

1
KWAZULU-NATAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

2
3 INTERVIEW WITH SAMUEL MCHUNU, CONDUCTED BY
4 RUTH LUNDIE, LOU LEVINE AND PETER KERCHHOFF
5 ON 7 AUGUST 1995.

6
7 'R' SHALL SIGNIFY LUNDIE, 'L' LEVINE AND 'K' KERCHHOFF,
8 WITH 'M' SIGNIFYING THE INTERVIEWEE
9

10 R: This is the recording of an informal discussion with Mr Sam Mchunu, who runs the taxi
11 associations of Edendale, with Peter Kerchhoff and Louis Levine, of PACSA, and Ruth
12 Lundie, for the Alan Paton Centre.

13 M: So you understand...KwaKule, Tendela. ? Intombuza...

14 K: Whew, lots...

15
16 M: ..and Azalea, Tir? and Imbali and nine..

17
18 K: Nine, whew, so there are nine associations with nine chairpersons, whew.

19
20 M: Yes, but it's ten with the Westgate and ? taxi ranks..

21
22 K: Okay, okay, this is Louis Levine, who is our publication person, this is Mr Sam Mchunu,
23 can we call you Sam?

24
25 M: Yes, Sam, yes.

26
27 K: Okay, I'm Peter..

28
29 M: Yes, yes..

30
31 R: The reason why I called a triangular discussion because, Peter, you and I have parallel but
32 different interests..

33
34 M: Yes.

35
36 R: I'm doing interviewing for the Alan Paton Centre on the struggle against apartheid in the
37 Midlands in the last forty years.

38
39 M: Oh yes.

40
41 R: And that was where I met in Eric Mtshatsha.
42

- 1 M: Oh yes...
- 2
- 3 R: Whom I'd known previously.
- 4
- 5 M: Yes, I know him for a long time - he's in Durban.
- 6
- 7 R: He has been here just for forty minutes ? he's just at the time of our brief, so he gave me a
8 very useful talk on Sobantu, Edendale, Slangspruit, all these places..
- 9
- 10 M: So far I've been in 'Maritzburg from 1950 and then I went away somewhere in Jo'burg.
11 '50, ja, during 1950 and '56 when the struggling is starting, getting hot, on that 1960...
- 12
- 13 R: Yes?
- 14
- 15 M: ...and then I went to Ladysmith because I was already joining the ANC that time when we
16 want a pound a day - that's what we were offering? it was only told that since we join the
17 struggling, we getting a pound a day, during that time I was working, I was making a tea.
18 At tea - one of the contracts in Mpophomeni? When they making this ablution blocks for
19 them - I was getting about R7...
- 20
- 21 R: So you were doing building?
- 22
- 23 M: No, I was just working there, all along, then I joined - when I left there then I took over
24 trying to do some - or to help driving for the - 1940, 1953, 14th September, I took my
25 driver's licence here in 'Maritzburg - that time I was about twenty-five - fifty cent for
26 learners. (He laughs) And it was R1 to go for a test, I remember. Then, since I got the
27 licence, wasn't do so many driving that time - I only - I drove in ? JW Jaiker, a
28 wholesaler from Zulu - travelling all these places. So when we're going up to 1956,
29 when they introduced this reference book - ja, really changing from this other old pass,
30 changing the reference book - then there was when the struggling started.
- 31
- 32 R: And passes for women, you see that too...
- 33
- 34 M: Yes, yes, ja, yes..and then we tried and then we were organising - those Harry Gwala was
35 still young that time was a teacher. Then he was organising us here in 'Maritzburg for
36 boycotting and then we must get a pound a day, that's how we're joining. And then I did
37 carry on, carry on - the time with the arresting of Mandela, I was in Ladysmith that time,
38 but we went to there - he was used to coming from Jo'burg and coming to making a rally
39 in Athlone, ? in the Ladysmith was the place of Indians, Athlone Bioscope, we used to go
40 and see the bioscope. He was coming down to Durban, The day, when that day getting

1 arrested. hey that time was a struggling. So we just kept quiet, and then - well we can't
2 talk now when the Poqo that we are interrupting is starting at Troyville, their reference
3 book in Johannesburg and bringing ? Sharpeville, then I - so myself, our father he left us,
4 I was, it was a long time he was dead. I was only the eldest son in our family, so I
5 looking all this struggling, I said 'No, this thing doesn't pay.' My mother is from the
6 farmer, does not work in the kitchen, doesn't know nothing. I must do away from these
7 things. So, but the friends they encouraging me. The time of 1960, '69, then when the
8 time was more - the people were going away now. All our friend they want to go away. I
9 said 'No', myself, I will never go for a - to out in South Africa. When I come back I will
10 not know where is my home is. I haven't got father, my mother, she can't do nothing. I
11 must go to work - then I work for a - I was driving for other place in Ladysmith, in
12 brother's shops. I drove there, so a game was still on that the ANC, when they burning it
13 - then how I move it to there from 1959 I got married. When I was two months got
14 married, one of our secretaries in the ANC was Mr Magwa, then he - one day he joining
15 the Special Branch - was starting of the ? (They all laugh) He joined the Special Branch
16 with all our names in the book. The next day we were called, Yea, we're all be - all
17 arrested now. Magwa joining the Special Branch, he was wearing a nice suit and going
18 with a Zip 6, and we thought Zip 6 car at that time - then he goes with the one who was
19 himself - and one of the White man, and then he arrested other people. Then they coming
20 to the one night, hey I remember most of our friends they was going to Swaziland, going
21 every night, every night coming the truck, and people say, 'Yes, we want to join now.'
22 You leave your land from here - where your place, then you changing your name... I said
23 myself, 'No'. I can't go. Then the day - they coming to me where I working ... then when
24 they coming to me I was called out there from there inside there - and then I thought, I
25 said 'All right. I'm going to be arrested now.' There is that man, he's our Secretary of the
26 Organisation, he's got my book..and the White man ask him 'Is that him' says Ndalusi,
27 say 'Is that him?' he just, he just failing to say 'Yes' to make him say 'yes'. He say 'Oh'
28 he say in Zulu, because my wife, I had married her, she was a nurse in a provincial
29 hospital in Ladysmith - with his wife. His wife is a sister and my wife she is serving
30 under her. She said to me 'Hey. u so kalele Florence, man, ' You see the name of my

1 wife is Florence. Say 'Hey, Florence is crying for him.' And then if you hear that you
 2 say 'No, it's not him, but he just want to get information from someone.' Then I went
 3 back, when I going, when they ask 'Who's this man?' I said 'No you're working in the
 4 Lion Street..' right in the bottom there. When I was going back to work I said 'No, can I
 5 carry on working?' What to do - just come to disappear from now, but what about money
 6 - I haven't got paid yet - it's - was - because it was in about, it was about 'till Wednesday
 7 or Thursday. Hey, I said 'No, what to do now? No, I must run away from this.' I came
 8 home, I said 'No, tomorrow I'm not going to work.' That mean we decide something. If
 9 there was threc people, I heard that they are arrested already. I said 'No, man. ' I said to
 10 my wife 'Look, you better ask a special transfer from Ladysmith to Edendale. If you
 11 can't get a transfer, you're staying here for couple months and ask for a transfer. Myself,
 12 end of this week I'm going to - I know 'Maritzburg, I've been there quite a long time -
 13 then I'm going back to 'Maritzburg - that is only the place I can go and hide there. Then I
 14 came down to 'Maritzburg, then I was staying to Edendale, in Macibisa - that's where - I
 15 struggling...

16 R: What year was this? '59? Or '61?

17 M: It was about, no - '61. Then I remember I said 'Oh, I remember during that - when they
 18 arresting log list, there was a trial of the case in Johannesburg, they say - what was that
 19 farmer - they caught that machine, taping machine was - there was a case that arrested
 20 Mandela that got him to not go all away, and then he went out ...

21 R: He came to the All-in Conference - in March..

22 M: Ja, he was coming down here - there was a case, this Rivonia Trial?

23 R: Rivonia?

24 M: Ja, that, ja. I think there was a Dr Motala in 'Maritzburg here, he was one of our member
 25 of our ANC, he's only man who can help me out on here...

