

KWAZULU-NATAL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**INTERVIEW WITH JOHN MAKHATINI, CONDUCTED BY RUTH LUNDIE IN 1995**

(‘M’ SHALL SIGNIFY THE INTERVIEWEE AND ‘L’ THE INTERVIEWER)

L: This is an account given by Mr John Makhatini of NUMSA on the 3rd of May, 1995, of his association with Mr Harry Gwala - both in the Trade Unions and politically during the 1950s and 1960s. Mr Makhatini was he an organiser for SACTU from when?

M: The time when I see him was 1958.

L: Yes.

M: When Harry Gwala was still an organiser of SACTU. He was visiting our factories, like Scottish Cables and Hulett Aluminium, Edells, Sarmcol, Dunlop, Howick, so he was mobilising a lot of workers in ‘Maritzburg. I remember when he was there having a conference of the whole Pietermaritzburg Unions where they, all the employees, having a meeting, trying to stop SACTU sympathy for the employer to go and discuss the rights of the people of ‘Maritzburg. But I’m not clear the time when they took him, was ‘58 or ‘59, or ‘60 when the police arrested him.

L: What they did arrest him for? Trade Unions activities?

M: Yes, Trade Unions activities. Ja. They arrested him. So, after when they arrested him, the legal guy was called Kunene, who was living at Edendale, so again they arrested that, Kunene (All his name? What he was? So they arrested him.) Then after that one when they arrested him so we got a problem. When the police come, when Kunene come, then Kunene he was running away when he saw the police. So we ourselves said? ‘They will chase Kunene,’ so we just left ourself don’t know what to do. But then Gwala arrived, came out of prison, he came back again. And no, when the police come, Gwala doesn’t run away, he took his - what you call, these dogs are coming here. when they came, he doesn’t run like other organisers, you see when they see it. But ourselves too we was very scared, but then right up to 1963, we was with him, Harry Gwala. but I remember another day.

L: In this first imprisonment, how long was he in prison?

1 M: He was during the time. I don't think it was taken a lot. I believe the lawyers went to take
2 him out and he came out during that time - before to date. up to '60. But where there
3 was a problem, they took him. I remember - he was having a meeting to his house - he
4 organised the people here in Natal of objections ? But those strong leaders - myself - I
5 was a shop steward from Scottish Cables. But they elected to be one of the committee,
6 who when we started, we come and form a secret meeting in 1963 with him. Where we
7 formed that meeting we came to his house and he explained to us. there is a person here
8 who will come, but we want to have the very trusted people. To begin this meeting we
9 will be -we will go underneath, underground with these people. We mustn't tell anyone
10 but we'll see the guy in a room where he could explain all - but he doesn't want people
11 who haven't got trusted. You won't tell even your wife, even your child. So when we
12 went on the meeting, I believe we was six - with Baba Gwala. Six with the person that he
13 was that he was inside a room that was Bruno Mtofo, I believe you will be hear all that
14 history about the person who, at the end. I wasn't know him - William Mtofo, who at the
15 end he was a state witness of President Nelson Mandela.

16 L: Oh really?

17 M: Yes, that person.

18 L: Yes, yes.

19 M: So, when we went in, in the room, so we didn't swear - all the things we'll do here - we
20 won't tell anyone ...

21 L: Yes?

22 M: ..even our friend. Our friend will be all of us - six -...

23 L: Yes, yes.

24 M: Even if you are a person that you drink, you mustn't go and drink to other people, you
25 must drink with these people who are sitting with you, except when you are doing talk
26 badly. you must talk to those people. So, after that one you swear that you won't do
27 those things then we know we was underground 'Mkhonto Wesizwe'.

