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Name
Naam Carolyn H. Interview

Subject
Vak Myeni History

Place
Plek Myeni, Kavuma (Lubandeni)

Book 4

Faint Ruling with Margin
Dowwe Lineëring met Kantlyn

JD. 267

Interview conducted by: Carolyn Hamilton = C.H.
Assisted by: ROTTER SICHEME MAMBA = R.S.M.

SUBJECT MATTER : Myeni History

DATE OF INTERVIEW : 21/3/86

Place : Kalvuma (Etubonjeni)

Informants : David Manzendlela Myeni = D.M.
Siphike Myeni = S.M.
Phathakanjeni Myeni = P.M.
Florah Myeni = F.M.

Others Present : Fanyaza Myeni
Magaya Myeni
Kufakwendu Shabangu
Gibhita Mamba (Mrs ~~Myeni~~)

Notes

ada
ada

... of African word for ...
... into ...

... that's it or ...

... there ... was also ...

... the first is also ...

... Mabaqela ...

... the father of the present chief ...

... Mabaqela ...

... Mabaqela ...

... Mabaqela ...

FootNotes

C.H. nhi, so he was buried on the other side
nhi¹, so he was buried on the other side.
R.S.M. ya, where fundini was also buried.
ya, where fundini was also buried
C.H. aha! Siphike the first is also there?
aha³ Siphike the first is also there?
R.S.M. ya
ya!
C.H. Okay, where is Mshayisele?
Okay, where is Mshayisele?
R.S.M. Mshayeli
Mshayeli
C.H. ya, the father of the present chief.
ya!, the father of the present chief.
R.S.M. Oh ya! Mshayeli, lonake lithuna
Oh ya! Mshayeli, where is Mshayeli's
la Mshayeli ke?
grave?
D.M. lilangenhla ke lona
that one's [grave] is just up there.
F.M. lisithwe ngunangumuzi nje njangob'uwubona.
it is obstructed by this homestead, as you see it

57 inkosi — see glossary

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R.S.M. khona nje la?
just here?

D.M. enhhe, ngenhla la.
enhhe²²

R.S.M. nha
nha¹⁸

C.H. just here at the bottom?
just here, at the bottom?

R.S.M. ya
ya¹⁹

C.H. nhā, it's very interesting. Now, what can
nhā, it's very interesting. Now, what can they
they tell us about Mkakwa? What did he
tell us about Mkakwa? What did he do, we
do, we know he was, it was said he
know he was, it was said he was
was an inkosi?
an inkosi⁵⁷?

R.S.M. Mkakwa ke, nanikhumbula njena, kute
As for Mkakwa, if you still recall,
yini lenikukhumbulako nje kwakhe
do you remember/know anything about him,
kutsi wentani, Mkakwa, latiwa ngako?
his deeds; what is Mkakwa known for?

F.M. kuze lesingakukhumbula, ngoba le Mkakwa
we can't remember anything ^(about Mkakwa) because we
besibancane sonke.
were all young.

R.S.M. Wo e-e, kute njāke ^{senyisho} halabe kushwa
wo² yes, Nothing even what you heard
labekhulunywa kumbe kutsi, njengami
spoken by elders? Like myself, I am young

nje ngingabekisa ngoba, nami ngimncane
 yet I heard many stories about people, such as
 koduwa ngiyathumbula ngabo Maloyi,
 Maloyi, who lived many, many years alo. I remember
 lowaphila tigidzi teminyaka. kufe nani
 Do you also remember something about
 lenikukhumbulako nje lotunjalo?
 Mkakwa, like I do?

F.M. mina ngizwa nje kuthi Mkakwa waye
 All I heard, myself, is that Mkakwa used
 shaya lobaba, Mshayeli.
 to beat baba⁵⁵, Mshayeli.

R.S.M. wo
 wo²¹

F.M. lomkakwa
 this Mkakwa.

R.S.M. e.
 e- [um]

F.M. ngoba abemngugeno amdala kulo Mshayeli
Because he was the one older to Mshayeli.

