

# Oral-historical lineage of the Manala Royal House

## 1. King Musi - The Progenitor of the Ndebele People

The oral tradition of the amaNdebele begins with King Musi, son of uMhlanga and grandson of Nguni, a legendary patriarch whose sons spread across Southern Africa. Musi led his people to settle in KwaMnyamana (fertile lands near present-day Pretoria/Tshwane) around the mid-1500s to early 1600s.

He fathered seven sons, each of whom became ancestral lines of various Ndebele clans:

1. Manala (also called Mabhena) - from the Great Wife (heir)
2. Masombuka (Skhosana)
3. Ndzundza (Mahlangu)
4. Gegana (Kekana/Yakala or Mthombeni)
5. Rhwaduba (Mhwaduba/Mthibe)
6. Sibasa (Mpaphuli)
7. Dlomu

## 2. Manala - The First Successor

After Musi's death, Manala, as firstborn of the Great Wife, returned to KwaMnyamana, buried his father, and took his place as chief of all amaNdebele. \* This succession established the Manala Royal House as the senior house of Ndebele kingship.

## 3. Early Manala Line of Succession

Traditional oral genealogy records the following semi-historical leaders before documented colonial records began:

1. Manala - Founder of the Manala House
2. Ntshela - Son of Manala

3. Magutshona - Son of Ntshela
4. Mrawu - Son of Magutshona
5. Ncagu - Regent for nephew
6. Buyambo - Son of Mrawu
7. Mabhena I - Son of Buyambo, expanded territory
8. Mdibane - Son of Mabhena I, centered key settlements

These ancestors consolidated the Manala territory across parts of current-day Gauteng, Mpumalanga, and North West.

#### 4. Historical Manala Monarchs (Documented Names)

As contact increased with European settlers and state records began, the following rulers are noted in tradition and historical accounts: ([uvelaphi.co.za][4])

Ruler	Notes
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Sibindi fighting Mzilikazi's forces.	Ruled c. 1817–1826; killed
Mvula also died in conflict.	Ruled briefly 1826–1827;
Mgibe same wars.	Ruled 1827–1832; killed in
Silamba Manala authority post-conflict.	Ruled 1832–1892; rebuilt
Mdedlangeni circumstances.	1892–1896; died under mysterious
Libangeni	Regent and leader in exile.

Mabhena II 1906.	Returned to Manala lands; died
Mbhongo I	1906–1933.
Mbulawa	1933–1941.
Makhosoke I	1941–1960.
Mbongo II	1960–1986.

These are recorded rulers leading up to the modern era

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## 5. Modern Era: King Enock Makhosoke II Mabhena

Enock Makhosoke II Mabhena was born 14 April 1960 in Rooikoppen A. He is the current king, ascending in 1986 and coronated in the same year. His lineage comes directly from Mbongo II (Mabhena IV), his father.

The crown of the Manala House (and by traditional claim the amaNdebele kingship as a whole) remains with Makhosoke II. Although state recognition has been contested historically, the Nhlapo Commission and subsequent High Court decisions affirmed his position as the rightful king under customary law.

### Context on Leadership Disputes

- During the apartheid era, multiple Ndebele leaders were recognised by different structures, leading to dual kingships.
- The Nhlapo Commission on Traditional Leadership Disputes and Claims determined that under customary Ndebele law, the kingship resides with the Manala line and therefore with King Makhosoke II Mabhena.
- Government notices have recognised him in official gazettes, though this was once expanded controversially to include rival houses - later struck down in court.

Summary - Lineage in a Straight Line

1. King Musi
2. Manala(first successor)

3. Ntshela
4. Magutshona
5. Mrawu
6. Ncagu/Buyambo
7. Mabhena I
8. Mdibane
9. Sibindi → Silamba → Mdedlangeni → Libangeni
10. Mabhena II → Mbhongo I → Mbulawa → Makhosoke I → Mbongo II
11. King Enock Makhosoke II Mabhena (1986–present)