28 L: So this was '58?

29 M: It was '63

30 L: '63.

31 M: Yes

- 1 L: Mmm.
- 2 M: I forgot what was when, what is the month??
- 3 L: Mm.
- 4 M: So, now I can't remember all, I remember a person was there Majози, two Majозis was
5 there ..
- 6 L: Yes?
- 7 M: And Ndladla, Pius Ndladla, who was working at Scottish Cables with me, and myself,
8 John Makhatini, and Harry Gwala, Baba Gwala, and Hugh Madolo, six of us in a room.
9 We started when that meeting about six o'clock. But we locking. Curtains was closed. So
10 we went then to the training because he tell us that guy 'look the government now is
11 doing very bad - to try and hammer ANC. So now that's why we go underneath. ?? We
12 must form the Spear of Nation.
- 13 L: Yes.
- 14 M: So, we will be learning how to make the bombs ..
- 15 L: Yes?
- 16 M: ...to hit the government buildings.
- 17 L: Yes.
- 18 M: That's what we were saying - we will hit the government buildings - all the things for
19 government -
- 20 L: Yes.
- 21 M: ..that's where we can - that's where we will do. But I was sent - you will be the factory -
- 22 L: Yes?
- 23 M: we -
- 24 L: Yes.
- 25 M: We won't be going to the store. The things, we'll be making the things.
- 26 L: Yes. yes.
- 27 M: So we went far away, we made that bomb, the first thing was showing us how to make
28 that bomb. After we finishing that - I believe it was half past eleven in the night we went
29 to test it
- 30 L: Yes?
- 31 M: ... at Ockerts' Kraal, where Baba Gwala was staying.

- 1 L: At Ockerts' Kraal?
- 2 M: Yes.
- 3 L: Yes, 'cause he stayed out there.
- 4 M: He was staying there because he was at his house ourself.
- 5 L: Yes, I see, that was where you had your secret meeting?
- 6 M: Yes, at his house. And then we went to test it at about twelve - I believe it was twelve.
- 7 L: Yes, well, it must have been a very exact thing to know how to make it.
- 8 M: Yes, we was finishing to make it.
- 9 L: Yes.
- 10 M: We know now
- 11 L: Yes.
- 12 M: ... how to do it, but there was a lot of chemicals we were supposed to get -
- 13 L: Yes. yes.
- 14 M: and it's not easy - you mustn't keep it in your house. Then we went to test it, yes. we
- 15 blow it out on the rodents. And we check it that we make it proper?
- 16 L: Yes?
- 17 M: And then we blow it.
- 18 L: Yes.
- 19 M: In that mountain. And we disappear. we should have to meet again the following week..
- 20 L: Yes.
- 21 M: We were understanding that I went from Ockerts' Kraal to - up to here at you call it
- 22 Pentrich.
- 23 L: Yes.
- 24 M: At New Scotland - I was stay there - you have got to walk. In the night - you can
- 25 remember - that when police, I am running away from they arrest me for the time -
- 26 because the time was 9 o'clock for the African ??
- 27 L: For the curfew?
- 28 M: That's how much dark - yes I duck then, right up to my place where I stay.
- 29 L: Yes.
- 30 M: I don't know. maybe, I came two o'clock, I sleep.
- 31 L: Yes.

- 1 M: And then I am not even sure what - the following week, then I got an accident at the job -
2 I got an accident on my thumb, my fingers and the left arm.
- 3 L: Yes.
- 4 M: And then I was off work - because I was injured. Not because of the problem of the
5 bomb...
- 6 L: No, but because of your work at Scottish Cables.
- 7 M: ...at Scottish Cables.
- 8 L: Yes.
- 9 M: Then I stayed home - then I don't know, it was Monday. I heard somebody say 'look, hey
10 the people at Ockerts' Kraal - the police arrive - I believe it was on Tuesday, came there
11 at Ockerts' Kraal.'
- 12 L: Yes.
- 13 M: I said 'what to do?' 'I heard that down at Eastwood. That person he say that the police
14 come to visit the house of Baba Gwala. I say 'what did he do?' 'Well' he said 'They take
15 all the people and they arrested Baba Gwala now.' I was shocked but I never tell this man
16 what I got...
- 17 L: Of course not, you've got to?
- 18 M: .. So then I went at home -
- 19 L: Yes.
- 20 M: I was coming from Edendale Hospital, because for treatment. When I arrive at home, I
21 went back on my house, went back on my house ...
- 22 L: Yes.
- 23 M: ...then they found my wife. I was just married that year.
- 24 L: Yes, so she was a Makhori?
- 25 M: Yes, she was coming from Zululand.
- 26 L: Yes.
- 27 M: When I arrived, she is saying - 'do you see a man outside the verandah?'. I say 'no.' Then
28 I ask him 'What that man want?' 'He say he want to see you about your accident at work.'
- 29 L: Oh.
- 30 M: So I am just thinking - 'at work - accident. he doesn't know my wife. he doesn't know
31 me.'