26 R: Oh, really?

27 M: Hey, I must go and look for him. If I find him I will tell him that it's only you getting a
 28 transfer on a reference book to getting a district transfer. You only getting through from
 29 the doctor, otherwise you can't get any transfer. If you belong to that district you have to
 30 stay in there wherever you like - if you don't like, you can't work anywhere, you can't get
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 38

1 a permit unless you change the district. I went down to Retief Street one day - I looking
2 for there, I went to other Doctor. I said 'Do you know Dr Motala?' He say 'Yes. What
3 do you want for?' he said 'No, he's serving under Chetty.' Then I went to Chetty, I say,
4 'Yes, I want to see Dr Motala.' He say 'You can't see him unless you come and see
5 personally, with me. I must be there all the time.' Because he was banned to not having a
6 surgery by himself. I went there to Dr Chetty, they were sitting all together, I said 'Right,
7 I must tell you my story. You will understand, whether you do or not?' I said to him 'I
8 remember you - you were our member - you were there - one day you were arrested with
9 other men. I can't remember them - they were arrested in an old prison - here in
10 'Maritzburg - serving nine months.' I said 'Ja,' I said 'but now - for your trouble, I want
11 you to help me.' During that time, 'can you do something that I was here in 'Maritzburg,
12 I transferred to Ladysmith - I went to Ladysmith to staying there - now I want to come
13 back here - could you make some notes that can - to see - to show to the Bantu Affairs
14 that I must get a transfer from here?' He said 'Look, Ladysmith is cold, same as
15 'Maritzburg, I can't say that you are to transfer to a different weather - only say ..' I said
16 'No, just call another certain disease, I will tell him that whenever I am in Ladysmith, the
17 whole other doctors they don't help me - only you people during that time - you were able
18 to help me. Now it's getting more worse now, I must come and stay near here.' And,
19 alright he wrote that letter, I went to the Pietermaritz Street to the Magistrate, I produce it
20 - say 'Ja, you want to transfer from one fifty to one thirty nine district number?' I said
21 'Yes.' He say 'You look like you fit, you got no sick.' I said 'No, sometime that sick
22 when it's getting a problem, the only doctor used to help me in 'Maritzburg was Dr
23 Motala - during that 1956 to '57 and then all the time I went to Ladysmith - now I used to
24 come down all the time here - but I want to stay here.' Hey, he signed the letter, he really
25 stamped it and then he gave me a transfer. Hey, I say 'Hey, right.' Now was the problem
26 to getting to work in town - can't get a permit to work in town - staying to Edendale -
27 then I staying there...I remember that day - oh, the time was 1956, then I went up there - I
28 was working to H Incedon and Company. I went to that firm - I went to the Bantu
29 Affairs there to register it, they say 'Unless to work there where you work before, you
30 can't get any work here in town because you going back to the farm.' I went to that place,

1 then I ask him, I said 'I'm looking for a job, I work here, the registering office they said I
2 must only come here - I can't get anywhere.' ? the man I left him was still starting - he
3 was new from the job - he was still there but he was old - Mr Randall Loft. He says 'I
4 recognise your face.' I said 'Yes.' 'So you worked there?' I said 'But I'm looking for a
5 job.' He said 'No, we got no job at the moment, especially in the driving job, we only got
6 enough drivers of India.' And then he say 'Why you left here?' I said 'Look the time that
7 when this firm was smaller. when I got the driver's licence I was looking for interest in
8 getting a driving job, that's why I left here. So I've got no driving job, but sometime you
9 can work like a labour with getting your R7,75c a week and the drivers we're giving them
10 R16 a week,' I said 'All right I can work for that R7, I can keep my driver's licence - no -
11 as long as I working in town - it will be suitable then - can be.' Then my wife was got a
12 transfer already- and then he came there - we're staying there at Macabisa with her. The I
13 worked from that place, then I just make it shorter. When this, when the IFP started?

14
15 R: Yes, '78?

16
17 M: Ja. '78. When the IFP started, when I looking for the organisation now. I said 'Ja, this
18 IFP, hey, it's not a good organisation. Why government it doesn't arrest not one of them
19 - it was our members, they were all restricted in prisons. One day I was a member of the
20 African Congregation Church, I was got a spirit here - so one day, just a one off man.
21 here, it was going to the station - we were going to have a conference in Johannesburg.
22 The man look at me - he see that ANC, just got it - I ? to be inside in Loop Street. They
23 ask me 'Why ANC, why ANC boy?' I said 'No, African Congregational Church..' So he
24 says 'CCME?' I said 'No, ANC, hey I tell you - next day we call a minister of that
25 Church, he came and explained it then I was released.

26
27 K: What year was that?

28
29 M: Was - was in - I think about 19 - 1976.

30
31 K: Okay, and who was the minister, the umfundiso, of the SACC that came to talk about
32 that?

33
34 M: It was Mr Khuzwayo.

35
36 K: Okay.

37
38 M: His son is still here - he's staying in Imbali, now, yes.

- 1
2 K: Can I just ask a question of your time in Ladysmith. You say you lived in Ladysmith was
3 it in Steadville? Or were you in the one of the Black-owned farm areas around?
4
5 M: No, firstly I was staying to Lambert Hill, when you going out to Ladysmith, then I moved
6 to Steadville, White City, in Ladysmith. I was working for Ellen Brothers during that
7 time it was called Ellen Brothers Supermarkets - it was a big store in Ladysmith.
8
9 K: Okay. Where is White City in Ladysmith? Where is it about?
10
11 M: You know Steadville?
12
13 K: Yes.
14
15 M: Extension of that it went on the end, towards Mpulwana is a White City - at that stage - I
16 think we can call it stage two of the - ja, when you cross there - you cross the school there
17 you're going to White City.
18
19 K: All right.
20
21 M: Yes.
22
23 K: And when you spoke about Dr Chetty, was that Vasu Chetty?
24
25 M: Vasu Chetty - the one that has gone ..
26
27 K: When you came to see Dr Motala?
28
29 M: Yes.
30
31 K: Was that Vasu Chetty?
32
33 M: Yes, yes.
34
35 K: Ja, okay, okay, sorry I was interrupting.
36
37 M: Ja, okay.
38
39 R: Because, '76, I mean that was Soweto year.
40
41 M: Yea, ja. Ja that was getting hot now. There were the starting there in Imbali, starting
42 those schools problem, ja. Then, you see I was starting that school problem - you see one
43 of the school lady - first they were demanding free books..
44
45 R: Yes..
46
47 M: And then the African, the Afrikaner language was to be first grade - that was a dispute.
48 So they only beard that is happening in Soweto and then in Imbali they starting. There
49 was a few children there getting on this. Now the people - the Council of Imbalu, they
50 coming to school to take any child of doom that don't - they take him a way, they kill

1 them, coming back then finding - then I'm trying another school. I've got a four sons,
2 and my two girls. That time was three of my sons of doing there was ...

3
4 R: They were at school?

5
6 M: Ja, they were at school. Organise them, said 'Look you people, don't put yourself on this
7 on this politic things, just keep quiet, get educated and that's all.' But children you never
8 tell them!

9
10 R: No. (He laughs).

11
12 M: Hey, one day, one of the Councillor, was my friend, Mr Ngcobo, Thuli Ngcobo. he said
13 'Ja. Mchunu, you're a quiet man, I don't see you often - you're not attending our IFP
14 organisation, that time was the UDF was operating..I got all information - but I haven't
15 seen you from the UDF too, but your child is on it - well first class on the UDF.' I said to
16 him 'Why, you know why I'm attending church only? I don't attend these organisations
17 now, I will tell you next day.' Jele was one of our side, on the State worries, Councillor
18 was Mr Jeli? Jeli used to coming to me, say 'I'm from Vryheid, we all want this street all
19 around, up country from Ladysmith, you are my friend. You only can bring the our
20 uniform, you just take it and wearing it - then becoming our Inkatha member.' I said
21 'Look, Mr Jele, I want to tell you the truth. You know when you starting cooking, when
22 the water is getting warm, then sometime you want to cook that thing, sometime it's still
23 alive, if you take out the lid, that things jumps away, it will never go near to the pot.' I
24 said 'What you mean from that?' I said 'The day Mr Magwa was call me from my work,
25 when he said 'hey, your wife will be crying for me.' I was in a warm water starting to be
26 hoiling and then I will go to cell for five years - I was only the sentence of that time - all
27 of the time that - so I'm not joining any organisation, because I don't know what will
28 happen on your organisation on the way up. When they were arresting everybody - they
29 will arresting all of us, so I'm not joining it. To join an organisation is inside of me -
30 that's all, I won't so anythings.' He say 'No, hey no, Makhaya, you're was - we are going
31 to be liberated, we are good movement here.' I said 'No, I don't want to wear any
32 uniform, I know from inside.' Hey, right this man he was always coming to say 'You
33 know Makhaya you must think.' He said 'If not even to be a Councillor, to vote, I can
34 vote for you to be a Councillor, not to join any of these because I know my tongue will

1 never go - will never talk straight. I will talk to criticise the government then somebody
 2 will take me. Because one man he was from - he was been on the Robben Island - been
 3 serving five years. When they admit him, when he's out there - there were two - I said
 4 'How, how did you get there - during that time I was drinking.' And he say 'Hows
 5 Zweli?' I say 'Alright man,' I said 'How's things?' He said 'We're getting in court.'
 6 There was just - I want to ask him, I know he was pulling - part of our plan was only we
 7 work together in the organisation, just wanting to know how the things is one of his
 8 partner. He just kept quiet. He went outside, he called me privately. He say 'Can you
 9 give me a smoke man.' I said 'Please come - want to smoke -' He called outside. He
 10 said 'Look, where do we come out there, we - we're not working for any organisation
 11 now, we working for government. Like me, you know, was a plant of Indian working at
 12 OK Bazaars, but I was engaged there for a three months then I went to one of the
 13 company there, and now I went to the Railway. We're not registered when we're going to
 14 work. If there anything starting there - starting of - we want to boycott work and want an
 15 increase of money, they take us there to work there. Don't talk like that as you know me
 16 before. You know this man, I can let you - I can leave me - from here I can leave you, but
 17 that man when he hear you - one day you find yourself in a trouble. Hey I went there - I
 18 never trust any man coming from the Robben Island, I said 'Those men who was in there
 19 - they came out like this.' Hey and I said 'Thank you very much, I'm sorry, I'm sorry,
 20 because I know I'll never get in that problem.' Then I staying there - then I staying -
 21 always one day Mr Ngcobo said to me 'Ja. Mr Mchunu, you must help us on this business
 22 - to stop the children.' That time was starting that problem of buses and all that..

