

Declaration

The work contained in this thesis was completed by the author at the University of The Witwatersrand in 2013. It is original work except where due reference is made and has not been submitted for the award in any other university.

Signed-----

Acknowledgements

My MA program has taken a longer period than planned as a number of challenges almost scuppered my efforts. I, however wish to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to my supervisor Professor Philip Bonner, who through his unfailing love and care guided me through this work. I also wish to thank my family for being there for me always to see this work come to completion. I also wish to thank the staff of the Swaziland National Archives for all the support they gave me as I scanned through primary sources under their care.

Abstract

This dissertation examines centre- regional disputes which are now more than two centuries old between the Swazi royal house and the subordinate chiefdoms of the Magagula, Tfwala, and Mabuza, all located in central Swaziland, and the Fakudze of Macetjeni, located in the Lubombo region. The research report contends that these disputes have become so critical in the relationship between princes and chiefs in Swaziland that it has culminated in open defiance by chiefs deposed in favour of princes. This has led to the Swazi royal house resorting to the use of naked force in a bid to stamp its authority over the subordinate recalcitrant chiefs.

The tradition of placing princes as chiefs in distant areas helped to serve two aims. One was to send princes throughout the country for purposes of surveillance of the recalcitrant chiefdoms, and the other to remove princes from the royal kraal as these could not disturb the incumbent ruler by contesting the throne. The non-Dlamini chiefdoms have struggled to regain their lost autonomy at any given opportunity. Such opportunities have been availed to the non-Dlamini chiefdoms by forces that have acted upon the Swazi society since the early 19th century. These included the Mfecane wars, colonialism, missionary activities, education and the mineral revolution in South Africa with its concomitant labour migration. These forces saw the Dlamini royal house struggling to retain its hold on the non-Dlamini chiefdoms through the invention and manipulation of tradition. Each of the Swazi kings has adhered to this old tradition of placing his brothers as chiefs, beginning with Sobhuza I up to the time of Sobhuza II and the current king Mswati III. The net effect of placing princes in the periphery has caused a lot of confusion and opposition in the country, as subordinate chiefs have openly revolted against traditional authorities who impose princes as new rulers of their principalities. The Swazi royal house has responded by evicting some of these chiefs and that the latter have been forced to seek political asylum in neighbouring South Africa.

In a nutshell this thesis shows that the Swazi traditional system has failed to offer alternatives or accommodate change. Worsening matters is that the current king is encircled by people who lack vision and wisdom, as a result the traditional system has faltered and failed to embrace change and has distanced itself from the people.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction	2
Literature Review	6
Methodology and Oral Sources.....	9
 Chapter 2: The Constitution, Dissolution and Reconstitution of Central Control over the Subordinate Chiefdoms 1815 – 1982 ---	13
Placing for Surveillance or Silencing Brothers	16
(a) Mbandzeni and Concessions	19
(b) British Rule in early Twentieth Century	30
(c) BoChief BemaPasi (Pass Chiefs)	35
(d) Sobhuza II's Reign 1921 – 1982	37
(e) The <i>Incwala</i> Ceremony	38
Sobhuza Sends out his sisters to no-Dlamini chiefs.....	48
Sobhuza sends out his brothers to outlying no-Dlamini chiefdoms.....	50
 Chapter 3: The <i>Liqoqo</i> (Privy Council) Era and the Appointment of Mswati III	
Mswati III's Ascent to the Throne	63
 Chapter 4: The Magagula	66
The Magagula, Maloyi and the Ndwandwe	70
The Magagula – Swazi Relations during the Reign of Mbandzeni and Bhunu ----	76
The Magagula of Madlangampisi and Sobhuza II	79
The Magagula during the <i>Liqoqo</i> Era	80
The Magagula and Mswati III	82
 Chapter 5: The Tfwala of Maliyaduma	94
The Tfwala Begin to lose Favour with the Royal Family	94
How the Tfwala Settled Around Maliyaduma	96
The Relationship between the Tfwala and Nyakeni Royal Village	102
The Tfwala take the matter to Traditional Authorities for Arbitration	104
Conclusion	110
 Chapter 6: The Mabuza of Mafutseni	112
The Relationship Between the Mabuza and the Dlamini of Lundzindzaneni Sours-	119
How the Dlamini of Lundzindzaneni Got Hold of the Tax Book	121

The Long Period of Regency and Confusion -----	113
The Chieftaincy Dispute between the Mabuza and the Dlamini is taken to the King for Arbitration -----	128
Conclusion -----	133

Chapter 7: The Fakudze

Origin of the Fakudze -----	135
Settlement at Macetjeni -----	138
Prince Magagula and Macetjeni -----	140
Mswati III and the Fakudze -----	148
Conclusion-----	156

Chapter 8

Conclusion -----	157
-------------------------	-----

Endnotes -----	163
-----------------------	-----

Sources -----	175
----------------------	-----