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P. G. H. Katumetsi

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Linokana

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The Native Commissioner,  
ZOOER ST.

Katumetsi, P. G. H.

K32/17

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It might have been about the year 1820 or 1830 when the Bakoena killed their chief Motsosale. At that time my grandfather Katumetsi was a petty chief, a councillor of Chief Motsosale. After his elder brother had been killed, Katumetsi, having received advice from his mother's people, and as the Bakoena wanted to kill him also, went away with his servants and his inherited possessions and sought shelter in this country of the Bafhurutse, where Chief Molloe-a-Sebogodi was Molloa himself being a grandchild of the Bakoena. As Katumetsi was a war hero, on his arrival there he became a faithful warrior of Chief Molloa. Molloa also was one who was hated by his elder brothers, Chiefs Lentsoe and Motladi, the sons of Chief Sebogodi I. Molloa's chieftainship over the Bafhurutse was then strengthened by having my grand father Katumetsi, Rratshike I, Tau-a-Montshioa and their regiments fighting on his side. Chief Molloa confided in them and honoured them and gave them kraal sites and corn lands which up to this day, we their grandchildren still subsist by them. He was a chief who loved the people and who was loved by them as well.

To Katumetsi was born two sons, Lesone and Hendreck. They became the warriors of Chief Ikalafheng of Sebogodi. About the year 1880, grandfathers Lesone and Hendreck were sent on a war path by Chief Ikalafheng Molloa to go and help his father-in-law Montshioa of Tsoana the chief of the Barolong of Rratshedi who was fighting with his elder brother the Rrapulana's. Chief Ikalafheng had married Sedidi the daughter of Montshioane. Now Chief Montshioa invited Chief Ikalafheng to come to his assistance. He did so, and called up his regiments to go and help him. As my grandfather Lesone was a friend of the boy Molloa, he went and died there in that battle against the Rrapulana's at Lotlhakane. Up to now his grave is still there and we his children got nothing out of it. Father Hendreck Katumetsi was a war veteran during

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the time of Chief Ikalafheng. He used to be sent to fight for Chief Montshioa Taana and Mankuroane the Bathaping Chief. He was wounded during those wars but he did not die. He got healed and eventually returned home.

Again in a meeting of Chief Ikalafheng and Gopane, our father Hendreck advised his chief Ikalafheng to this effect that since he realised that their dispute could not come to an end, and seeing that the people of Chief Gopane had placed those of chief Ikalafheng in an awkward position, the best thing to do was to go to Pretoria and ask protection from the Government. The Chief then sought the person who could go. The petty chiefs and councillors all hid themselves. Father Hendreck Katumetai then offered himself but could not get one to accompany him in his journey. They all became afraid. My father went off alone on his horse and at his own expense. He first called on chief Taposé and chief Maseloane. From there he went to chief Mokgatle-a-makgongoana. This chief gave him one to accompany him, a guide. He arrived in Pretoria and met Government authorities among whom were General Shepstone, Queen Victoria's general. He found my cases on the roll which had to be heard before his. General Shepstone and the Court in Pretoria gave him an honourable reception and also gave him all he needed during the time he was waiting for the Court. He spent three months during which time he was provided with everything as well as his horse. At the end of the three months his time came. He was called by the Supreme Court. He was questioned about the family of Chief Sebogodi the father of Molloa and how Gopane and Ikalafheng came to be born, and how the old man Molloa gave them a share of his inheritance. He answered all the questions as he knew everything about the Kgotla and one whose information could be relied upon. He described everything with the greatest ingenuity and orderliness. After that General Shepstone gave him verbal instructions and also gave him a document containing the judgment. Verbally, he was instructed as follows:

When you reach home tell your chief that the Government says: Of the two men, since we learn from you that they are the sons of chief Jobogodi, one being the son of the big one and the other being the son of the small one, so then, the one who is found to have been the first to cause a wound on the other, let that one be the guilty party, he should leave the kraal but he should not be cast away. He should be given a district which has a spring and should be in the country of chief Moiloa.

Another document was set to Mr. K. Snyman who was the Native Commissioner at the time. Now chief Ikalafheng came to fight on behalf of my father Hendreck Katumetsi for the Marama land in the Linokana district.

During the chieftainship of chief Keobusitse Israel S. Moiloa, I Lehuti Phillip H. Katumetsi was appointed by the chief's kgotla to become clerk and interpreter. Later the Government sent me to go and work with Optn. Pringle and Colonel Ch. Levy here and at Zeerust. I played a great part in was here being a trustworthy servant of the Chief and Government. The late chief Israel Moiloa gave me as a share, the country of Ima-Kedibonye. It was taken from me by Rrahube C. Katumetsi the wife of my elder brother during the rule of Regent Ara-Mokhutshoane Moiloa and also Moiloa, those being jealous petty chiefs who hated people, who caused the people to disperse from their kgotlas. These two to this day still hate me for nothing whatsoever. During the chieftainship of chief Pohiso H. Moiloa, I was sent to help in the war overseas as a Clerk and Interpreter. On my return with others I found that the person who had sent us, chief Abraham Moiloa had died. I was in great sorrows on my arrival owing to the death of my chief who was a brave, clever and watchful chief who loved his tribe, whom no one even undertook to sing his praises. I am left behind here in my grief and old age.

Live long Chief under the protection of Heaven