

MZUKELE KA KUNI

1.11.1921

File 77, pp. 13-14.

13 <Praises of Dinuzulu omitted - eds.>

Mzukele ka Kuni ka Gwaqa ka Mpongo ka Zingelwayo of the *aba kwa Ndhlovu* people, 1.11.1921. Chief: Mafahleni of the Nxamalala tribe.¹ He gave the distichs re *Ka bulali, u ya sizila* and *umpondo za mil' enjeni*, which, being already many times recorded, I did not take.²

Mzukele is about 40, to make a guess, and says he is Mafahleni's *imbongi*.

14 Mafahleni ka Lugaju (Nxamalala), genealogical tree: Mafahleni (a), ka Lugaju (b), ka Matomela (c), ka Tshisa (d), ka Bonako (e), ka Mageba (f), ka Dana (g), ka Mdhlovu (h), ka Mahlangu (i), ka Taka (j), ka Zuma (k), ka Sibabili (l), ka Ndhlelanga (m), ka Nokokisa (n), ka Mzamo (o), ka Matshilo (p), and a number of others forgotten by my informant.³ The names go on to include Dhlamini, though Mzukele cannot link on to him.

Mafahleni's section of the Nxamalala tribe is called the *a ba kwa Zuma*. The Nxamalala tribe *originated (dabuka'd)* at the eLoza river in the Zulu country. They are a real Lala tribe.⁴

Mzukele is able to bonga well a, b, c; slightly, d, e, f, g, and i; the others, not at all.

[I do not remember ever getting quite so long a genealogical tree as the above. Qwabe, for instance, gives only 12 names. I am, of course, excepting the Swaziland genealogical tree of kings.⁵]

Notes

¹Mafahleni was chief of the Nxamalala in the Impendhle, Lion's River, Umgeni and New Hanover divisions.

²In translation the two expressions, which appear to be lines from praises, respectively read, 'He does not kill; he formally avoids (*sizila's*) us', and 'Mpondo which grew from the dog'. The latter expression plays on the name Mpondo, which derives from *izimpondo*, meaning horns.

³Cf. the genealogy in Bryant, *Olden Times*, p. 522.

⁴For discussion of the term Lala see Bryant, *Olden Times*, pp. 7 ff, 232 ff; *Zulu People*, p. 385; *Dictionary*, p. 346; Marks, 'The traditions of the Natal "Nguni"', in Thompson, ed., *African Societies*, ch. 6; Marks and Atmore, 'The problem of the Nguni', in Dalby, ed., *Language and History in Africa*, pp. 120-32; *Stuart Archive*, vols.

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- 1-3, indexes; Hedges, 'Trade and politics', p. 88.
⁵See the lists of Swazi kings reproduced in Stuart Archive, vol. 1, pp. 133-4, 151-2, 360-5.