

DATE:

5 June 1970

INFORMANT 1; NKUNZI SHONGWE 2; GIDA ? 3: GANINJOBLO DLAMINI  
4: MTONDZEKI MAMBA

AREA : VUSWENI

REGIMENT : MLONDOLOZI

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM : THEIR FATHERS.

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QUESTION A

Why was it found necessary by the king to bring la-Magutshwa to Vusweni?

At that time in charge of the area was an induna called Mfundza, and it was ~~felt~~ felt that a royal figure should take over. So King Mswati sent la-Magutshwa, even at the request of the Vusweni people, to be with them. The King instructed the people of Vusweni to let her have her meals in the cattle kraal, not in a hut.

QUESTION B

Who was the famous figure in charge before la-Magutshwa was sent to take over from Mfundza?

I don't know. I know Mfundza was the induna, but of whom I don't know.

QUESTION C

What was the name of the Queen at that time?

It was Mathangatha Simelane, daughter of Magutshwa.

QUESTION D

Who are the neighbouring chiefs of this Vusweni area, and did they come here before or after the people of Vusweni arrived?

I don't know - but the first queen to arrive at Hhohho is la-Nyandza. She was given the Hhohho area. The other people are Mancibane, Mphathwa, Majajane ( Dlamini) and the Ndwandwe who came rather late.. I'm not sure exactly in what sequence these Dlamini and Nxumalos came to settle at Vusweni however.

QUESTION E

Did any of the Vusweni people die in any battle such as that against the Basuto after the death of Mswati?

~~Yes~~ What I know is that Mswati sent out an army, and my grandfather, of Nyathisini, fought in it, but they did come back. I don't know who died there.

SOMCUBA - He was the first-born of Somhlolo, and a brother to Mswati. He was taken away from near the king because a first born, by custom, is not made king, and must stay away from his father the king. He moved away after Mswati was made king because they had quarrels, and went to the Basuto, and ~~did~~ died there.

VUSWENI cont...

QUESTION F

Did the Swazi give concessions to the whites? What form did this take; did the Swazi sell land to white settlers or how did the whites come to claim that they owned the land?

It is said ( and it is true) that when the Boers came, one of them, Madlanfengwenya, onrealising that our people were illiterate, ~~was~~ played tricks on our people and claimed that he and his fellow boers had bought the land. They never bought any land from our people. ~~Was~~ What happened was that they would come to the king, give him presents and have a good time with him in order that he should allow them to graze their animals on his land. Then as time passed these Boers claimed ownership of those lands, deceiving everybody and saying that they had bought the lands ~~from~~ from Mbandzeni. It was all lies. They themselves have come out with the truth that none of them bought land in the country.

QUESTION G

Did anybody at any time claim that they had bought any part of Vusweni area and therefore cut it off from Vusweni for themselves?

This is obvious from these planted forests here. A white farmer grazed his sheep on this land now under forest, and claimed ~~it~~ falsely that he had bought it. This land stretches beyond the Mzimmene River to the east. The Boer who also stole this land was Jeva. ~~x~~ Towards the east the land was stolen by Spens.

QWABI's - I know of one, Bukudu, who with Kothakazishi-Khumalo had come from Zululand with ox-drawn wagons. I can't remember the time they arrived.

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