R.S.M. e abemncane lomshayeli?
 e [um] Mshayeli was younger [to Mkakwa]?

F.M. e-e
 yes -

P.M. mina lengikuvako kutsi abehla atowu
myself what I hear is that he used
 tingela la
 to come down here, to hunt for game.

R.S.M. wo
 wo²¹

C.H. What does he say?
 What does he say?

58 Umphakathi } see glossary
variant: Umphakatsi

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840

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R.S.M. What he knows is that Mkakwa used to come
What he knows is that Mkakwa used to come
down to hunt
down to hunt.

C.H. Where was his umphakathi?
Where was his umphakathi?

R.S.M. abehlalaphi ke yena lo Mkakwa, abehlalaphi...?
Where did this Mkakwa stay, did he...?

P.M. abetathe khona lapha, lapha...
they had built just here...

R.S.M. layi Ngwavuma,
at Ingwavuma?

P.M.

R.S.M. wo
wo

P.M. ngulokuthi kade kusengata hlukaniswa
well, at that time, there was not this
kuthi nguka - -

distinction [that this is part of Swaziland; this, is not]

R.S.M. ya, kwakwele nje kutsiwe,
ya" it used to be said its [Swaziland]

P.M. ya kuse Swazini, kuse Swazini
ya" it's in Swaziland, it's in Swaziland

R.S.M. e-e
yes

C.H. e-... So. This um, Mshayeli, was he
e- [um] So, this Mshayeli, was he a
a chief?
chief?

R.S.M. oh yes, e- Angitsi Mshayeli kwaku-
oh yes, e- [um] Is it correct that

859

sikhulu mosi?
Mshayeli was a chief?

D.M. e-e-
yes, [he was]

C.H. who was he under?
who was he under?

R.S.M. under in what sense?
under in what sense?

C.H. was there anyone above him in other
was there anyone above him in other
words, where did he report to? Did he report
words, where did he report to? Did he
to Zombodze, or
report to Zombodze or...

R.S.M. oh!
oh!

C.H. Did he - e- , you know
Did he eEumi, you know

R.S.M. oh ya. tapha ^{nabe, kumbabe} nakutselwa, noma nakun-
oh ya! here, if, maybe there was something
ngani ngani, ngukuphi labefika athun-
he was to be told by the king, where did
lume nabo lekaNgwane; abeya kaZombodze,
he report to, at kaNgwane? Did he report to
noma abeya kuphi kuphi; ngukuphi nje
Zombodze or to somewhere else? On his
labefika aqondzane nabo etintfeni nje
arrival kaNgwane, whom did he first meet,
labeyokutikhuluma? Tintfo nje la-
before he was taken to the king, and where was he?

D.M. nakukhona layokukhuluma?
if there was something he was to talk about?

59 lincusa — see glossary

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R.S.M. asengitsi njenga ngibekise njoba labanye
Let me say that, to give an example,
kumbe ukhanza kutsi baya kumbe encenye
[we know that] some people [chiefs] go
eNkanini labanye kumbe baya kaZombodes
to Nkanini, others maybe to Zombodes,
hinto letinjalo nje. Bona ke babakhulu
things like that. As for the Myeni, whom
mrsana nabaphi le kaNgwane
did they report to, who was their liason kaNgwane?

D.M.

kusho kuthi aba, abafike
[many voices speak at once] it means that, he used
aye ka lobamba, aye lapha ka Ndimande
to go to lobamba, to ka Ndimande, lincusa⁵⁹
lincusa.

[of his]

R.S.M. Wo, lincusa lo Ndzimandze?

wo², the lincusa⁵⁹ was this Ndzimandze?

D.M. enhhe. Bese umngenisela ka lobamba
enhhe²². Then he [Ndzimandze] took him [Mshayeli] to

R.S.M. lo Ndzimandze lincusa? Lobamba [kanti]
this Ndzimandze was lincusa?