- 1 L: Yes. how did he know you hurt your hand?
- 2 M: Oh. ? That man is sitting on the verandah. But now. I believe I went faster. They say he
- 3 is a police.
- 4 L: Yes.
- 5 M: They say he is wearing a uniform? No. he's private.
- 6 L: Yes.
- 7 M: He's sitting in the verandah.
- 8 L: Yes.
- 9 M: Then I took my card. ...
- 10 L: Yes.
- 11 M: ...my ANC card ...
- 12 L: Yes
- 13 M: ...and I don't know what and then I went to the toilet...
- 14 L: yes.
- 15 M: and I went in because I doesn't know what is there
- 16 L: No, and he could have found it on you as evidence.
- 17 M: Ja, then I opened the front door and I see a man sitting on the verandah - I ask him
- 18 'afternoon', it was afternoon that time, I think maybe it was two or three. Ja, it was
- 19 something to three. I say 'Good Afternoon.' Ja, I greet him; he say 'You, you, boetie ?'
- 20 And I say 'Yes' He say 'Hey, look, we gave you money.' I say 'what for?' He say
- 21 'because you have been injured at work?' Because when I was injured at work, there was
- 22 no police.
- 23 L: Yes.
- 24 M: 'How you ? In that job?
- 25 L: How do you know?
- 26 M: Yes, he say 'No. Because now there is a new law -?
- 27 L: Yes, yes. ??
- 28 M: He think I was born in the trees?? Now they're doing the tricks to caught me Before that
- 29 when we still talking, with him, there is a car arrive next to Reverend Zwane, one of the
- 30 peace keepers....
- 31 L: Of the Bantu Presbyterian Church in Loop Street?

- 1 M: We was next door at...
- 2 L: At ?? Court.
- 3 M: No, no.
- 4 L: At New Scotland Road?
- 5 M: Yes. So, the White guy jumped down and called 'Nene'. This police was Nene.
- 6 L: Yes.
- 7 M: 'Nene did you come?' He say 'Yes Baasie.' Then we come, he never say anything, then
- 8 you walk - he come to me. Then he say 'do you know at your office,' you are an old guy
- 9 now. You greet him, you say 'yes'. 'Can you follow us to go to the police station?' I say
- 10 'what for police station?' He say 'No, to go and make a statement because you have been
- 11 injured.' So again they go the same tactic - because I've been ...
- 12 L: Yes, yes.
- 13 M: And then I tell him my wife - 'look, now I'm just going to - with this guy.' I went inside
- 14 the room...
- 15 L: Yes
- 16 M: Because I was with 'and I am going with these people, they say that they are going take
- 17 a statement. So my hand was tied with - because I was ...
- 18 L: Bandaged.
- 19 M: Yes. I went with him. Later on, I believe at Mrs Zwane's house - they saw this is a
- 20 Security - Special Branch, these people.
- 21 L: I see.
- 22 M: When I had gone they went to my wife - they said 'Your husband is white - he is the ANC
- 23 kind.' My wife had never tell him - he doesn't know nothing - because I never tell him
- 24 anything.
- 25 L: No, quite.
- 26 M: So he doesn't know, he say 'Hey, I doesn't know.' But I am surprising those people are
- 27 ask, the Special Branch. So I went to Loop Street here....
- 28 L: Yes.
- 29 M: When I walk in, in a van - there was an Indian guy, he was driving a private car, then
- 30 this White and this African guy and myself - four - so it's three security and myself, four -
- 31 so I went. So when we get in we jump down in Loop Street. They say to the African guy