23
 24 R: When they were stoning the buses?

25
 26 M: Ja, yes.

27
 28 R: The University ?

29
 30 M: Yes, ja. And then is there where I came in with the ? taxi. that time I was already got a - I
 31 got one old taxi car there, starting to taxi and then.. My son told me - he said 'Daddy, do a
 32 way to trying to protect the buses.' I said 'How, you always here, who - who is the
 33 stoning the buses among the location?'

34
 35 R: Yes.

- 1
2 M: He said 'Ja, I'm just warning you. Let them go there - but not you, you must stay home.'
3 Well, I'm just hiding among this because we organise all that area - I say every man must
4 go outside to the watching the bus passing there and see if any child is hidden, throwing
5 the stone to the buses. He said 'Do away.' Hey, I said 'How, my son, I told him not to
6 join there - he is the President of this gang.' (He laughs). Hey, one day...
7
8 R: It must have been the early 1980s then?
9
10 M: Ja, then he was the President of this youth thing of this UDF.
11
12 R: UDF, because it started about '83?
13
14 M: Ja, ja.
15
16 R: Ja.
17
18 M: Hey, I said to him 'Hey, when you stopping a child from this, and one of my son, two of
19 them they were in Kwahlangeswa. The teacher that time was the principal, Mr - that
20 minister now, Mr Bhengu.
21
22 R: Lancelot?
23
24 M: No. Mr the Minister it's Sibisisu Bhengu, he was a minister in the Kwahlangeswa, ja.
25
26 R: And were they hurt when there was that - that - you remember they came down to
27 Edendale and there was a meeting in the Lay Centre where all the students who had been
28 beaten up by Inkatha?
29
30 M: Yes.
31
32 R: It was just that time..
33
34 M: That time, yes.
35
36 K: That was Robert Manzi who's dead.
37
38 M: Yes.
39
40 R: Yes, yes.
41
42 K: Ja.
43
44 R: Was your son hurt at all in that?
45
46 M: No, wasn't there because that time he was still at Hlangeswa now where he transferred.
47 because they went to - my son went to Pholela Institute then he went - at that time was -
48 he was interested to getting a Maths. And then he couldn't get - when he passed in that
49 J.C. - First Class, so I transferred him to Hlangeswa, then where he ...

- 1
2 R: Oh, when you said Dladla's, i thought you meant the university...
- 3
4 M: No, it's next door to the university. one of the high school - it - by the university, ja.
5 (What Ruth says is inaudible about from 'yes, yes, I know where it is.') And then that
6 time, was a principal was Sibusiso Bhengu..
7
- 8 R: Yes.
- 9
10 M: The he was still 1992, or '93, '82, '83. then he left for - for a - to going to for a German to
11 taking the studies. He was sent by Buthelezi, because I used to go there and meet him
12 while that time was got this man, you know he was used to staying here - he wasn't Ben. I
13 forgot his name. then I was staying in Willowfountain, he was drink too much, but he was
14 a politician, he used to stay here by City Hall, in town...
- 15
16 K: Oh, the - the Edendale Youth Group - was named after him - maybe Ben Dikobe Martin?
17 would know.
- 18
19 R: Oh. that chap who always??
- 20
21 M: Ehe!!
- 22
23 R: Yes, not one to - yes, I think, well, outside, because he was always outside the town hall. I
24 mean Matiwane?
- 25
26 M: Matiwane!, Matiwane!
- 27
28 K: Mathiwane!
- 29
30 R: Mathiwane.
- 31
32 M: Ja. you see, one of the day when they - he teach our child in Hlangeswa, high school days,
33 he was leak of papers, now there is something happening there - they throw him out in the
34 school. even one of the son. Mr Buthelezi, was he also attend the school with my son, and
35 one of them is Mr Mothlala, Thatu Mabala of Soweto, he was also attending there - so I
36 ask, I said 'No. the man who can talk like a lawyer, all sort, is Mathiwane.' I ask him I
37 said 'All right, let us accompany - I took a car, I drove it to that Hlangeswa. with him on
38 the way. He said 'Right before we'd reached the stop near ? buy me a nip of Gold - of
39 Smirnoff.' Because he wasn't talk when he never drink, but he talks good when he's
40 drunk. Then I gave him a nip, then when he comes there - then he came to the office and
41 then he look the notice - he said to the - that time Sibusiso Bhengu was in Germany. he
42 was - there was a Mr Mzonele - he was a principal in this stage. He say 'Mr Mzoneli, I

1 see you got a notice from KwaZulu, saying 'any parents who want his money to be
2 refund, those child who have chasen away, if they want to make a new application, they
3 must go off to Ulundi. Do you think this school was being built the time when we admit
4 our child, was accepting at Ulundi?' And Mr Mzoneli said 'No, Mr Mathiwane, no that's
5 the rules I got.' I said 'Look, don't tell me about the rules, the rules must be here, you
6 see...' I never see, hey that man, 'I never see a man appointed - the KwaZulu Government
7 appointed a man like you - like you are a stupid man, do you sitting here for nothing?
8 You want the people to drive into Ulundi to register their child and come here? And the
9 complaint is went to Ulundi but you only got a notice here?'

10
11 R: Yes.

12
13 M: Hey, that man was getting angrier and then it quarreling, we went out, Mr Mathiwane.
14 He said 'All right, we're taking a action.' We came back so our child - so we lost - we
15 took a case against it - then we lose the case - later - I was thinking, I say 'How, when we
16 walk out - because of the examination time we saw Mr - the son of Mr Buthelezi, and Mr
17 Matlala, they were calling -going to hide from the back - taking exemption - on a private
18 classes. All of the children that did want them, that class, they throw them out. The I
19 went to Khaba Mkhize, one day of the second week, I said to Khaba, I said 'Khaba
20 Mkhize, if you help me - we took a case against to KwaHlangeswa, Ulundi government,
21 we won the case, when we're going back to KwaHlangeswa's principal he say he admit
22 other child, he can't get ours in, no space for us. So where else we can go when you won
23 the case - to the Supreme Court - but look you still can't get it right - all the things. Now
24 we got no class - he can't build another one day's class for our child. He is accepting the
25 old classes, our child he never, he can't accept it. Hey, Khaba Mkhize say 'Come
26 tomorrow.' I came next day, I said to him 'Right, 'phone to Kwa - Ulundi - the Minister
27 of Education and tell him that I won the case from the Supreme Court in Durban, I'm
28 going to leave my child to staying at home, but end of the year I will send my child to
29 Swaziland to go and be educated there - then all the cost - I'll costing, I'll ask the
30 KwaZulu Government to be paid responsible for that because there is no way to appeal -
31 they haven't appealed the case, but they only refuse it.

32
33 R: That was excellent. You got it right?

1
2 M: And Mr ? he give them. Next day I got a reply saying 'Right, where you are staying?
3 Where are you staying?' I say 'I'm staying here in 'Maritzburg.' They say 'Right take
4 your child to the Edendale High School.' I take them - one of my son was passed
5 Standard Nine when he was still being in Standard Eight - all of them - they putting in
6 one class and end of the year they passed it..So it was 1983..
7
8 R: Yes.
9
10 M: Then what`s happening, they said they only - they missed one of the subject - oh, they say
11 you must write that subject - what was that subject - I don't know - just for quoting it.
12 Then next day I said 'Look, my child. don't argue with all these politician, don't buying
13 the papers, you must study and get learn, so if you got your certificate you are free from
14 all these problem.' Right they say - because they said 'If the child never came today to do
15 this class, the special class, he is going to be one of the UDF leaders, they are going to
16 arrest him. Please got there and my elder son, he went there - he never - he went there to
17 the class - he never writed that subject - he just kept it - then all of they write it - when
18 they collect the papers - he take them all - then he just put it in the middle. In two weeks
19 time he received his pass it with a 'D' symbol, the one who wrote it, he passes SFS..
20
21 R: What's SFS?
22
23 M: I don't know - that time was passing - then he said to me 'Look,Daddy, I never - I never
24 write this subject - I just kept it blank paper - I put it there - these people they don't mark
25 it..
26
27 R: No, they just give a symbol.
28
29 M: Ja, they're just guessing. They do whatever they like - they don't mark it - you see last
30 years I was sleeping at two o'clock, three o'clock - trying to do the distinction in my class
31 but I'm only getting 'S'. Then this one I never even touch with my pencil, I got my
32 numbers on top but nothing I didn't write with that pencil. If Government make a truth, if
33 we said 'Right, they must burn those papers, I can prove it that I didn't write it, it was the
34 last day to see him, was the three days in the three days time be 'phoned me from Jo'burg.
35 He said 'I'm here in Jo'burg, we're moving tomorrow to the Francistown.
36
37 R: Oh, to Botswana.
38
39 M: Yes, he was gone.

