

1. Sekhukhune was born ⁺ 1810. He seized the Paramountcy of the Pedi in 1861 on the death of his father Sekwati, and thus -made his half-brother Mampuru his bitter enemy. Sekhukhune built up his chiefdom by rallying survivors of the Difaqane, the great dispersion caused by Shaka. His desire to extend his authority over the Northern Sotho brought him into conflict with the missionaries. He told Alexander Merensky: You have taken my people away from me. He expelled the missionaries and burned Merensky's mission at Maandagshoek.

Cartoon: Sekhukhune supervising the burning of the mission.

2. As ~~S~~ekhukhune grew stronger, the Boers took alarm. President Burgers, aided by Swazis led by Mampuru, invaded Pedi country. But they failed ignominiously to capture Sekhukhune's stronghold in the Lulu Mountains.

Cartoon Sekhukhune repelling the Boers, using guns (rifles) and ammunition.

3. But Sekhukhune had no hope. The British, who annexed the Transvaal in 1877 made it impossible for the Pedi to come down from the mountains to plant their crops. In 1879 he was taken prisoner by the British. When independence was restored the Boers released him. In 1882 he was stabbed to death by Mampuru in front of his hut in the Lulu Mountains. Sekhukhune had the misfortune to live in the time of two great migrations, the Difaqane and the Great Trek.

Cartoon: Sekhukhune being stabbed to death by Mampuru in front of his hut. Note that Sekhukhune was a man of over 70. Mampuru was some 20 years younger.