- 1 - 'Yes you can finish your job now - you must go at home - they say to Nene -
- 2 L: Yes.
- 3 M: ... the Security Branch - it was the first time to know them.
- 4 L: Yes.
- 5 M: Even all of them I doesn't know. Although I was going to the meetings - in the Lotus
- 6 Hall.
- 7 L: Yes.
- 8 M: we were used to sit down with the tapes when we had the meetings ...
- 9 L: Yes, yes
- 10 M: when we had the meetings -
- 11 L: Yes, yes...
- 12 M: But I was not look at them carefully, 'this is the Security.' I just see a people sitting
- 13 down...
- 14 L: Yes, well of course.
- 15 M: ...taking notes in our meetings. But when I am arrive here, I find that there are a lot of
- 16 Whites - about ten Whites. And I get inside the room,
- 17 L: Mmm.
- 18 M: ...when they put me inside the room, they close the door. And they starting asking how
- 19 did I hurt in my arm. They starting there, where they want to check. But the guy who
- 20 calling - I think the big guy from 'Maritzburg - I think he was a captain or what.
- 21 L: Yes.
- 22 M: They was asking only that guy - there was one guy who was translate in Zulu
- 23 L: Yes.
- 24 M: 'How did you get hurt?' And say 'I was working like this.' But he look at me.
- 25 L: Yes..to see if you were telling the truth.
- 26 M: Ja, he look at me - this guy - I doesn't know why he is doing that because I was thinking
- 27 that they coming to take a statement because I have been injured.
- 28 L: Yes.
- 29 M: But at the end, it changed. Then he asked me 'Do you know Harry Gwala?' I say?
- 30 'Who's Harry Gwala?'
- 31 L: Yes.

- 1 M: I ask him. He is saying - 'You are ?' - they talk Afrikaans...
- 2 L: Yes.
- 3 M: ...to other people. And he say 'That man he do used to . . .' sorry (he coughs) 'to stand
4 outside the gate recruiting you about the trade unions.'
- 5 L: Oh, yes, well ???
- 6 M: He was coming now with a point now -
- 7 L: Yes, yes.
- 8 M: 'Do you know Harry?' I say 'I doesn't know that guy.'
- 9 L: Yes, yes.
- 10 M: 'In lunchtime I doesn't go outside myself, I do used to play Malabalabe - there is a thing
11 that we used to play in the lunchtime.'
- 12 L: Yes, yes.
- 13 M: I say 'I'm used to go to outside, I used to play this drafting inside the room.'
- 14 L: Yes, yes.
- 15 M: And he repeated again, he said 'Remember on such and such a date....
- 16 L: Yes?
- 17 M: '... Harry Gwala arrived there in the factory to recruit.' I say 'I'm not a man that I'm used
18 to go outside I am a guy that will appreciate to drop my card, then we play these cards.'
- 19 L: Yes.
- 20 M: 'I'm not going outside, I doesn't know what's happening outside.' Then they change.
- 21 L: Yes.
- 22 M: I see now they try to change said that 'Do you remember on a certain, certain day you was
23 at Harry's house, yourself?'
- 24 L: I see. Yes?
- 25 M: ... I say 'Where is Harry's house?' Harry Gwala's house, he says 'Ockerts' Kraal'. 'I
26 doesn't know that ? place - near Ockerts' Kraal, myself I'm staying at...'
- 27 L: Pentrich?
- 28 M: '...Pentrich - where I am staying.' Well, after that one I'm argue - there was a man - I
29 saw the shadow on the window - I just look up, but they put me down - when I try to
30 look back, they nearly kill me -
- 31 L: Really ?

- 1 M: They're saying 'Lie? Down, reply the question - we ask you to give us there in the house
2 where yourself and other people. Who are those people who was there?' I say 'I doesn't
3 know. I never been there.' After there was one guy came out in a room, that time, then
4 after that one. when this man came, they said to me I've been arrested. I say 'What
5 arrested for?' And they say 'You was at Harry's house...'
- 6 L: Yes.
- 7 M: '... when you, yourself, ...' They telling me what I done in the room.
- 8 L: Yes, which was closed.
- 9 M: I know. I knew that -
- 10 L: Yes...
- 11 M: ...what I had done. And they say 'you poured the petrol in a bottle, you say you know
12 how to put it.' So now I see these people and then they say 'Yourself, Harry Gwala,
13 Mdladla. all are here? Today.'
- 14 L: Yes.
- 15 M: '... You now you are saying you was not there?' I said 'I was not there.'
- 16 L: Mmm.
- 17 M: So they say that you have been arrested.' So I was very - that so then I believe Harry
18 Gwala, myself, then those other guys I told you...
- 19 L: yes...
- 20 M: He was there. he was the first to be in Pietermaritzburg to under ninety days detentions.
21 We have been locked under ninety days. So there are six people who was been in that
22 law.
- 23 L: I'm sure because '63 was the year. wasn't it?
- 24 M: Yes.
- 25 L: ... when these detentions started.
- 26 M: So then we went in.
- 27 L: Yes.
- 28 M: Then we sit in there.
- 29 L: In the. in the Burger Street jail?
- 30 M: We were here. we was here in Loop Street.
- 31 L: In the Loop Street? Mmm..