- 1
2 R: Did he join MK?
3
4 M: Yes, later there Alexandra PP - they were visiting me when I was working at ..
5
6 R: Oh, in 'Maritzburg?
7
8 M: In 'Maritzburg.
9
10 R: Ja.
11
12 M: They came out that day, they called me private 'Hows that ? when I was working there -
13 Pietermaritz Street, they called me in the private office, they asked the boss they want to
14 call me in private, they want to - So that day I was brave, I said 'Alright I will tell them
15 because what I ...' He say 'Yes, Mr Mchunu, your child is one of that gangs of UDF,
16 hitting a bus in Edendale and all that and then from the way your first trial.' I said 'Oh,
17 my first son - he had passed it - his JC - his matric', he was going to do matric, he want to
18 get the engineering' - I said to them just to bluff them. I said 'He applied to the bursary
19 from Wits, so they call him for interviewing, so from there they have checked his
20 symbols, they say 'No, they want to see - he joining one of these - I don't know which
21 company - they said they will send him across the border - because you people he has
22 been doing one class all the time. That's why he told me - he says it's in Botswana.' And
23 then they said 'How he went there?' I said 'He joining the Chamber of Mines.' They
24 said to me 'What is that?' They want him there - they're sending a ?' He said to me
25 'Why, what do you mean?' I said 'Look, we're spending a lot of money to paying for a
26 class in a school, but every time we find the leak of papers is destroying their examination
27 papers.' I sent them to Hlangeswa, they were talking this leak of papers - they're
28 destroying to their mark - they never get their marks. I said - he came here to Georgetown
29 High School, then also was a leak of papers, why this leak of papers - you people, you
30 kept the papers in Pretoria and then you buying, you selling the papers to out people and
31 then because you want them to destroying them. We never found that a strongroom in a
32 school was being broken in - open - no- but the papers would be full all over the place - it
33 must be you from Pretoria - you sell the papers.
34
35 R: And how did they take that?
36
37 M: He said to me 'Are you sure for that?' I said 'My son, he said the subject that he didn't
38 pass that was doing in there, he said he didn't write it. I want the government to proving

1 it is our papers that they wrote.' He say 'You can't get that - that's the property of the
2 government.' I said 'The only thing is saying..' I said 'You won't government - you're
3 making - you can't stop my son - even those hitting the bus - I can't stop them because I
4 haven't got no money to take him further because we are repeating one class for a time..

5
6 R: Yes, quite, yes.

7
8 M: So they just left me away, all the time they tapping my telephone at home - when be
9 'phones there - when he 'phone my home - my son say 'Look, whenever you speak to me
10 - don't talk about any of the politic - these organisations, don't talk anything - just talk
11 nice 'how are you?' I'm alright. Alright? That's all. Because the telephone is tapping, all
12 the time I would 'phone, hey, I'd pick up some time. I think some other voice on it - when
13 I talk, when I get some - because he used to call at a telephone to be transferred to 33, I
14 must pay, yes..

15
16 R: Charges, yes..

17
18 M: And then all the time when he booked, I know it was something - they - all the visit - they
19 lay a trap - they left it? Then I was carry on - these buses I was also - anyway in the
20 fighting of buses because I was got one of the kombi that time. We organised these
21 children to say 'Right - you must hit the buses, break the windows', so - because they
22 don't want - that time they used to police standing there by ? and you come with a
23 passenger they arrest you - we are pilot taxis, we are ? then we're applying for a permit
24 quickly. They say 'There is no need of taxis this area - it's too much buses' - that is how
25 we're organising the schools, school children to do that with us. Remember that case was
26 in College Road, for this UDF leader, they arrested him here in 'Maritzburg and then the
27 case was went to College Road.

28
29 R: You mean the College Road Supreme Court?

30
31 M: Supreme Court, ja, this is it. They starting with the children we went to see them there.
32 We take them free to that court case of UDF members was arrested here then we're
33 joining together then they carry on hitting the buses, carry on hitting the buses. One day -
34 it was in the corner of Willowfontein Road in Imbali, is there - there was a big fight with
35 the Councillor and we're hitting the buses - we also mobilise them. Taking them and
36 hide them - they're shooting us, they shooting them - then until - when the police starting

1 to getting in the buses, and now - you can't shoot, because when you are throwing the
 2 stone - between houses, you know the stone will just hit the buses windows with the
 3 police also hide themselves - the buses passing... Ja that's where we're starting. Then we're
 4 starting operating. One day we came to town here - we couldn't stop the town hall - the
 5 robot - when they - because they're stopping for a week. They don't want us to come out
 6 from the location, we used to stopping there by Crossing and the bus, taking passengers
 7 from there - so we can't charge them money from the location to out. So we pass them
 8 empty - we're coming to demonstrate here in town - then they let us they say 'Right we
 9 can come town.' Lucky that man he was very clever - he was the Chairman that time -
 10 Inkatha was starting fighting - then they kill him one day.

11
 12 R: Who??

13
 14 M: That chap was, hey he was a good chap, he was doing his music in Ngoya park - he was
 15 staying there at Beirut. I always forget his name -

16
 17 K: What year was that?

18
 19 M: It was 19 - because it was 1980 - '85, but '95 was ?

20
 21 R: Yes the trouble burnt out with the buses...I'd forgotten about all those exam papers that
 22 were stolen or leaked.

23
 24 K: Yes because we taught Afrikander and

25
 26 M: Now that was late after my son - they killed my son??

27
 28 K: But he and Alfred Mkhize went up to Pretoria in connection with issues relating to
 29 schools. I'm just trying to think - Gibson?

30
 31 M: ? Nzimande?? Ja, Gibson Msomi. Ja, they shot him there by that supermarket now..

32
 33 K: In Imbali..

34
 35 M: In Imbali. in the morning, about ten o'clock - at about eight o'clock..

36
 37 K: And then there was an Inkatha ...

38
 39 M: The other leader was Mandla..

40
 41 K: Ja, ja.

42
 43 M: Ehe, ja.

44
 45 K: He was also killed that day.

46
 47 M: He was killed the same day, and Gibson you see now they were only thinking that we -

1 - jumping out he went straight to our Kwatha's house that youngest. Hey when I just
2 came there, I find my son is cold blooded dead. And then from there - hey - I - where we
3 starting? I said 'No man, we're starting fighting now, really.'

4
5 R: Yes.

6
7 M: That time I was got - I've still got a firearm, I got it from the government - the licenced
8 one - but I said 'Uh, I can't use it, let me join in this fighting now.'

9
10 R: Yes.

11
12 M: All this time of the Seven Days War, I was already joining. that's the one - remember that
13 - the Seven Days War. I bought two hundred bullets, I bought from Kings - about three
14 places - ja - then we started fighting now.

15
16 K: Sorry. can I just go back, and I know it might be sensitive because of the death of your
17 son. but was there ever a court case?

18
19 End of this side of the tape.

20
21 Second Side.

22
23
24 M: .. It must be about a month after he attended my funeral of my sons. And then one day he
25 was killed.

26
27 K: May, 1990.

28
29 M: Yes.

30
31 K: When was your son killed?

32
33 M: Same year, 1990.

34
35 K: In 1990..

36
37 M: So it was in February, sometime.

38
39 K: February?

40
41 R: Well, yes and I mean the Seven Day War was in March.

42
43 K: Ja.

44
45 M: Ja.

46
47 R: But, I can remember the day because I was working in the Advice Office.

