

**A HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE BAKWENA
BA MOGOPA AS VICTIMS OF FORCED
REMOVALS, 1983-1994**

B.K.M. MOLOKOE

**A HISTORICAL STUDY OF THE BAKWENA BA
MOGOPA AS VICTIMS OF FORCED REMOVALS,
1983-1994**

**BENJAMIN KENALEMANG MATSHIDISO MOLOKOE
B.A., B.A. HONS**

**Mini-dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree
MAGISTER ARTIUM
in the Faculty of Arts
(Department of History)
of the
Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education**

Supervisor: Dr. G.J.J. Oosthuizen

Joint supervisor: Dr. C.J. Coetzee

Potchefstroom

May 1998

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
ABSTRACT	iv
OPSOMMING	v
LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS	vi
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 CONTEXTUALISATION AND PROBLEM STATEMENT.....	1
1.2 OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH	4
1.3 RESEARCH PROCEDURE AND LITERATURE REVIEW	5
1.4 PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED IN THE RESEARCH.....	6
CHAPTER 2: HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE BAKWENA BA MOGOPA	8
2.1 INTRODUCTION	8
2.2 THE ORIGIN OF THE BAKWENA BA MOGOPA	8
2.3 THE ATTACKS FROM MZILIKAZI AND DINGANE	12
2.4 THE BOER ARRIVAL AND MIGRATION TO BASUTHOLAND (LESOTHO)	15
2.5 THE SETTLEMENT OF THE BAKWENA BA MOGOPA AT MOGOPA	17
2.6 THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ORGANISATION OF THE BAKWENA BA MOGOPA OF THE VENTERSDORP DISTRICT	20
2.6.1 Political organisation	20
2.6.2 Economic conditions	24
2.7 CONCLUSION	27
CHAPTER 3: ANALYSIS OF SOME REASONS FOR FORCED REMOVALS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BAKWENA BA MOGOPA	29
3.1 INTRODUCTION	29
3.2 THE LAND POLICY AS BACKGROUND TO THE FORCED REMOVALS	29
3.3 GENERAL REASONS FOR FORCED REMOVALS IN SOUTH AFRICA	38
3.4 REASONS FOR THE FORCED REMOVAL OF THE BAKWENA BA MOGOPA	40
3.4.1 Clearance of "blackspots"	40
3.4.2 Homeland consolidation	41
3.4.3 Economic reasons	42
3.4.4 Removals due to the Group Areas Act	43
3.5 CONCLUSION	43

CHAPTER 4: EXECUTION OF THE REMOVAL PROCESS AND RESISTANCE ATTEMPTS BY THE BAKWENA BA MOGOPA	45
4.1 INTRODUCTION	45
4.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO THE FORCED REMOVALS.....	45
4.3 METHODS USED TO EXECUTE THE REMOVALS	47
4.3.1 Persuasion and enticement	47
4.3.2 Divide and rule	48
4.3.3 Cutting off of services	51
4.3.4 Use of intimidation and the legal process	52
4.3.5 Use of brute force	54
4.4 CONCLUSION	56
CHAPTER 5: SOME CONSEQUENCES OF THE FORCED REMOVAL OF THE BAKWENA BA MOGOPA	58
5.1 INTRODUCTION	58
5.2 SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES	58
5.2.1 Consequences on family life and the relationship with the ancestors	58
5.2.2 Consequences with regard to health services.....	60
5.2.3 Consequences with regard to religious life	61
5.2.4 Consequences with regard to education	61
5.3 ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE FORCED REMOVAL OF THE BAKWENA BA MOGOPA	65
5.3.1 Consequences with regard to agriculture	65
5.3.1.1 Crop farming	65
5.3.1.2 Loss of livestock	67
5.3.2 The issue of compensation	69
5.3.3 Consequences with regard to the land	71
5.4 CONSEQUENCES WITH REGARD TO THE INTERNAL POLITICAL ORGANISATION OF THE BAKWENA BA MOGOPA	73
5.5 CONSEQUENCES WITH REGARD TO INFRASTRUCTURE	77
5.6 CONCLUSION	78
CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION	81
SOURCE LIST	84

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank all the people who assisted me with my dissertation, particularly:

- ☞ My supervisor, Dr. G.J.J. Oosthuizen, and joint supervisor, Dr. C.J. Coetzee, from the History Department and Political Sciences Department respectively. Their knowledge, experience, guidance and constructive criticism have enriched this research. It was a privilege and pleasure to have been associated with these highly accomplished academic persons.
- ☞ Dr. E.S. van Eeden, lecturer in one of my course work papers, and Prof. J.A. du Pisani, head of the Department of History of the University of Potchefstroom, for their support.
- ☞ Mrs. E. Schutte, secretary of the Department of History for her assistance in typing this work.
- ☞ The staff of the Ferdinand Postma Library at the Potchefstroom University for CHE and in particular Mrs J.N. Pelzer, who tirelessly assisted me throughout my research to get newspaper articles on my topic from the Institute for Contemporary History of the University of the Free State.
- ☞ **Pula Bakwena!** The co-operation that I got from the members of the Bakwena ba Mogopa community, especially chief J.R. More at Pachsdraai, Mr. S More at Bethanie, Mr. M. Kgatitsoe and Mr. D. Molefe at Mogopa, is highly appreciated.
- ☞ Mr. Phenyo Rakate, a brother and valued friend, who is a researcher to Justice Y. Mokgoro of the Constitutional Court, assisted a lot in the collection of material on land issues.
- ☞ My wife, Mmamokale, my sons Goitsione, Gaositwe and Thato, for their patience and tolerance when this research denied them my presence. Their continued support and motivation inspired me throughout this work.