D.M. yebo, lalibese lihamba naye baye ka
yes, [this lincusa⁵⁹] would then go with him
lobamba

[Mshayeli] to lobamba [royal residence]

F.M. abengena ngalo, nanyalo singena ngalo
He [Mshayeli] got into lobamba, through lincusa⁵⁹

R.S.M. Wo - -
wo²

D.M. singena ngemsa wakhe nyalo
Now, we get into [lobamba] through his son.

60 umphakatsi } — see glossary.
variant: umphakathi }

897

S.M.

150
Senguye nje nyalo.
it's him now,

R.S.M.

wo
wo²

C.H.

Can you ask him where was the
Can you ask him where was the
Mshayeli umphakatsi; is that the one on
Mshayeli umphakatsi⁶⁰; is that the one on
the other side?
the other side?

R.S.M.

umphakatsi waMshayeli wona wawu-
Where was Mshayeli's umphakatsi⁶⁰?
kuphi?

D.M.

wawukhona lapha labhubhele khona
it was just here, where he died.

R.S.M.

khona la?
just here?

D.M.

e-e.
yes [many voices]

R.S.M.

ya abesuka laka, abesuka kaUuma?
ya" was he coming from kaUuma?"

D.M.

Cha, vele kuKaUuma lendawo
No, in fact, it is kaUuma, this area [chiefdom]

R.S.M.

Wo! kuKaUuma lendawo
wo!² it's kaUuma, this area

D.M.

ya
ya"

R.S.M.

Wo, lomphakatsi watsiwa ngekutsi kuKa-
wo². The umphakatsi⁶⁰ was named
Uuma?
kaUuma [as well]?

914

D.M. ya, kuthiwa kuka Uuma
ya, it is said it's Kalluma.

R.S.M. nalendzawo le kutsiwa kuka Uuma?
even this area, here is called Kalluma?

D.M. e-e yanke le, iye igowushaye Ngovuma
yes, the whole area here, till it reaches Ngovuma

R.S.M. |

C.H. Oh!-
Oh!-

R.S.M. So, lomphaka.
So, the umphakatsi is ⁶⁰

C.H. and it's just here, somewhere?
and it's just here, somewhere?

R.S.M. e. lomphakatsi wakhe ke lo Mshayeli,
e [um] the umphakatsi of this Mshayeli, where
abesukaphi lapha? Khona lapha nje, abesur-
did it move from here? Was it moved from
ka khona la, wakha khona la?
here, and rebuilt in the same area here?

D.M. e-e abasuka, kuyona lendawo
yes, he had moved from this ^{same} area.

R.S.M. wo, kusho nje kutsi solo lendzawo vele
wo, it means that the area is still one {and
yinge, akazange ahambe libanga lelidze
the same}; he never travelled a long distance.

D.M. ya, ngiyo nje lendzawo
ya, it is this area.

C.H. When did Mshayeli die?
When did Mshayeli die?

R.S.M. e. anisakhumbuli ka kutsi ke yena
e [um], don't you remember well, when

938

F.M. babe Mshayeli ufe nini, umnyaka?
 babe⁵⁵ Mshayeli died, I mean, the year?

S.M. sekunesikhathi
 it is quite sometime since [this happened]

R.S.M. nasowubekisa nje sawukala, lemphi yesibili
 when approximating, when the Second World
 yemhlaba, abesafite?
 War began, was he dead?

C.H.

S.M. yesibili yabani, leya Hikhlika?
 The second one, for who, [you mean] Hitler's?

R.S.M. e-e- leya Hitler
 yes, Hitler's.

F.M. abangakafi
 He hadn't died by then.

D.M. abangakafi
 He hadn't died by then.

S.M. abangakafi
 He hadn't died by then.

D.M. ngoba aze abuya lamasotsha
 [I'm saying this], because until they returned [he was alive]

R.S.M. abuya akhona?
 him alive.

D.M. e-e abuyela kuye vele, ngoba nguye
 yes, they returned on him, because it's him
 labawa.
 who...

R.S.M. labawakhohile?
 [it's him] who had sent [the soldiers] out?