- 1 M: Ja. So, because I was, do used to go to hospitals...
- 2 L: yes..
- 3 M: ... during the ? Well. I am going to hospital. they take me in a car.
- 4 L: But they let you have the treatment on your hand?
- 5 M: No, they go to Edendale...
- 6 L: Yes.
- 7 M: where I have the treatment. But when I am getting inside, what you call, to the doctor,...
- 8 L: Yes.
- 9 M: ...they will take all African people out -
- 10 L: Yes.
- 11 M: all African people out ...
- 12 L: yes.
- 13 M: I must go and see the doctor with the security, that's all.
- 14 L: I see.
- 15 M: Not with the African people
- 16 L: Not at all, you might have passed on the ?
- 17 M: Yes. Well, that's a... (they chuckle). What they was doing. But then I saw on the paper -
- 18 how! That Mandela was arrested - I read on the posters. ...
- 19 L: Yes.
- 20 M: I saw, how, Mandela was arrested
- 21 L: Yes.
- 22 M: So I was shocked. But we was in..
- 23 L: yes. .
- 24 M: ... during that time... .
- 25 L: Yes.
- 26 M: I wouldn't say what's the reason make us the government - we never went on about that
- 27 trial, that detention. because maybe he was not easy, but I understand at the end of the day
- 28 because Ray Ntolo...
- 29 L: Yes?
- 30 M: ...who was stayed with Nelson Mandela, when they took it off our place - for 'Maritzburg
- 31 because we never done - we were still learning -

- 1 L: Yes.
- 2 M: ... then we were released They say 'we will call you when ...' They will take us to
3 court?
- 4 L: Yes.
- 5 M: We go every time at the police station.
- 6 L: Yes.
- 7 M: So then. Ndladla came our first, then I was second and Gume? ? Baba Gwala then all of
8 us. But I doesn't know about this guy because he was coming from Durban - Gume?
- 9 L: Yes, yes.
- 10 M: ...so then that case was like that one. so my memory of all things was vanishing ...
- 11 L: yes...
- 12 M: So that's when Baba Gwala came out...
- 13 L: Yes.
- 14 M: But then he done again - he never stopped.
- 15 L: No, he just went straight on.
- 16 M: When he done another thing. again, they caught him - so I was with those ...
- 17 L: That was 1964.
- 18 M: yes, where they caught him.
- 19 L: Yes.
- 20 M: So, hut they never caught him then right up to - I don't know how many years.
- 21 L: It was eight years he got.
- 22 M: Yes, in the beginning...
- 23 L: yes...
- 24 M: Then again after coming out to that...
- 25 L: Yes. this is what I am very interested in.
- 26 M: When he came back after that one. so again, he never sit back. I believe after eight years
27 he was on sentence. When he came back, he was a person that is working as collecting
28 dry cleaners to the people.
- 29 L: Over the counter and under the counter in MK?.
- 30 M: Ja. he was collecting all the clothes because he was banned not to get a job ...
- 31 L: Yes, yes.

- 1 M: to ?? Been employed.
- 2 L: No. no.
- 3 M: So after that one he was working as a Dry Cleaner Collector.
- 4 L: mmm...
- 5 M: ..so, again after that one - again they, they caught him - that`s where, after that one he
6 was a dry cleaner collector when they take him in for this life sentence.
- 7 L: Yes. So that clearly, from `72 to `75, because it was `75, I think, he got his life sentence?
- 8 M: Mmm.
- 9 L: ..but in those three years, he was continuing with his MK work?
- 10 M: Underground, yes.
- 11 L: Underground. Oh and that was why he was taken in.
- 12 M: Yes. Mmm.
- 13 L: yes.
- 14 M: So he was recruiting....
- 15 L: Yes.
- 16 M: They take me ? All the things they do - the same way where we start.
- 17 L: Where you started in that room.
- 18 M: But he never stop - myself I stop....
- 19 L: No, no...
- 20 M: from - I never went up on underground, you see.
- 21 L: No. no.
- 22 M: So myself, went on...
- 23 L: Yes.
- 24 M: You see, we do used to have a meeting - so- about that one - so I believe during that time
25 after - when they sentence ANC, they was organisation disappear -
- 26 L: yes?
- 27 M: Then there was no ANC, because now as he was an organiser of the Unions.
- 28 L: Yes.
- 29 M: He came to be the - came to ANC, then came to MK. All because other leaders was
30 banned so he was supposed to now go underground to do the underground job because
31 the most of the leaders was being....