THE LIVING GOD, FATHER AND SUSTAINER.

ABSTRACT

One of the major aspects of the South African Government's policy of separate development was the forced removal of the black people. One of the communities forcibly removed was the Bakwena ba Mogopa from Mogopa to Pachsdraai in the years from 1983 to 1984. The problem, however, is that no coherent and systematic analysis exists explaining the general context in which the removal took place, how it was executed and what the consequences were. A perception was also created by the Government that the Bakwena ba Mogopa had moved voluntarily.

The main objective of this research is to shed more light on the forced removal of the Bakwena ba Mogopa and to try to confirm the hypothesis that their removal was not voluntary. To achieve this, the research is divided into six chapters which deal with subobjectives. In Chapter 1, the necessity and importance of the study is explained. Chapter 2 gives an historical analysis of the origin, migration and settlement patterns of the Bakwena ba Mogopa. Chapter 3 deals with the debate on the reasons for the forced removal of the Bakwena ba Mogopa. Chapter 4 treats the execution of the removal process and attempts made by the Bakwena ba Mogopa to resist the process. In Chapter 5 some consequences of the forced removal of the Bakwena ba Mogopa were established and analysed. Chapter 6 contains the conclusion.

The basic finding of the research is that (given the background on how the removal process was executed) the Bakwena ba Mogopa were forcibly removed from Mogopa to Pachsdraai. The forced removal disrupted their lives in many ways. They were removed from the land of their ancestors and thus felt insecure. Some members were reduced to the status of refugees (for example at Bethanie). The forced removal had a negative impact on their social, religious, economic and political life.

OPSOMMING

Een van die vernaamste aspekte van die Suid-Afrikaanse regering se beleid van afsonderlike ontwikkeling was die gedwonge verskuiwing van swartmense. Een van die gemeenskappe wat op dié wyse hervestig is, was die Bakwena ba Mogopa, en wel in die jare 1983 tot 1984 van Mogopa na Pachsdraai. Die probleem is egter dat daar geen samehangende en sistematiese ontleding bestaan wat die algemene konteks verduidelik waarbinne die verskuiwing plaasgevind het, hoe dit uitgevoer is en watter gevolge dit ingehou het nie. Daarbenewens is die indruk deur die regering geskep dat die Bakwena ba Mogopa vrywillig verhuis het.

Die hoofdoel van hierdie navorsing is om meer lig te werp op die gedwonge verskuiwing van die Bakwena ba Mogopa en om te probeer om die hipotese te bewys dat hulle verhuising nie vrywillig was nie. Om dít te verwesenlik is die navorsing in ses hoofstukke verdeel wat elk oor 'n onderafdeling handel. In hoofstuk 1 word die noodsaaklikheid en belangrikheid van die studie verduidelik. Hoofstuk 2 bied 'n geskiedkundige ontleding van die oorsprong, trek en vestigingspatrone van die Bakwena ba Mogopa. Hoofstuk 3 handel oor die debat aangaande die oorsake vir die gedwonge verskuiwing van die Bakwena ba Mogopa. Hoofstuk 4 behandel die uitvoering van die verskuiwingsproses en pogings deur die Bakwena ba Mogopa om dit teen te staan. In hoofstuk 5 word sommige gevolge van die Bakwena ba Mogopa se gedwonge verhuising bepaal en ontleed. Hoofstuk 6 bevat die gevolgtrekking.

Die basiese bevinding van die navorsing is (gegewe die agtergrond waarteen die verskuiwingsproses uitgevoer is) dat die Bakwena ba Mogopa met dwang van Mogopa na Pachsdraai verskuif is. Hierdie gedwonge verskuiwing het hulle lewe in vele opsigte ontwrig. Hulle is van die grond van hulle voorvaders af verwyder en het gevolglik onveilig gevoel. Sommige stamlede is verlaag tot vlugtelingsstatus (byvoorbeeld by Bethanie). Die gedwonge verhuising het 'n nadelige uitwerking op hulle maatskaplike, godsdienstige, ekonomiese en politieke lewe gehad.

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

1.	Skeleton genealogy of chiefs, More/Mmamogale	9a
2.	“Bakwena ba Mogôpa: Stamboom van hoofman (genealogical tree of chief)”	21a
3.	Forced removal of the Bakwena ba Mogopa, 1983-1984	45a