

DATE :

INFORMANT : (1) NYANDA NHLABATSI (2) TOMONYE DLAMINI (LADY)

REGIMENT : MASOTSHENI (1) (2) HALAZA

AREA : NZAMEYA IN PHEKAMGENKHOSI (MPHAKATSI)

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM: (1) MATHISULANE NHLABATSI
(2) MTHONGA DLAMINI

We stemmed from the Dlamini, head of the Ngwane country. Thus the first was Nhlabatsi; second Mantini of Langa. The Dlamini as far as I know are the natives of this country. Nzameya and our forefathers were Somhlolo's heroes. Nzameya and Bhukwane fought at Mshadza Battle

QUESTION A

When did you become Nhlabatsi?

I am not sure but I hope it was in the days of Ndungunye.

QUESTION B

When did you separate? How were you separated?

I am not sure, but I learnt that the king of that day picked a beautiful woman from us, hence the change of surname in respect of the one lady who was than to be a wife of the king.

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We came with Somhlolo during the time he attempted to cross the Pongola River. We were with him as he turned to go and settle in Shiselweni. ~~These were~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ our leaders :*

Prince Sonyezane : Prince Dambuza and Sigobolo, and induna - the messenger or headman was Magabela Maphalala.

We turned to the north. The very country, in fact the owners of the country are the Sotho. As we journeyed through the country we fought through many Sotho. We proceeded as far as Hhohho in the north and further on we went to Mgwenya, then on to Lubhalule, and returned as we reached the Lusaba Rivers. We returned triumphant and sought to settle at ~~the~~ Hhohho. The king asked us where we wanted to settle and we told him that the place wanted was Hhohho area. The king had asked us to choose as we were his heroes in battle, but when we chose Hhohho area the king suggested that we go back to ~~the~~ the south where we could serve as a watch post against the Zulu raids. The Zulu were a big enemy at the time. We were instructed by Somhlolo to return and settle here. Our leaders were Prince Sonyezane, Dambuza and his headman Sigobolo and Magalela Maphalala, a war officer. Sonyezane was also given a handful of soldiers ~~with~~ whom he was to use to cope with any surprise raids.

Then ~~what~~ what ever other peoples joined from different countries became the king's subjects. In fact Somhlolo once stayed at Ngobelweni village and the incwala ~~ceremony~~ ceremony was to be held at Ludzidzini village. But Somhlolo could not reach Ludzidzini and so he performed incwala ceremony at Phunga. He stayed here at our village of Ngobelweni. We are the original people of this place. Somhlolo put his wife, the sister of Dambuza at Ngobelweni on his return from the north. She was the sister of Dambuza Lukhele. The Basuto clans expelled from here were the Nkambule, Manana, Gwebu, Maseko.

The Lukhele Clan.

The Lukhele people came together with the Ngwane king. As you remember, the Ngwane king by the name of Soyaka has his grave together with that of Tigoda Lukhele. They are down there, probably beyond the Lubombo Ranges. We

NYANDS NHLABATSI cont..

migrated together and as we arrived at Sikhalenisalohodo it was said that we brought lies with a beast. We went on from there as far as Mkhwakhweni hill. Then the king attempted to cross the Pongola river, but the Zulu blocked that and so he turned to settle at Shiselweni. It was at Shiselweni that the king had the Mahubhulu regiment whose emblem was a white ox tail. Sonyezane, F Dambuza and Sigobolo, Maphalala were war officers.

The creation of the ~~Nhlabatsi~~ Nhlabatsi clan.

In fact as has been stated to start with we were all Dlamini. It was during the leadership of Matimane that a change took place automatically. The king admired a lady amongst us and took her to be a wife. But Malimane did not favour the king's deed, so he was killed because it was said that he insulted the king. In fact Nhlabatsi Dlamini was the father of the lady who was taken to wife by the king. Her name was Nozinyawo.

A Nhlabatsi chief has a Dlamini wife but she belongs to the Mthonga family, thus Mthonga is the father of the lady, father of Mthonga was Mantinti I of Somhlolo.

The Nhlabatsi surname and its sub-surnames - Nhlabatsi - Mantini waLanga - Mabhala khope lonjenge Ngwenyama.

The surrounding chiefs of the Nhlabatsi area are Vezi Dlamini, Fihlime Dlamini, Mbatshane II Mamba, Mantiniti II Dlamini.

Polile

He was just an ancient chief who occupied the very land which was divided amongst the chiefs above. The people who were under ~~Polile~~ Polile dispersed. The fate of Polile was this: He sang and danced his ~~own~~ own Incwala chant in summer, which thing is never done. So the king sent warriors to come and kill him for that evil deed. At the death of Polile Mhlahlo Mavimbela and Logunguluzwake Methula were sent as ~~an~~ escort to Nzameya, our progenitor, to come and share this area which was then under Bhukwane. As you can remember Bhukwane had been sent to come and govern the land prior to Nzameya. So Bhukwane gave this part of the large land he governed to Nzameya - a king's hero and war veteran.

~~The Nhlabatsi~~

The Nhlabatsi clan used to manufacture spears and brass wristlets for the king. They were also good herbalists.

* Tomonye Dlamini

My grandfather Mantini I was born of Somhlolo. He begot my father Mthenga. Mthenga begot Velebantfu, who begot Logunguluzwako (late). Mantinti I was sent here by Mswati. The mother of Mantini was LaMnina of Khezweni area. Here surname was Zikalala. Mantinti was a Lubuya battle veteran. He was a brave man. Mthonga, my father, who is the son of Mantiniti was a Mshadza battle veteran. He was a brave man indeed. Mthonga used to have other ~~x~~ clans in his area such as Dube and Mncena.