- 1 L: Had been taken in.
- 2 M: Yes, They were locked up - then they struggle to change - they change the struggle too.
- 3 We had to sit on the trade union, but we know, to go underground in his job - even to
- 4 the ANC when the banning - he was doing the underground job...
- 5 L: yes, yes.
- 6 M: ... after that one - that was when I believe they caught him right up to life sentence.
- 7 L: I'm sure they did, I'm sure they did.
- 8 M: So that's where, myself, met Baba Gwala when he was working together...
- 9 L: Yes, well, really, thank you..
- 10 M: That's the way I understand it, you see.
- 11 L: That's a most valuable part of history.
- 12 M: Yes.
- 13 L: John really.. (the tape is switched off and then on again)...you were saying? With him...
- 14 M: Well, ? And the labour put it in - where in our factories we had no overalls - protective
- 15 clothing...
- 16 L: Yes.
- 17 M: ... so he fight for us -
- 18 L: yes ..
- 19 M: I'm not sure which year did we get them - the overalls at Scottish Cables.
- 20 L: yes...
- 21 M: ... because we are unions?
- 22 L: Yes.
- 23 M: Then after that one, then they don't even afford to get a night shift allowance. We was
- 24 not getting night shift allowance, for years and years. Because what is my salary when
- 25 I was employed here ...
- 26 L: Yes.
- 27 M: It was one pound, eighteen shillings.
- 28 L: A day?.
- 29 M: ...a week
- 30 L: A week?
- 31 M: Yes, one pound eighteen shillings.

- 1 L: No.
- 2 M: That's what my - what you call. Then he arrived to recruit us,...
- 3 L: Yes.
- 4 M: ? He was one ? He was very high, maybe it was better, for that what you call, then we
5 doing the fight....
- 6 L: Yes.
- 7 M: No overalls, you're getting one pound eighteen shillings....
- 8 L: yes...
- 9 M: No overalls - we will fight for overalls and then after that one we fight for night shift
10 allowance.
- 11 L: yes ..
- 12 M: We was working very long hours. Nothing we was having, then after that one we got
13 fifteen, 50c - five bob - he was fifteen shillings - that was five shillings at that time...
- 14 L: yes...
- 15 M: Now today, it is fifty cent, fifty cent that's what we got - a night shift allowance. He
16 starting from there - because of his doing - he was not only - I'm talking about - you was
17 understanding, when I am talking, I was talking with my place where I was working -
18 he was doing the same to other factories there, in Pietermaritzburg. He do ? Sarmcol,
19 Howick. ?? There was some dry cleaners where he started - a lot of factories he was
20 organising, here in Pietermaritzburg. Then he would go to Durban, but the time when I
21 am opening my eyes, it was Baba Gwala who was recruiting us to be on the Trade Unions.
22 Again he was a brave man. He was not scared
- 23 L: No.
- 24 M: ...for the policemen, he come ?
- 25 L: Yes.
- 26 M: Because when you are the leader, you can be scared... you can make a member to run
27 away....
- 28 L: yes...
- 29 M: ...because at that time, the police were very rude?, hitting the people, getting the dogs -
30 all those things, that's why we are nearly lost that ??
- 31 L: Yes. because you remember when he came out in December '89 -

- 1 M: Mmm?
- 2 L: It was in 1990 that the Edendale War started...
- 3 M: Mmm.
- 4 L: ... and this man, who couldn't use his arms - there he was telling the comrades how to
5 fight in Edendale.
- 6 M: He encourage us, I remember, from 1990, when he was coming back to prison..
- 7 L: Yes.
- 8 M: He make us to be strong, not to be scared, to know the struggle. The struggle is not an
9 easy thing -
- 10 L: Yes..
- 11 M: He shows us, then he protect us at that time. That's why I believe the Inkatha doesn't like
12 him -
- 13 L: yes...
- 14 M: All National Party doesn't like him...
- 15 L: Yes.
- 16 M: ...Because after that one - he made it. Higher, higher, then he expand...
- 17 L: yes...
- 18 M: Go all over the region, all over the country. They know this is Thwalani, Baba Gwala...
- 19 L: Yes.
- 20 M: From Pietermaritzburg - it means ?? They call that the place like 'Maritzburg.
- 21 L: yes, I do believe that, I saw him in that ??
- 22 M: That's what I call him. I believe he get that name after 1990. they, they call him - he is a
23 lion of Pietemaritzburg. ? Thwalani, you see, from 'Maritzburg. So he went up ...
- 24 L: mmm...
- 25 M: Then we believe, after that one - I don't know whether NUMSA - for President of
26 NUMSA - his position ..
- 27 L: Is that so?
- 28 M: He is holding NUMSA Life President..
- 29 L: On Life President of NUMSA? But he ...
- 30 M: I don't know which year where NUMSA choose- I forgot which year '92, '91 - I'm not
31 sure which conference the ??? (the tape ends) ...

