

DATE : 19.4.70

Phica

INFORMANT : PIETHA MAGAGULA

REGIMENT :

AREA: KUTSIMULENI

QUESTION A

When did the Swazi arrive here, and whom did they find here?

Here it was the land of the Basuto, consisting of these clans ; Magagula, Malaza, Mnisi, Mncina, Most of these clans had a ~~power~~ powerful central king of the Magagula clan. Their land extended as far as Namahasha to the east and as far as Gumndvini to the south. Also the Maseko had a vast land, and also had a powerful chieftainship. In reality, the land which could be said to belong rightfully to the Dlamini is at Shiselweni, as far as the Mkondo River to the north of Shiselweni. Then when they migrated northwards they met these scattered Basuto and alienated them. In fact they first settled amongst them. Then later they realised that winning the poor Sotho would mean a fortune to them, so they had to attack them discreetly in small skirmishes, and through diplomacy, until they had gained the land. ~~In reality~~ In fact originally the Magagula Sotho ruled the land around Mdzimba. Their village was at Mzimba at Lancabane. In reality the Basuto were the natives of this country north of the Mkhondo river. I must say that the land now known as Swaziland, ~~formerly~~ formerly Ngwane land, was known as Magagula land.

Mnjoli was a chief and Moyeni was another chief, who ruled the area around Komati River, and Mnjoli ruled from Mdzimba as far as Nkambani. So Mnjoli and Moyeni were contemporary, but brothers of different mother. The main reason for having different districts to rule but with a central village around Mdzimba, was to extend the kingdom.

QUESTION B

Were there any other clans under the Magagula as far south as Shiselweni?

In fact long before the Swazi king emigrated from Mtembe to Shiselweni the Magagula and the Maseko ruled the land as far as the Mkhondo to the south and the former as far as the Usutho River in the West. The first prince was Maloyi, who started to shake up the natives, that is the Magagula. Mhlangola was the father of Mnjoli. When Somhlolo arrived in Swaziland, Mhlangala was at the height of his kingdom around Mdzimba mountains. Actually his village was at Lamabane. It looks ~~as if~~ as ~~if~~ ^{though} Mhlangala was really at Mdzimba mountain, yet at the same time Mnjoli and Moyeni were chiefs in small other different areas. Nevertheless the mighty Swazi Kingdom could discreetly win the land from the hands of their less well organised areas. From there we cannot tell what happened to Mnjoli and Mhlangala, and also Moyeni. Apparently the Magagula were quite a weak clan and it did not take a war to make them lose the rulership of their land and own country. Obviously, diplomacy and small skirmishes were enough to make these people yield, and conform to the newly acquired king.

Now owing to the fact that the Magagula had never fought ~~with~~ with Somhlolo, Mswati, the successor to Somhlolo, gave them a wife out of his sisters. One was offered to Mnjoli and a second girl was offered to Moyeni at Nkhomati River. Sigcawe, the mother of the father of Maddubane. From then the Magagula were assured of safety and security in the kingdom of Mswati.

PICHTHA MAGAGULA cont...

Then there came Sigunundu, Malobi, Ligonunda, Mkhaba - these houses displaced the Magagula who were pushed as far as Hhohho - in fact Mswati had his village at Hhohho. Others went as far as Barberton and beyond - where there ~~were~~^{was} Mswati's village Mjindini, Mbhuleni. Around the village were Magagula.

.... Madubane of Malamulela of Mnjoli.....

Mswati offered a lady to Madubane. The importance of the Magagula to the Swazi was their rain-making powers. On his arrival, Somhlolo tried to deprive the Magagula people of their rain-making charm.

QUESTION C

During Somhlolo's time were the regiments of the Magagula mixed with those of the king?

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If there came a big case to be tried by the king the Magagulas had to be tried by the king e.g. civil cases were tried by the king who was responsible for heavy penalties.

QUESTION D

How did Somhlolo die?

I don't know.

QUESTION E

What killed Mahlokohla?

Natural causes.

QUESTION F

Who were the prominent Magagula people?

They were Moyeni, Mnjoli and Hhomane.

QUESTION G

Who were the Magagula generals during the days when the Magagula were alienated?

People like Madubane, Malamulela, Madubane's father.

QUESTION H

Were there any Mkhwamazi people before the Swazi?

They came together with Swazi in the minority.

QUESTION I

Is there a chief you know of in the days of Mhlangale by the name of Mgazi?

I know one who was of the Nyawo clan around Lavumisa.

QUESTION J

Do you know of one who lived towards the Transvaal?

Very little- I remember hearing of him.

~~QUESTION K~~ Dlomodlomo was one of the Mswati villages. Ngwekati was a Myeni from Lavumisa.

PICHTHA MAGAGULA cont...

QUESTION K

Did Mbandzeni offer a wife to a Magagula chief?

Yes. Madlangampisi was one of the Magagula chiefs during the days of Mbandzeni. Also Madubane.

Mabhala (Allister Miller) was responsible for the distribution of private lands ~~during~~ during the days of Mbandzeni. Mabhala had come as a person to khonta at the kings homestead.