1
2 M: It was March 1991. 70 - it wasn't that year.
3
4 R: No, 1990. Because someone 'phoned up from Durban. Carmel Rikhardt, you know she
5 does a lot of reporting, or she did, for the Daily News in those days.
6
7 M: Ja, I remember, you see when my son, when my son was dead. I think we're staying for a
8 week - I remember - it was before this Ithala Branch. I used to get at that time - they
9 called it another branch. I said 'Look, why Inkatha kill my son?' We stayed with the -
10 we went with Councillor Jele, then because he was on our ward, then he - I said, I went to
11 him, I said 'I want a special meeting to see Terreblanche - he was one who was carrying
12 this - he was what he was calling those police now with?
13
14 K: Internal stability, ? ja.
15
16 M: Then I said, he call, he came and have a special meeting in Loop Street here, there was no
17 taxis working on that day - we're only staying for a week, not a week, no, three days -
18 they were stop it and then I said to him I said Terreblanche - I never know that he was
19 about two months himself, his life was also - I said, 'Look how long it will it be operating
20 in this place, people killing ourself, we doing operating only - we're killing Inkatha, we're
21 killing everybody - but now you people, Awetha, he knows the man who killed my son
22 because he went straight to hide his house, even the police will call him, he's there - they
23 never called there. They were bright - he said 'All right.' I said, he said to me 'All right,
24 I'll fix it this, I will fix it.' I said 'Now let go of the buses - must operating and the taxis.'
25 I said 'All right, after the funeral we'll be operating.' The we took a funeral, then we
26 operating in normal. And then as it carry on, I heard even he was dead, but he was dead
27 before African, I don't know...
28
29 K: He was I think, because he was killed out here at the turnoff..
30
31 M: ..the turnoff to Mpumalanga - because that police is our relative too - Ngcobo - my sister
32 is married one of his brother - of that family. My son's sister - he is in Durban - he's a
33 lawyer - he is one of our family - those are people who were also politics in the whole
34 family. And then we coming to this Seven Days War then I started now, I used to get a
35 telephone for our work - I used to have - because I was a - I was a Chairman of the taxis.
36
37 R: Oh, I see, so you'd get it from or rent as an official position?
38
39 M: Yes.

1
2 R: Yes.

3
4 M: During that time - all that year I was a Chairman, but now I said 'What must I do - I must
5 get a telephone for Awetha - then I get a telephone for another Councillor, too, Ngcobo,
6 and I got a telephone for one of the Council there - Gazela was in a hostel there -
7 whenever something happened because they say - 'No, we don't know whenever
8 something happen, I used to 'phone them - I said we apologise for this.' You see our
9 youth, they make - we starting the Black War of Seven days or we were wrong otherwise.
10 (He laughs) I agree - because whenever we coming with the taxis in town, everybody they
11 used to getting in our taxis we were not separated one time - we can be Inkatha, ANC
12 people - we drove them from Stage One right through to the inside there - down there -
13 the hostel side .. But now - from as we coming in the Stage One there - the youth used to
14 be in a stop - when they see you from the window, they climb in like they, they getting on
15 - they catch a man sitting in and shot him, shooting him inside the kombi. So now they
16 told me - they said to me 'Look, if we reply this letter of yours, you'll cry, because our
17 people are not going to come - they not protect themselves, they not wearing armed,
18 they're sitting there - they just your kids always killing our people.' There were about
19 three of them - they've been killed. Hey. Then we - I went to the members of the ANC,
20 called Mr Tanjwayo and Mr Silwane. I said 'Look people, what you must do now,
21 please, get your youth to not to do away to kill people in our kombis and stop our kombis
22 by force them - get somebody from Inkatha to killing him. Please tell them.' They say
23 'Oh, you backing Inkatha now, you are becoming Inkatha, you are fan of Inkatha.' Hey I
24 said to keep quiet. Next day, the one of the police of ZP, from down there he jump on on
25 a bus on a kombi and then the chap from Beirut, they saw him, they also stop the kombi -
26 then you went to stop, and then they get him. When they're coming to Stage One,
27 Ngcobo kept me - that police was sitting in the front with the driver, then they just, the
28 kid say 'Right we're jumping off here.' Bah, bah, bah...then they jumping off and the
29 road was there - the kombi was stop - whoow. They 'phoned me they say 'Right, we
30 know now what to do, we never shoot one and two kombis because it mixes it up, but
31 from thirteen, then they went to Mahlankози, they ran the thirteen girls? that side there -
32 then they starting there. Then I went to these people I said 'Look, now I've told you' -

1 they nearly hit, or they missed one of our kombi there, I said 'Look we can't operate like
2 this now, because your war now - is - you're fighting against us - we are not a battlefield,
3 our kombis now. Please tell the youth and all ..' They say 'Oh.' I said 'No I can't
4 mention that word in a meeting - 'cause they say I'm backing Inkatha - but your people
5 you must tell them.' They kept quiet. We missed one day - I said 'No, we must finish off
6 before getting dark on the road.' Then I said to them 'We are calling our members, taxi
7 people, never..' I said 'Look, they just having a meeting.' I said 'Look what you must do,
8 people, if you're driving a taxi, all the people inside - they are asleep, just apply the
9 brakes to show them that they are all asleep - don't feel yourself asleep - they just wake
10 them up with the brakes. And they say 'What's up?' I say 'Don't get sleep people, man
11 I'm also getting a sleep, you must wake up, let us talk.' Then what we must do - next day
12 we must just atop taxis without telling them - then we organised to do that - that night -
13 that man who was killed on that starting of the Seven Days War - he was not our
14 members - he used to transport the school - he wasn't there our meeting when we said
15 'Right today we stop early before getting dark, the next morning is no taxis going to
16 move, when they not going to work they will ask for a meeting. I went to Moosas, in
17 Retief Street - where it has got the sounds of loudspeaker - we're hiring those loudspeaker
18 for four hundred. I drove it with my car - I used to love going with a Mazda 323, we
19 driven one of our - his ? then we kept quiet. Next morning - there was no taxis - I went to
20 shout them in the meetings. I said 'Everybody want to know why the transport - there's
21 no transport to town today...' we never even tell everybody - they went to sitting on the
22 stop street - they don't see. I said 'Everyone want to know why the transport is not
23 available today, must go to the community hall. ' Then I went across there - I went there -
24 I went to that Inkatha - they stopped me - say 'What you people trying to do?' I said 'You
25 are leaders, you don't come and sit in the table and talk, you're fighting - in - you're
26 making your - our taxis battlefield. If you feel you can go to that hall, community hall, or
27 you have a meeting..'

28
29 R: And did they go?

30
31 M: No.

32
33 R: Of course not.

1
2 M: Then all the - they calling all our people - that day when the hall was packed then we said
3 'Right - that's how you people to think now. because whenever we been telling you - I
4 say - we escaping the bullet every time with you there - if they hit the kombi with the full
5 load from the top - you never miss that bridge from the town there - at Zinkwazi - when
6 you passing Mahlankhosi? You will go with all that people - we been talking - look at
7 that man yesterday - he has been shot dead. Then by himself was alone - the people was
8 under the bridge - when they come there - they just hit him - then he run - the taxis and
9 kill ten a day - he went out to the field there. Hey, now everybody was making a noise in
10 the hall, the youngest are those who love fight to return. That's why I say " I was staying
11 away for seven days." And then Thendawyo was holding that meeting - he never stopped
12 and say 'No, they want to go to Mahlankhozi.' I said 'Look, it's no use of going to
13 Mhalankhozi with the end - the police will kill you all full - you can't do nothing - don't
14 take everybody say must go home and die once - now you can die - they all died
15 themselves'...and then they said 'No, take this matter to the Gwala - to the ... then they
16 took the matter straight to Dambuza, they say 'right you people must take it - you're the
17 leaders of ANC.' We only stopping our kombi not operating. Then they went there to
18 Dambuza, then, Dambuza, we were called that denied myself and our - my executive -
19 and with the COSATU, and then we - we ? I said 'Look, we went to report it in town. I
20 went to the lawyer of the ANC, Jeffries,...
21
22 R: John Jeffries?
23
24 M: Yes. We - he 'phoned one of the Station Commander here - it was Pieters - Station
25 Commander who took the matter - I said 'Please at Mahlankhozi they only patrolling
26 there - fifteen seconds - after five seconds - because it is a dangerous place, but that day
27 before we reported that it happened to the same day after we report it - it's no use of
28 thinking the police they're doing their job; that's why we stop it.' And then Gwala - he
29 said 'All right, all the kombis must stop.' All the kombis must stop - not operating - all
30 the - Willow Grange, all that Edendale - all these associations - all must stop it to backing
31 up our areas. Then there was no taxis in Edendale and no one that was stopped.
32
33 R: They couldn't get anywhere..
34
35 M: Yes, then he was called for a meeting now, then COSATU was fighting for Howiek and

1 said their people - that is ? not getting - losing their job. Then we were called at Chamber
2 House - there - and they said 'Right, we will call there.' When we coming there we said
3 'It was lucky, Mr Gwala, we said to him 'we're talking here on the tafel, how are we not
4 going to have a look at that place and see how safe is it - why this happened to stopping
5 the taxis not to operate.' Then the meeting was postponed it because the Chamber it
6 never agree - they said all these men after three days they will fire everybody. Then we
7 went out there - I said 'All right, I'm prepare myself to take three people - with me and
8 myself.' And then there was one of the men from town - one of the big - I don't know
9 who's the man from She - Hullett - he's a big...

10
11 K: Winship?

12
13 M: Ja, yes..

14
15 K: The Managing Director..

16
17 M: Yes, of the ...

18
19 K: Des Winship, ja...