1 (end of first side)

3 (Second side)

5 M: ...that position.

6 L: You see he learnt a tremendous amount by being a trade union organiser.

7 M: Mmm. That's why I believe all his life - after Edendale hospital - that's why, where he
8 dismissed the course, when he was here at Edendale - because he was organising the
9 people they only went into Edendale - he did work there - he was understanding that to
10 get the people - he was an organiser - he was working at Edendale, but where they been
11 dismissed - because he recruit the workers inside the factory That was his job. It's a long
12 time ago he recruit the nurses there - he was a clerk at Edendale.

13 L: He told me that he was dismissed after a 1956 march - there was a march against passes
14 for women and the police came up in numbers from Durban and arrested six hundred
15 women and put them in that shale building on the corner of Club Lane and Loop Street -
16 opposite the Imperial Hotel, and it was found out that they had arrested them in terms
17 of a municipal bylaw that was out of date. So then there was another march, another ANC
18 march against passes for women - that Baba Gwala joined in on and he told me he was
19 dismissed because of that.

20 M: mmm... there is another one - you remember that there was that big campaign here - we
21 say, we tell the women - saying to their men - 'you mustn't go and drink a Zulu beer at
22 Matsheni's?

23 L: I remember that.

24 M: When they're saying that- he was a first Leader. When they saying the women 'look you
25 mustn't go there because the wife of Gertrude got a child, the men - when the wife got a
26 child the men are not supposed to go inside that room. In other words in Zulu - 'Ntini (?)
27 Unkosikazi, uma ebeletha,..'

28 L: mmm

29 M: Indod' ayingeni endlini, ngola usuke eningane encane, in Zulu. So the men can't go there -
30 when the people get in, then the women get in and shout at them - they take them out.
31 Inside eMatsheni.

- 1 L: Yes.
- 2 M: ...maybe then other men who haven't got a beard, ...
- 3 L: yes.
- 4 M: We were wearing the womens' dress then, because the police was hitting - what you call
5 the women...
- 6 L: yes...
- 7 M: So now when you have the beard, they ??? then they take a stick then got to the police -
8 the the police will run away - say 'how, what kind of women can hit like this one?'
- 9 L: (Ruth chuckles)
- 10 M: That's the kind of way how we do it. Then they was closing - putting the stones in the
11 ? - where the car get in - right up to ...the ? All those women was closing where the cars
12 mustn't get in and ?...
- 13 L: Yes.
- 14 M: You see that's where the strong, they were very strong mother - for the person who was
15 doing ? The very strong men -
- 16 L: yes...
- 17 M: They were banning from those days, I believe - Peatties?
- 18 L: yes.
- 19 M: That's where the struggle was.
- 20 L: Yes, yes, yes.
- 21 M: So at that time I believe women were very strong - you see? So I was very, very - well
22 not to drink there - the Zulu beer, because the people was confused, drunk - we had quite
23 a struggle - so they must take them out.
- 24 L: Yes.
- 25 M: The men.
- 26 L: Yes.
- 27 M: Then, but, because remember - women giving the sjamboks - they went out - so no one
28 was buying that...
- 29 L: yes, yes..
- 30 M: what you call that Zulu beer at eMatsheni. So all over, right up to ?? Because all those
31 Zulu beers was from Jo'burg and the municipality was using all these things - so then he

1 was pushing at those things.

2 L: He was excellent.

3 M: Yes.

4 L: I think he really was.....

5 M: Yes..he was .

6

7 (There appears to be nothing further taped on this side)