

DATE :

INFORMANT : NGIYASE DLAMINI

AREA : NYAKENI

REGIMENT : MASOTSHENI

INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM : FATHER AND ELDERS.

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This is the house of Nyakeni. My grandfather, Soshangane, was given some herds of cattle "Udlambedla". He took them to the Transvaal where there is this old Inkaba. As he was there during the war between the Boers and the English my grandfather sided with the English. As a result the Boers hated him. They wanted the cattle and also ~~x~~ wanted to kill him. Then he ran away and came back with those herds of the King - he came as far as here at Zitheni and up to Zulumangweni, beyond the Black Umbuluzi. As they were there towards the end of the war, my grandfather Soshangane decided to come here amongst the Shiba, where we are today. The King told the Shiba that they should give ~~x~~ us a camp where the Udlambedla should graze. That's why we are here - we are also Udlambedla - the king's herd from Nyakeni.

QUESTION A

Is this the Shiba's place?

Yes it is. The King said that the Shiba should look for a place where the Udlambedla should graze, and the Shiba decided upon this area.

QUESTION B

Who was the king at that time?

He was Mgwami. He was with Mnisi during the time when he spoke with the Shiba, immediately after the death of my grandfather, Soshangane.

QUESTION C

Who was your grandfather?

Soshangane. He was the one who looked after these cattle. Mnisi found them here at Shiba's palce.

QUESTION D

Is there anything you know about the Shiba?

I don't know their history.

QUESTION E

Do you know anything about the wars that were fought by Mswati and the Basuto?

I don't know. I was still young. I can't explain because I didn't get the story properly.

QUESTION F

Does it mean that all this area was under the Shiba, or did they own only a small portion of it?

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It was all theirs, except for where the Gama have settled. The Shiba occupy as far as the banks of the Mbuluzi. The Shiba are Mncinas. They stretch as far as the Nkomati. They were looking after this place because it had king's medicines. The Shiba were responsible for the natural forests - they stopped people cutting down the trees.

QUESTION G

Perhaps you know something of the history of the Shiba here and of those of Skhotheni?

They are relatives. The only thing is that they have settled differently. Those who are at Skhotheni originated from these here ( meaning Nkaba).

QUESTION H

Do you know the Shiba who are in Barberton? Are they separate from the ones in this area?

They are the same Shiba.

QUESTION I

Were there any other small clans amongst these Shiba?

There were none except the Basutos - the Mnisis. The chiefs nearby were across the Mbuluzi. They weren't amongst the Shiba.

QUESTION J

Were there any regiments in this area?

Yes.

QUESTION K

Who were they?

It was my grandfather Soshangane, Mtanenkosi Guquku, the son of Soshangane Mnisi, and the sons of Mnisi who went to fight during the English and Boer War. Also the sons of Mnisi; Malagwane Dlamini, Madibhi, Bekimpi, Bekinkosi were heroes who went to fight in that war.

QUESTION L

Who was Soshangane's father?

It was Malunge, the king of Nyakeni called Mambane.

QUESTION M

What do you know about Malunge? What kind of man was he?

Malunge was ~~Somhlolo's son~~ Somhlolo's son. He was given the responsibility for this area. All that was done - in honour of the king. Malunge did everything. Moreover the installing of chiefs was Malunge's duty- that duty also being given him by the king. Even today the Nyakeni house is still important, because here in Swaziland when a new king is being

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installed it is Nyakeni's house that takes charge of the ceremony. This has taken place since Somhlolo's days, when Malyngé was still reigning, up to the present day of our King Sobhuza II. Even Sobhuza II was installed by the Nyakeni house.

QUESTION N

What about the Ndumas?

When we were from the Transvaal we found the Nduma here. The king had said to Soshangane that the Nduma should be removed to go and build this house. But Soshangane pleaded and said that they were relatives and would rather stay.

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