20
21 M: Ja, then I took them there I said 'All right I will get you ..' I show them, I say how we're
22 operating from Imbali, to Stage One to come into - as we're coming to that place,
23 Mahlankhozi, I said 'Rather stop it here... there is the place getting..' As we're stopping
24 there there were three people of Inkatha - one of them - I know them - they're coming
25 there, they're saying 'Yebo, Mchunu, what are you doing there with those people?' They
26 say, and we say 'Don't say are you - are we safe?' I say 'Don't say are we safe, how
27 dangerous ourself we passing here?'

28
29 R: Exactly..

30
31 M: Look at this country - there is no man allowed to carry the automatic machine ? gun -
32 look how they're killing you. One of the stability unit car passing - I said 'You can't stop
33 this car passing, these police, they come there ... it's the soldiers themselves who are
34 killing us - why you people don't ask the government to - to disarm these people?' They
35 said 'What are you doing?' I said 'No,' I said to them 'Guys, Lokisile Msawa la, asa ba
36 kola la bantu lapa???sim fundile.' I say 'Right let us drive away now - have you seen
37 how civil these people - they are working with the HMC Automatic in the street like
38 that?' Then we went past they want to see the Lapa ? house. I say 'There - it's full of ZP

1 - you can't go there - I just show you there' - then when we go back to the meeting, then
2 they say 'Ja, we understand the problem now, ja, we have to see, think now.' The
3 COSATU said 'Alright those people who were not going to work on these days - we'll
4 tell our members - we'll call a special meeting for our members of the Chamber who
5 must think that we have seen the place how dangerous it is.' Then during - you got that
6 one for that fighting all over the place?'

7
8 K: We'll have to go back a little bit then - you remember you said that policemen got into the
9 kombi and were shot by some people - then you said the taxis stopped operating...

10 M: Yes...

11 K: ...and you had that meeting in the community hall..

12 M: Yes.

13 K: Can you remember what day that was, was it a Monday or a Tuesday, and the date - was
14 this in March as well?

15 R: It must have been in March?

16 M: Ja...

17 K: Ja, do you remember the Inkatha people had a big rally at King's Park, on the 25th,
18 Sunday, the 25th of March?

19 M: Oh, that was first one - that Seven Days - ja, that was the first...

20 K: Ja, about the 25th...

21 M: You see, no, when that one for King's Park

22 K: Ja?

23 M: .. We were got a meeting here at Skokolole's Stadium..

24 K: Okay..

25 R: Yes.

26 M: Ja, I remember that one - it was Edendale - I was Edendale I was Edendale and imbali
27 mix it association, then there was a Kings park rally of Inkatha. The people they came
28 there - they stop at - near to that Tembalesha Hotel - that Garage.

29 K: Ja, right.

30 M: ja, I think they hit some other body - somebody there - they run away the youth - when
31 they coming there - we've been in the stadium, they stop it there - they were going

1 accompanied with the husky of a police, he used to be a red husky - he was covering - he
2 was a cover-up - then they stopping there they want to come into us to the stadium. We
3 ran up to that hill, to that Stage Three, then they went past - all the buses went past to
4 Kings Park, then they were starting, they say 'Look these people were - they - I don't
5 know whether those Moscow people they shoot one of them, because they shoot the bus
6 where someone was - we heard that somebody has got head ? going down, they said
7 'we're coming back' And then we stopped that meeting - we never continue again - so
8 we're waiting for the ? say 'Hey, what we do?' That time was my - my taxi was
9 operating from Dambuza, because I moved them the day when they shoot - they kill my
10 son - I move it to Dambuza for a temporary to see how things going because all the driver
11 they were fighting to drive it - I remember that Seven day of fighting. Then they came
12 late and then we're having a plan now, I said 'No, today we must plan, if they're going
13 through Edendale, we must give them what they want.' They are even the police jolly
14 body, ja, when they're coming back, the first one, they starting - they're starting at
15 Mahulala, ja, in that night. Then they starting to stop - they're trying that then we give
16 them - all of the buses going that side - they went by Howick way...

17
18 R: Oh, yes.

19
20 M: They didn't know what was going to happen, what was the planning in Durban, what the
21 planning next morning. Half past five the first bus - never come to town with the workers
22 - there was no workers coming from that side. The one bus went to Dambuza, then they
23 starting to fighting there - they shooting everybody - and remember we took a first load at
24 half past five - when we coming back we heard everybody say 'Hey - to me there is
25 something going wrong.' Then they said all the kombis must go to Azalalea to collect
26 every people, Willowfontain, then we call everybody, hey as the day started, when about
27 ten o'clock we see one bus - lorry - is coming from this side of Mpumuza, hey we all
28 went to it and then we're stopping in Imbali operating - we all went to get Edendale - then
29 we came with others in town, I've got some of the nine millimetre - 'cause my licence is
30 9mm - about two hundred, I went to give them there - those who haven't got a - can't buy
31 them - I went all over the town, we're buying - then, I myself, I was on the Ashdown side
32 - then some of them were in the Caluza, one chap was in Esigodini, one of them at

1 Chazage..

2
3 R: So you were right spreading out...

4
5 M: We were right spreading all around. On our side there - hey we were fighting, shooting,
6 police they were just looking, if we push them, they coming closer. They stopping us not
7 to cross the bridge because there was a rain before those days - uMsunduzi was full - you
8 can't cross them - see by Lay Centre?

9
10 R: Yes?

11
12 M: Then we're going down there - we're trying to cross there - they're stopping us by Caluza
13 - the police they're stopping us to not - people from that side to come and beg from this
14 end - they don't want us to go across to help those others.. So they used to stopping us
15 'Please go back, go back.' And then some of them will go to the river, crossing there -
16 then at - we're fighting with - we pushed Inkatba from outside Ashdown, right up to the
17 hill...

18
19 R: Yes, yes, but that's where there are ?

20
21 M: Ja. there is a man named Mr Mhlongwe, who has got a 303, a gun, hey he was a good that
22 man, he used to shoot?

23
24 R: Did he have a good aim?

25
26 M: Good aim. he was a soldier before - he used to aim - hey when we're uphill there - they
27 came - some of the helicopter came with the ZPs. they told them on a hill there - "oh we
28 see them when they coming up there - they shooting us with the other one, we're coming
29 down on a hill - we run back again - they hitting here - that man - they took his gun, we
30 took him and then we get him straight to the hospital so there was only one helping on
31 our side.' Now they've got these - the guys that were homemade - they can try to put one
32 bullet...

33
34 K: Which Mhlongo was this?

35
36 M: Mhlongo is at actual Ashdown now.

37
38 K: Ashdown. is he still alive?

39
40 M: He's still alive.

41
42 K: Okay, but he was injured..

43
44 M: Yes.

1
2 K: What day was that? Was that the Wednesday?
3
4 M: Ja, it was a Wednesday.
5
6 K: Ja, because on the Sunday night, some buses got through to Edendale Hospital and they
7 went up - others I think were directed up Caluza way..
8
9 M: Yes.
10
11 K: ..but when a bus stopped at Kwamyandu - two children were killed - Zondis - they were
12 cousins - seventeen year olds and then the buses went on back.
13
14 M: And then one of these one to one battalions soldiers - you went there - by when you pass
15 the hospital - we asked them - bullet of R1, and all, they said they will help us because
16 Buthelezi ...he had...
17
18 R: How interesting yes...
19
20 M: They don't like him, one day they kill - they were fighting in Kwanjawaz? They kill one
21 of the induna, then Buthelezi call them a dog. Then they help us - with 'here is the one
22 who help us to Caluza, ja and then the arm was happy because it was the people from
23 Mkambathini. They were coming that side - we heard that ja, Mnyabo people they used to
24 come - ja that was a heavy people there - then they help us - ja.
25
26 K: Ja, what was the Induna from KwaNyagu?
27
28 M: I don't know?
29
30 K: Nyagu was from that one side..
31
32 M: Njalako is the Induna from the ...
33
34 K: Near Table Mountain - ja, that's right
35
36 M: And then when we fighting, fighting, until it getting dark, then what we decided we came
37 down to Ashdown, again I said 'Now what we can do - it was on Wednesday - it would be
38 31st.' I said 'No what we must do now the police is not enough from our people if we can
39 start war all over the place. I said let us find Mashu to starting a violence there - and then
40 Umlaza, starting the violence there - they can reduce this police force here.' - he
41 chuckles. At Imbali it was quiet. I said 'No let us got to start it at Imbali again. To the
42 hostel people because they are there- most of their leaders - Mgaki? And everybody are
43 here to help this side - let us start it from there because we can't do anywhere - we're
44 doing this and the police come and ask...' The we 'phone Umlazi - I said 'Duzuma,

1 starting there ...' And then we 'phone Umlaza and then we 'phone Mashu - and we say
2 'We start there - we start there - just blockade the road - show them and just hit one - you
3 will see that they will call some of the police here.' Then we went to Imbali we blockade
4 all the road - we went to the Inkatha - the Nashagova? By Bah, bah, that was we moving
5 there - on of the - the police come back again - when they come they find the road is
6 closed - they're trying that side, and trying that side - some of this - with big cars - they
7 run over the place we're blockading the road, then we carry on. Next day then it was not
8 so hard as Wednesday when the houses was ...

