ i.e. Masilela , was in charge of the area (i.e. Lomahasha area). When Lomahasha became of age he took possession of this area from Masilela (his uncle) and everybody else now fell under the domination of the Mahlalela people. This done, Lomahasha went back to his mother's place to seek a wife. He married his mother's young cousins, who were daughters of two of Lomahasha's uncles, and they bore him Mbudula and Sandlane respectively.

The Masilela and Sifundza people were the first occupants of the Shewula area, and the Mahlalela's found them there; they are Basuto by origin. Some of them settled in the Nkambeni area. They are the owners of land in all these areas.

QUESTION D

Did the Sifundza clash with the Swazi when they arrived, or offer any resistance to their taking over their land?

No, but there was a clash between the Mahlalelas and their in-laws (Sifundzas and Masilelas); the latter trying to oust their nephew (Lomahasha) who now dominated the area (his mother's father-land), and wanted to rule over it on behalf of the Mahlalelas. In order to prevent any uprising against him by the people of his mother's land (Shewula) Lomahasha and the other Mahlalelas approached Mswati and asked him for a big game hunt to be arranged. During the course of this hunt the Mahlalelas conspired with the Swazi to attack the Sifundza and Masilela people. Some of the attacked were killed; the rest escaped back to where they had come from i.e. Tembe's area. Later on however some came back to revive their great grandfather's house (Shewula's). So the Mahlalelas succeeded in taking over the area of Shewula's people. Friendly relations between the Mahlalelas and the people of Shewula (Masilelas and Sifundza) have, however, been maintained because each of the two clans has given their daughter to the leader of the other clan to marry.

The Ngwambas and Madolos

They were both under Shewula, and were neighbours of the Thonga from whom they were separated by a river in Mhlarabomvu area. Half of the Madola population were under Shewula; the rest were in their own area (Madolas area) with the river between the two halves. There came at this time some Portuguese trying to colonise the land. They came as far as Nkambeni area, from past Lomahasha's area. Lomahasha's people then fought these Ngwambas and Madolos for bringing the Portuguese into their land. They also forced the Portuguese back, now helped by the Swazi in the Nkambeni area; this was in Mswati's time. After the Anglo-Boer War a border was established between us and the Portuguese, but this resulted in one of Lomahasha's royal kraals and some land remaining on the Portuguese side of the border. The Madolos remained on the Portuguese side of the border and had always been there.

MKHABELA cont.....

QUESTION E

Did the Ngwambas originate with the Thongas or Tembes or from Msapha area?

Their place of origin is the very one they now occupy; they did not come from Msapha. Msapha is the place of the people called Mandzawes, and they migrated from their place to this country. The Mandzawes are Nkomo, Nsimango, Mvubu, Mpofu etc. They have a border with the Tshopis and Nyembane (both Mozambique clans) and Venda. Their territory stretches as far as where the Komati and Mbuluzi rivers meet in the Tembes area.

QUESTION F

Are the Zingili the same peoples as the Thonga in the east?

The Zingili are the same people as the Dlamini, for it is from them that the Dlamini came. The Zingili clans and the Dlamini are the so-called people of Tembe area. You will recall that Princess Dzambile (a Dlamini) was sent by the Swazi to Tembe area to be married by a Tembe. This was because the Swazi felt they were entrusting their daughter to their own people (Tembes). The Swazi left the Tembe area running away from the Nguni chief i.e. Ngungunyane, otherwise called Soshangane. He was not a Shangane, for the Shanganes are a different people from Ngungunyane's people. The Dlamini originated where the Zingili clans are found now, and this area stretches along the Lowveld as far as where there is the grave of the very first King of the Swazi in that area. I am myself frequently sent to this very area and I know it well, but I make sure to disguise or hide myself from the people concerned because they will not have anyone come near the grave. It is their shrine and a place where they communicate with their ancestors. This grave is under a mountain near Gollel (Lavumisa). I am frequently sent there ~~myself~~ myself to pay the Swazi's respects at the Grave by presenting gifts to the dead king.

QUESTION G

Can you remember the names of any of the Kings who ruled this area ?

Hardly any - and I must say it is very difficult to get to know them because these are very ancient rulers; nobody wrote history then or else ~~we~~ we should be looking it up in books now.

The Nyawo

QUESTION H

What do you know about the Nyawo and the others e.g. Mathe, Mgomotulu and Mathsenjwa ?

The Mathse people came from Zululand; they settled in Maphungwane area under the chief of this area. They were ~~running~~ running away from other tribes who were attacking them. They came under the leadership of Mvumba, who was succeeded by his son Nkonjane (after whom their area is now called). Mvimbi was son of Mbuzi, a chief of the Mathe people in Zululand. Mvimbi married my aunt i.e. Nkonjane's mother (originally Miss Mkhabela). Other clans of this area are the Mtshелеkwane and Mngometulu, who also came from Zululand. I can't remember their grand-father's names apart from ~~my~~ Lubelo (a Mngometulu man).

MKHABELA cont.....

QUESTION I

Did the Mngometulu and the Mathenjwa ever have quarrels over land or other matters?

They fought quite frequently, so much so that only recently did they stop these quarrels. The Mngometulu were a bigger clan than the Mathenjwa.

QUESTION J

Tell us about the Nyawo?

They are quite a handful of small clan names, all called Nyawo's people. They are on the Lebombo and are also found at the foot of it and further away from it on either side.

QUESTION K

Is it true that the Nyawos killed Dingane?

So it is said, but I cannot testify to this .

The Ngomane

They are a sub clan of the Magagula- in fact they are Magagulu.