D.M. e-e wawele wawakhelela inkunzi
 yes, he slaughtered a bull for them

949

F.M. lelangangana njemine ^{ngukabe} babuya khona
the man whose suit I accepted, [was one
le.

of those who had come from there [World War II]

R.S.M. Wo. - wo²

F.M. wabulalinkunzingasekhona baba, wahlala futhi
When [he] slaughtered the bull, baba⁵⁵ was still alive,
ngaze ngaba neyingane lezinti
and he stayed until I had [raising fingers] children

R.S.M. Wo wo²

F.M. Solangakafi
still he hadn't died.

R.S.M. Wo! wo²! kusho nje kutsi kungenteka kube
So, it means that it might be.

D.M. angrithi, ngiyabona kulapha 1949 naba
let me say, I think it is around 1949 or
1950.

P.M. Wena uyamazi infana?
You, do you know him, boy?

D.M. angimazi, ngiyamazi; obaba ngababona bagundile
I don't know him; I know obaba⁵⁵, I saw
ufe sengikhona. Vele kade sengikhona.
them with their hair shaved. I was present when he died.

P.M. nakuqala nje lapho kubuya emasotsha.
when the soldiers began returning.

D.M. khayi emasotsheni asekudeni
No, the soldiers are very far away [their return]

F.M. e-e. wahlala ngoba emasotsha
yes; he stayed, because the soldiers

ngoba nalaba boMabuyakhulu ufa
 because even these boMabuyakhulu — by the
 lange, sekudala babuya
 time he [possibly Mshayeli] died, they had come back long ago

R.S.M. kusho nje kutsi kubuya kwemasotsha
 So it means that, after the returning of the
 wahlala iminyaka nje vele leminengi?
 soldiers, he stayed for many years [still alive]?

D.M. e.e. wahlala nje vele iminyaka
 yes, he stayed for many years indeed,

R.S.M. Teminengi vele?
 for many [years] really?

P.M. kepta ngiyetsemba kutsi yaba mibili
 But I hope that they [years] were two

R.S.M. wo- kungenteka kutsi yaba mibili
 wo², it could be that they were two.

D.M. nami ngikhumbula kuthi nababuya nje
 I, myself, remember that when the soldiers
 emasotsha, abuya ngisengumfana nje,
 returned, they returned while I was still
 ngisalibele. Keja ngangelanywa kanye
 an idiot boy, but, I had one child coming after me.

R.S.M. wo, kantsi wena nawubuka tele
 wo², by the way, do you think you were
 watalwa kumbe^{erconye} takubo '44, noma '45.
 born around [19]44 or [19]45. Were you
 Wena watalwa nakubuye masotsha, noma
 born when the soldiers returned or [what]?

D.M. angifica sengizelwe, sengelanywa,
 they [soldiers] found me having been born
 angifica sengelanywa.
 and having someone who comes after me.

979

R.S.M. lamasotsha?
these soldiers?

S.M.1 ngoba wazalwa ngalempi yaHitla
Because he was born by the time of Hitler's war

R.S.M. wo-
wo²

D.M. ligama lami nje ngu Hitla
my name, in fact, is Hitler.

R.S.M. wo, ligama lakho kutsi wa ungu Hitler
wo², your name is said to be Hitler, ngalemphe?
because of this War?

D.M. yebo
yes

R.S.M. lokusho kutsi ke nakafa ke lomdeala
which means, then that when the elder one, Mshayeli wasowelanywa wena?
Mshayeli^{died}, you had someone coming after you?

D.M. e.e. ngasengelanywa, ngiyinganyana
yes, I had someone coming after me, being ecinacinile nje,
a little child who was by then quite strong.

R.S.M. wo
wo²

D.M.1 ibele

R.S.M. wo, kusho nje kutsi vele nje kulapha
wo², so it means that, indeed, it was around kubo H9 nombe H8
[1949 or 1948.

D.M.1 kuthabasisfundisanga phela thine.
[The problem is that] they never taught us —

9.90

R.S.M. ya, cha kufanele kusho kutsi saba sidze ya¹¹, no it's understandable. So, it means that it sikhatsi angakabekwa yena babe wakule- was a long time before babe⁵⁵ of this area ndzawo?