9
10 R: This was Thursday, now?

11 M: Ja, when on Thursday. Thursday now was a bit cooler, it was down to in Edendale way,
12 then they coming to patrol in Imbali and then they heard that Kwa Mashu is starting again
13 and Umlaza, some shaking on again...

14 R: So did they move some of their people?

15 M: Ja, to remove that man... then on Saturday I was - Imbali's getting hot again - because
16 most of us we took Azalea and Willowfontain we went straight to Imbali, ja, then we
17 starting to Imbali - to - we started from Mahlankhosi, they - they took all - everybody
18 from Mahlankhosi, they had them in a hostel - down the bottom there. We went there -
19 we found the houses empty - we didn't want to burn their houses, because what usually,
20 Inkatha burn - they used to having this homely ? ja. You know the Bester's houses, it is
21 hard to light the ? - how you can burn this house? They used to - we used to see that
22 when we are hiding - like one day when Mr Mandela paying a visit here, we saw them -
23 they're carrying those ... ja those ? those ? that literally you - what do you call this
24 cylinder - cylinder for home gas. When you open it slowly you just put a little nitro inside
25 here - it burst it here - and then it burst it to the wall, you find the ? side getting more
26 flame, the Besters was burning full of place - light here and then blaze and then collapse
27 on the house. There was nothing there - you just can make this ? ja, that's how they burst
28 these houses. You will find that why asbestos houses - where you used to getting more
29 things to - getting asbestos and things - you will find the house collapsed, just that - they
30 used to put that and ? the house. That's what they've done to ??

31
32
33
34
35 K: Jabu?

- 1
2 M: Jabu, ja.
3
4 K: Jabu's old ? house..
5
6 M: Jabu Ndlovu.
7
8 R: Jabu Ndlovu, ja.
9
10 M: On that day when Buthelezi was having a rally here at Imbali Stadium . This is the last
11 day he is having a rally here.
12
13 K: Because the - she was killed and then the family were still inside...
14
15 M: yes...
16
17 K: ..and then she never - she was never told that the family had been - some of the family
18 had been killed and then she died of course of her injuries, whew! Did the kombis
19 transport people during the Seven Day War?
20
21 M: Ja we used to transport them from the - to the fighting, ja whenever they want to go there
22 - like when the police stopping here - there is a police here - we used to go there -
23 sometime we go to - to Somelo? - and then we are going to Hlazaja? Wherever we saw
24 more - more fight of that people - we say that other gang must go there to help that side.
25
26 R: Well it was a quid quo kwo - because when the Impis came into Imbali, the police were
27 there nudging the - the ammunition of those trucks to Inkatha hands. They had - they
28 were the ones who did it first..
29
30 K: Did you have any links with people at KwaMyandu and KwaShange - or were other
31 groups helping there?
32
33 M: The civil Mnyando, and Shange - you see - actually they didn't know even what was
34 happening - that's how they got their places destroyed very much, because when they
35 starting coming down here - when we stop them, they went to - actually they were going
36 to destroying us - all of Edendale - according to their plan.
37
38 R: Oh yes, that was their intention.
39
40 M: Now, that's why, when they see that is heavy from there, because round about seven
41 o'clock it was still weak, eight we getting more people - we were collecting from there -
42 some of them we're getting about - some of the coloureds, one in Durban, we going to
43 collect, buy more ammunition, hiding, some of them went all over the place, then by the
44 day. The first day, Monday, Tuesday, it's still heavy - then was Wednesday very, very

1 heavy -this was the last heavy day that we could - ja, I remember that day, and Thursday
2 was getting down - then we said 'No. Let us start anywhere now, wherever we see
3 Inkatha, let us show them there - just saying starting there -' Then Friday was bit cool, ja
4 and then Saturday, no now was been. You see then when they see that we are pushing
5 back and then they went to destroy KwMnyando, Shange. all over...

6
7 R: Yes. ?

8
9 M: Ja, because they were so small group, but they're trying to defend special KwaShange, ja,
10 they said KwaShange, if it wasn't two people was from that side and that side too, they
11 would be safe. If you - if the youth knew that they will - because most of them they
12 running down the first day and then these people when they're going back, they take their
13 cattle and burn their houses and knows nobody, hut the first - because they're starting
14 fighting - everybody was went to town to work - even ourselves, most of the people -
15 that's why we took a first load. second load we stopped taking people to town. And when
16 you see their buses arriving, Edendale is starting to shoot everybody, then we stop. Then
17 we said 'No one to going to work - let us go back to fight with them - to defend our
18 home.' And that why we stopping on the streets saying 'If you're in that kombi from ?'
19 saying 'You people must go back home - the houses, our houses are destroyed.' And
20 KwaShange, most of them they're getting the first load - they were all gone to town -
21 nobody's left - there were a few left - that's why they couldn't be helped.

22
23 R: What day it was that Radley Keys hired an aeroplane to fly over and see what was
24 happening - that was ...

25
26 K: I think it was the Wednesday, ...

27
28 M: Ja, it was Wednesday.. Ja it was Wednesday, and Thursday when we see the aeroplane -
29 when, ja, because the time - on Wednesday, the smoke, whew...

30
31 K: Ja, from all the fires...

32
33 M: Yes, because we - when we moved those people from our - Mapumuza, from the
34 Ashdown - we got no houses from there...I remember one of the houses at Plattersdorp, I
35 think was left in the house - as we were going closer, the primus stove went -Jaa.
36 dwhoow - it went right on the roof - right on top - it went - dhoow, bursting at the frame.
37 We said 'Oh, what is this?' it's the Pope?? Ohhh... a primus stove..

1
2 K: And then you were talking a little bit about the Imbali situation and the community hall
3 and that meeting - when was that?
4
5 M: Then that one was after that Seven Days War because that one was a stayaway for seven
6 days..
7
8 K: Ookay - that wasn't linked to the Seven Day War?
9
10 M: No. It was at that stage - ja, that was a stayaway that was ...
11
12 R: Which stayaway was this?
13
14 M: The stayaway was that - that Seven Days is different - is not the same as the stayaway.
15 The seven days that we were fighting Edendale are all over. That was the first time - and
16 later - and then I think 1993 or two, then there is that stayaway happened to Imbali. the
17 kombis - that was called by Gwala to all the kombis to be stayaway.
18
19 R: That's right, yes.
20
21 M: That wasn't much fight that one - was only fighting with the Chamber of Commerce and
22 trying to tell the town and say - the town is quiet and then we see - we bring their workers
23 here but we getting a problem on that side - that's why we were calling a stayaway - was a
24 stayaway of the kombis that had discussion with the Chamber...
25
26 R: Ja.
27
28 M: Yes.
29
30 R: That's why I think it was such a pity - this rally Madiba had down in Durban and he said
31 to the youth who had fought so bravely through all this. He said to the youth 'you must
32 throw your weapons into the sea.' And I thought he doesn't understand, he doesn't know
33 what has been going on here.
34
35 M: He was understand well, but he was trying to convincing Inkatha people like to do - they
36 still ? you see whenever Buthelezi delivering a speech, he doesn't deliver what he like
37 himself. He said 'All you people you don't want this.' He don't - ja 'All you people, you
38 select me, you don't like this government, are you people now..' You see, before he used
39 to - he used to say, he didn't say it before 'We want to liberate this country.' No, he say
40 'We defending the communist.' Then we ask him - their people - when we are meeting
41 one of them too, we said look 'This communist wasn't born there - wasn't born here. You
42 are a citizen of this country.' They turning to be a communist against because there's's

no one to help us here to understand what we're saying.' I said 'I remember.' I ask them - one of them - I said to him 'I remember the history of this because in my heart I used to support this - never mind that I never go across and all that.' I said 'Who'd naming the Mkonto we sizwe?' He said 'No if you say we are Xhosas, who named them Mkonto we sizwe?' That's Chief Luthuli - as he was old - he say 'Look we're failing to talk with these people, I'm so old now, you - you people you can go across and learn and teach our young people another army. we'll eall Mkonto - like ourselves is spears, our fightings - we bought.' So now we say 'Go and call - take this and go and ask for another - to get another special spears that we're going to match their fighting .' That's why the Mkonto we sizwe wasn't name on the Xhosa language - it named with a Zulu - after the - after Dr Dube, Albert Luthuli and then you know, if we started the people - the second Vice Chairman comes to me 'Chairman.' and I ? I say 'If Buthelezi got any work to abroad - he would go.' He was the Secretary of Chief Luthuli..

R: Yes, he was.

