

DATE : 28.4.70

INFORMANT : MJOLE SIFUNDZA

REGIMENT : MASOTSHENI

AREA : THE LAND OF SHEWULA

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM :

(this first part may possibly be by Gija Mahlalela)

QUESTION A

Did the Mahlaelas find Shewula reigning when they arrived?

Yes.

QUESTION B

Does that mean that the Dlamini's wanted the ~~Mahlalela~~ Mahlalela to be above the Maziya of Shewula?

Actually the Mahlalela had their own greatness on their arrival.

QUESTION C

What brought the Mahlalela here?

I do not know. Actually the Maziya and the Mahlalela, plus the Dlamini migrated at the same time, that is when they migrated from Shiselweni.

QUESTION D

What caused them to leave Shiselweni?

I cannot tell, but the fact is that they wanted to spread.

QUESTION E

Were there any other clans amongst the ~~Mahlalela~~ ^{Mahlalela} and the Sifundza.

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QUESTION F

Whom did you find when you arrived here?

Look, when we arrived here from Botswana we found no-one here we Sifundza people.

QUESTION G

With which other clans did you come?

We separated from the Masilela as we arrived at Manga.

QUESTION H

What relationship existed between you and the Masilela.

When we arrived at Mananga we were one. To separate at Mananga a bird was killed.

QUESTION I

Did you settle in one place?

SIFUNDZA cont...

Yes, we settled in the very place we are to-day.

QUESTION J

We would like to know where your clan came from and where were the Swazi at the time of your migration?

We came before the Swazi.

QUESTION K

Can you remember the chiefs that you found and who were your chiefs?

We were the first ones to arrive here. The first chief to come here was Malingela and his son was Madzanga, who begot Runga. Runga begot Maphalala. Maphalala's son was Mbandamanzi and the son of Mbandamanza was Shewula. The son of Shewula was Majembeni and his son is the present chief, Mvaleni.

QUESTION L

When did the Dlamini become your rulers?

They arrived at Mdzimba and found the Mnisi clan there. We were here.

QUESTION M

Does that mean on ~~xxx~~ the arrival of the Dlamini you had nothing more to do?

In fact they came to Mdzimba long after we arrived here and then they turned against us. It was during the reign of Shewula on our side and Mbandzeni on theirs.

QUESTION N

What provoked the Dlamini into turning against you?

It was because Shewula was reigning like a king and he did all that a king used to do e.g. he played his own incwala ceremony.

QUESTION O

Were the Mahlalela here?

They found us Sifundza here

QUESTION P

Is there any division between you and the Masilela?

We are mixed and the Masilela chief was alienated, and he acts as an induna to the Sifundza. The first Masilela induna was Magwinya.

QUESTION Q

Can you tell us of Magwinya's descendents?

Magwinya bore Mathubela, who bore Mboshwa; Mboshwa bore Mahlakamphane. After us there came the Maziya and ~~Mahlalela~~ Mahlalela. These settled ~~n-~~ Makhuneni, Langa, Maphungwane. Shewula settled and was told to go ahead and find his own place to settle.

QUESTION R

How did the Mavimbela come to mix with you here?

We brought them from the west.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ SIFUNDZA cont...

QUESTION S

Why did you migrate.

I cannot tell. There ~~xxxx~~ have been no quarrels amongst these peoples, Mahlalela, Madolo and Maziya, but all used to peacefully intermarry.

Swaziland extends as far east as Bowwane ~~to~~ and it is still the Sifundza, Madolo and others. Later a large group of people came and built a village - unlike us who built individual homesteads. Some were under the Mahlalela and other under us. Then later war broke out because those people multiplied and became stronger, so much that they felt they were big men. Then each time the ~~xxxx~~ Dlamini king wanted those people to talk, but they refused and as a result the king thought of a plan to subdue them. First of all a war - there was a war to which they were summoned and there most of them died and so their strength was abated. Then later the Sifundza were attacked and the people of Shewula were killed by the Dlamini king. The Dlamini were against the Sifundza kingdom and so~~x~~ they subdued it. The Sifundza people started to appear at the kings royal place for~~x~~ service during the reign of Sobhuza II. Before that they performed all the national rites at their own King's royal place.

The first regiment to be summoned there was that of Bulondvoloti. After the strife between the Swazi and the Sifundza the latter chief ~~ran~~ ~~xxx~~ away back to southern Tsongaland, but after the strife he was restored to his area, and there he lived a short time, until he died.