F.M. Sabasidze. it was long.

R.S.M. nanibukiminyaka nje, ngahle kube yafika. When looking at the number of years, how kule mingakhi? Anisakhumbuli? many years elapsed? Don't you remember?

P.M. nabekwa lo yase ilishumi, afile when this was installed, they were ten, after he,

R.S.M. wo yase ilishumi, afile. [Mshayeli] died. wo² they were ten since he had died.

C.H. What does he say?
What does he say?

R.S.M.

C.H. So, he was installed roughly in 1960. So, he was installed roughly in 1960.

R.S.M. e-e. yes

C.H. enhe - - Okay. enhe²² - - Okay.

R.S.M. ngeke nikhumbule kutsi ubekwe nini. Can't you remember the year in which umnyaka yena he [referring to the chief] was installed?

S.M.

C.H. was it after Independence or before
was it after Independence or before
Independence?

R.S.M. Indiphethe yase itfoliwe nabekwa?
had the Independence been found when he was installed?

D.M. Yayisengaka ifolakali ngoba itfolakale nyalo
it hadn't been found, because it has been
phela nga 68
found now, in [19]68.

F.M. yase ifolakele.
it had been found.

D.M. hhe-?
what?

F.M. ngoba nasiya ku Ndiphendence kugala
because when we when to Independence
ga, abengakabekwa lo
[celebrations], for the first time, this one hadn't been installed.

R.M. uthini?
what do you say?

F.M. ngiqinisile
truly.

R.M. |

F.M. Cha, zangagule bo! Ngisho kaNgwane
No, he was not ill! I mean kaNgwane^{##}
mine leNdiphendence
myself, at Independence [celebrations].

D.M. kube kukhona incwadi ngakuncono,
if there were a [written] book, it would be
kuze?
better? Is there any?

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R.S.M. kumbe encenye ingabakhona.
Maybe it can be found.

C.H. So what did he say?
So, what did he say?

S.M. asiko ngabo 72?
wasn't it in [1972]?

R.S.M. asengi bekise nje ngisi, ^{kumbe} encenye, nakabekwe,
let me figure out, maybe, when he was
ubekwe, ubekwe la besetukhona yini na
installed, were the [political] parties present
kwe maphathi nje, nakwemaphathi, abesakhona?
[notably] by then, or no?
Cha?

C.H. What's this?
What's this?

P.M. emaphathi, njongoba nje seku
[you mean] parties, as there —

R.S.M. enhhe
enhhe²²

F.M. Ndiphethe wekuqala wakaNgwane abengaka
the first Independence [Celebrations] for kaNgwane²²
bekwa.
this person had not been installed [by then].

R.S.M. wo, cha empeleni singedlula ke, sitawubuye
wo²² No, really, we can pass on we will
sikutfola loko. Kodwana ke saba sidze sona
find about this later. but then it was a long
sikhatsi asahambile Mshayeli, asengakatsitsi
time after Mshayeli's death, before this one

8.2M. Kumbhe enclosure in Kumbhalinga
 maybe it can be found?
 H. So what did he say?
 so what did he say?

8.2M. Datto ngabo JJ?
 what it is?

8.2M. Dattabhai ngabo JJ?
 let me know what, maybe when he was
 before, before in Kumbhalinga
 installed, were the political parties
 Kumbhalinga ngabo JJ, Kumbhalinga
 installed by them or not?

8.2M. What's that?
 what's this?

8.2M. Kumbhalinga ngabo JJ
 you mean parties, or there

8.2M. the - 2
 Kumbhalinga

8.2M. Kumbhalinga ngabo JJ
 the first independence celebration for Kumbhalinga
 Kumbhalinga
 this person had not been installed?

8.2M. the Kumbhalinga ngabo JJ
 the Kumbhalinga ngabo JJ
 Kumbhalinga ngabo JJ
 find about the Kumbhalinga ngabo JJ
 Kumbhalinga ngabo JJ
 the Kumbhalinga ngabo JJ



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