M: I said 'How then, people when they're going across, they left their uniform?' I say 'For our children who understand what uniform our soldiers used to wear when we liberate that country.' That's why they left the uniform on Inkatha. When they coming back, they made to say 'Bring our uniform.' Khaki and that black beret.. 'bring it back.' I said 'The days Buthelezi missed that opportunity of saying 'So I'm sorry, I was also with the fight man, all that I agree - all what these people doing - all my organisation go together in one on these people - like you getting that uniform, wearing one uniform.' Rather he can - if he went across for a three months and said 'I'm going across - I'm going to the overseas for three months - let you people - all of my leaders, this is your brothers today - go together.' We wouldn't take our uniform away and changing that uniform - there will be no violence of this area - even now - we should be staying in peace. Because they didn't know - we even was told long time that 'we don't like like all countries happening.' That we have been told ourselves, saying 'Look we don't like like our country happening - ? liberate this country, we must keep the White people to teach us what to do - what we wanting to be equal.' That's how Dr Sibusiso Bhengu - if when he want - when he was left there at Hlangezwa - not even today they are friendly with Buthelezi. Because he

1 have told him 'Buthelezi..' Sibusiso Bhengu. that time he told us when we're coming -
2 when we're going there 'Hey ? suffering, Mr Bhengu.' He say 'I was with all the people
3 of this side.' He say '19, 1994, '92, '93. '94 - if we're failing to liberate this country -
4 that will be destroyed.' He said 'Now ..' He is the first Sibusiso Bhengu - he was a
5 Inkhata Youth Leader - President - no more - because he came with the instruction from
6 that side 'Look now, the people of that side, our instruction is this - we're not carrying a
7 weapon here - danger weapon, we only model - motivating our people and tell them about
8 the politic and telling about how to - when we're taking them across - they're going to
9 learn how to do all that things that side and come back here and let them do work while
10 they got an experience how when they making a strike if the strike doesn't succeed, they
11 must know how to making the .. That's how we learn to making the petrol bombs and all
12 that,' We learn from the people who were coming that side and then the letter we brought
13 it to Buthelezi - Buthelezi he changing his mind - then he changing to reporting to Nkosi
14 Bhengu that day, he say 'Hey in my office I always visit by Special Branch so many
15 times, so one of them asked me why don't I wearing a tie as a ? I said, dam I was staying
16 in the country there - you never wearing a tie amongst - when they told me 'This country
17 don't like tie people - that's why I don's like say 'What are they?' I say I don't know - so
18 why you pass your education - here, there - those subjects you were taking there - why
19 you don't pass them here - what you doing here?' I say 'I've done here for two years - I
20 always fail it.' But I done it in distinction,' so do you think our government he used to
21 make you fail, because John Vorster was a Minister that side - he's the one who's got the
22 same subject of you are taking it?' He say 'No, I don't think so.' But he say 'I'm leaving
23 of this country - I don't think I will stay long, because the time - so many different
24 Special Branch visiting me.' Then that's why he told Buthelezi when he leave, he said
25 'When I'm leaving now, when I'm coming back I'm going to be ruling you.' The he left,
26 from there he took over the President of Inkhata himself, never select anyone since...(he
27 chuckles)

28
29 K: Can I go back to an earlier question or position? You mentioned that when Mja - what
30 was his name - the man that went to the Special Branch? Mja?

31
32 M: No, no Makwa.

1
2 K: Makwa, Makwa.
3
4 M: He was a big man, he was transferred to Sobantu here - I think the government they know
5 him here..
6
7 K: Okay, you said that a White Security policeman was with him at the time that they came
8 to you. Do you remember that man's name at all.
9
10 M: Hey, I wouldn't remember his name because it was a space of introducing me - a Special
11 Branch, when they starting a Special Branch, I only remember the blue cortina, Zeff 6..
12
13 K. Okay.
14
15 M: Ja.
16
17 R: You obviously had an eye to the cars more than the people?
18
19 M: Ja. when they came I was hard. because I was shivering - to say 'Hey I'm dying when I
20 am just going away.' I never remember the man because I left in Ladysmith - the day -
21 one day I met him here - Makwa - at ? Hill he knew that he has saved me, but he want to
22 greet me but that time was very hot whenever you talk to the police, you get killed, all the
23 time they say you are a 'Mpimpi' - you are informer, he greet me he say 'How, Hello Mr
24 Mchunu, I want to...' I say 'All right, all right,' I just ran away I didn't even want to fill
25 up the petrol with him, anyway he saved d me bu, it was hard to talk to him.
26
27 R: Yes, it would be hard for him, you see - he'd get himself into deeper trouble.
28
29 M: Ja, that Makwa, eyyehb - he has done a lot he was the one to - who was - most of our
30 members were arrested because he know by his name - ja he used to look the book. and
31 then if you lucky we're going to tell you we say 'This is the man.'
32
33 K: In your experiences in Pietermaritzburg can you recall some of the names of the Security
34 Police here?
35
36 M: Eh, no, ja - I know Terreblanche - I only know him was a Mr Meyer used to be his
37 assistant...
38
39 R: Oh yes...
40
41 K: Oh, yes, okay...
42
43 M: You know how I know them? Hee, hee. I went to one of the City - Mr Ngcobo too - he
44 was - that he was sbot by ...
45
46 K: ?? The BOK..??

1
2 M: Okay, he became too my friend that man, he was a right man sometime - because he ..
3
4 K: ? he ? at Huletts did he?
5
6 M: He was working at Hulettes. One day I met him - he is the one he said to me 'We are
7 discover you are not attending any meeting - when a UDF meeting, Inkhata meeting - but
8 your child, we know, your child is a UDF, but what are you?' I said 'I'm a member of a
9 church, Mr Ngcobo when I want to tell you my story..' One day I told him that how I save
10 - I said 'I'm no more in the politic world.' He didn't say 'I get somebody.' But one day
11 when they were trying to stop in our kombi, he say - I said to him 'Look, your people, if
12 you say you rule this country, this government have got all sort of fighting - he got
13 aeroplane, he got jet he got everythings - he's alright - but he'll never get rest unless the
14 ANC is being released. He say 'What you mean by that?' I said 'If you got a nice white
15 house - you go to bed everythings - you can't sleep when the fleas are in there.' Hee,
16 hee. All the time - yet it is a small - but it won't give you a good comfortable I said
17 'That's why - that fifty years is still going on - it will never get rest this government,' I
18 said "right and that's all what I'm saying to you people." Then that Mr Ngcobo, Tu
19 Ngcobo he told me - he said - I said 'You see ourself, we forming when the people of this
20 area they 'phone me to 'phone this branch - I only tell him what you people doing - that's
21 why you find them - they searching all your house first and then they will coming to fight
22 you. We know we got - we disarming everythings from you. I said 'Hey man, how too -
23 how can I get a - I've been applying twice now - how can I get a arms - firearm?' He say
24 'Well, I don't know - I just think one day I saw Pagis was a Mayor, I say "Mr Pagis..I
25 want to - I want a Stability Unit Police Telephone number.." He said "oh sure" - he didn't
26 even think because he was my friend was working at the - at the NBS. ? Because he was
27 my neighbor before then he moved to the - he make he gave me - and then I 'phoned to
28 them I say 'I want to make an appointment.' to this Terreblanche - I went there myself
29 with the Mayor's assistance, Chairman, Mr Maduna, who went to paying a visit to them -
30 we call it a private loan. He say 'Ja, tax people, what are you after today?' I said 'No,
31 we're changing now the talk now - we know the story - they are backing Inkatha- we're
32 trying to convince them - and as we are also a member of Inkatha we want
33 somethingdefendingus from UDF. He said to me - we said "right, we've been troubling

1 with these youth - sometime they grabbing our money and then doing this and this.' He
2 say 'Yes, because you're not showing yourself where you are.'

3
4 R: I see, yes.

5
6 M: You see you don't tell us what is happening in the area - you're going all over the area -
7 you going to UDF side, you going to Inkathaside, but you don't tell us. And that - Mr -
8 before we say that thing and that Mr Terreblanche - he said to him - I said 'you must
9 showing us - when you got two sons, one son says you can give me anythings, my father,
10 what you like. One son is saying you get out of this chair - I want to sit on this chair, -
11 who the son do you like it? Hee, hee, hey - when Mr ? told him, he missed that point to
12 answer, he said to him 'No sir, what we want, you want - aren't you giving Inkhata the
13 forearms? Can you give us?' 'Who told you?' changing it...

14
15 R: Oh really?

16
17 M: He say 'We must ? got everybody applying..'

18
19 R: Yes.

20
21 M: And they're not going to know... I say 'No, we're just asking.' He said 'No, no, no - ?
22 that cat out.' I said hey 'Look man, don't go straight to the matter - you must go like this
23 - not now, you missed the tide. I went to ask another one's - my secretary, Mrs Sithole. I
24 said 'Dobe, when you ask me to send a wife - the one should ? respect the wife than a
25 man - I must I say 'Mrs Sithole, Mr Madula is a stupid - he just goes - to the point for
26 what he want - you want to get that information of applying for a arms and then you get it.
27 Let us apply that mechanism, eh application, appointment with Mr Terreblanche and then
28 there was a police - he had...

29
30 End of Second Side.