

BUHERA SOUTH

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 Study area

Buhera South is a communal area in Manicaland which receives little rainfall throughout the year. Local communities therefore rely on their cattle and food handouts to survive. The area is home to the self-styled war veteran Joseph Chinotimba, while Colonel Kenneth Mzilikazi is a prominent army officer operating in the area.

The area has 8 council wards and the researchers managed to cover 6 of them. Two wards are under an irrigation scheme initiated before independence. The area has a strong MDC support base hence the attempt by war veterans sympathetic to Joseph Chinotimba to wrestle control from the hands of the MDC.

1.2 Summary

- *Organisation of violence*

Joseph Chinotimba is at the helm of the structure of violence. Chinotimba, who was a ZANU-PF candidate for the constituency, formulates strategies with Col. Mzilikazi and Tsanana Muzokomba, both of whom are from the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA). The strategies are communicated to bases at Bhegedhe, Mutiusinazita, Birchenough Bridge and Mzokomba. The commanders of these bases are Christopher Mukombe (war veteran), Amos Marowa (youth chairman), and Collin Chiwata (ZANU-PF DCC) respectively. They organised youths to set up bases at Nechikowa (led by Mine Assima - war veteran and commander), Masvo (Gunura) (led by Didymus Madziturira), Muchowa (led by Zebeddi - ex detainee); and Mrs Chimuso - ZPF provincial member), Amos's homestead (led by Columbus Garawafa), Boom Gate (led by Regedzai Semwayo), Birchenough Brewery (led by Bhebhe - war veteran), and Mzokomba (led by William Dzimoti).

These base commanders organise the local ZANU-PF leaders and youths who beef up the composition of the bases and unleash violence on locals.

There are 10 dormant bases and 7 active bases in Buhera South.

- Organisational structure

HEAD

JOSEPH CHINOTIMBA
(CANDIDATE)

COLONEL MZILIKAZI
SERGEANT TSANANA MZOKOMBA
(All ZNA)

PRIMARY
BASES &
COMMANDERS

BHEGEDHE (MUTERO)
Christopher Mukombe
(War veteran/
commander)

MUTIUSINAZITA
Zumbi Command
Centre
Amos Marowa
(ZANU-PF Youth Chair)

BIRCHENOUGH BRIDGE
Collin Chiwata
ZANU-PF DCC

YOUTH
BASES

**Nechikowa
Base**
Mine Asma
(Commander)

**Masvo Base
(Gunura)**
Didymus
Madziturira
(Commander)

**Muchowa
Base**
Zebeddi (ex
Detainee)
Mrs Chimuso
(ZPF Provincial
Member)

**Amos's
Homestead**
Columbus
Garavafa

**Birchenough
Brewery**
Bhebhe
(War
Veteran)

Boom Gate
Gift Nendanga
Regedzai
Semwayo

2. DATA ON BASES

2.1 Table of bases

Name of base	Place (Building?)	Grid ref.	Status	Used				
				02	05	08	10	COPAC
BIRCHENOUGH BRIDGE								
1. Chikomo	Open space		Active			√	√	
2. Boom Gate	Open space along road to Agritex		Dormant			√		
3. Brewery	Building between Market and Growth Point		Active			√	√	√
MUTIUSINAZITA								
4. Mutero	Shops		Active			√	√	√
5. Nechikowa	Shops		Dormant			√		
6. Masvo (Gunura)	In a valley		Dormant			√		
7. Zumbi Command Centre	Shops		Active			√	√	√
8. Mutiusinazita	Mutiusimnazita Sec School		Active			√	√	√
9. Muchowa	Ruware		Dormant			√		
MUZOKOMBA TSAMAYI								
10. Tsamayi Homestead	Homestead		Active			√	√	√
11. Muzokomba Police Camp	Camp		Active	√	√	√	√	
12. Ngomaisi	VIDCO 5		Dormant			√		
13. Murairwa	VIDCO 2		Dormant			√		
14. Community hall	Near shops and Methodist church		Dormant			√		
CHAPANDUKA								
15. Mutendamambo	Mutendamambo school		Dormant			√		
16. Jori			Dormant			√		
17. Murowe	William Mazenge's homestead		Dormant			√		

Notes: All bases are active during election periods. Bases like Chikomo are active throughout the year because it is the centre for all information brought in by Chinotimba in Birchenough Bridge. A fortnight ago Chinotimba held a meeting to distribute food from the President's office. The food was meant for the aged but was in fact distributed amongst ZANU-PF members.

NB: Buhera South falls into natural region 5 where rainfall is a serious problem and droughts are experienced every year. Locals survive through food hand outs.

2.2 2008 Violence

- 2008 incidents of serious violence (for each base/place)

BIRCHENOUGH BRIDGE – CHIKOMO BASE					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<u>Wide spread Arson</u> (06/06/08, 0200hrs) Joseph Chinotimba ordered the violence. Perpetrators petrol bombed the houses. They were accompanied by armed army personnel. Perpetrators are still moving around in the constituency.	JS	Researchers visited the homes that were burnt.	-Collin Chiwata (DCC) -Regedzai Semwayo -Dominic Shamidho -Takunda Brandy	JS
2	<u>Torture & Murder</u> (27/06/2008, 1300hrs) Joseph Chinotimba ordered the murder. He sent six policemen to abduct the victim and took him to Chipangayi police camp base. Maunganidze was severely beaten and released later. He died on 30/09/08	JS	Visited him in Hospital	-Joseph Chinotimba -Six policemen from Chipangayi police station who could not be identified.	MA
3	<u>Food theft</u> (every day in May 08, daytime) Youths from Chikomo and Boom Gate invaded shops owned by MDC sympathisers at Birchenough shopping centre and looted groceries which were used at the bases. Base commanders at these bases ordered the violence.	BM		-Ark Shamidho -Collin Chiwata -Forbes Asma -Takura Brandy (Driver of Chinotimba) -Manager Shamba -Garikai Semwayo -Makwande Dakadzwi -Madambu Zvingana -Munacho Asma	MU

Notes: These cases were reported to the police but the police told victims that there was nothing that they (the police) could do. The police told victims to retaliate when attacked but not to report what the police had told them. Joseph Chinotimba along with Colonel Mzilikazi formulated the violent strategies and issued the orders.

MUZOKOMBA

Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p>(Tsamayi Homestead)</p> <p><u>Massive Stock Theft (01/06/08 –12oohrs -1300hrs)</u> Youths led by William Dzimati moved around the village taking goats, chicken and mealie-meal. The loot was cooked at the base (Tsamayi Homestead). Perpetrators are still in the area.</p>	NE TM (Victim)	Researchers talked with victims who confirmed the incidents.	-Bvukucha -Tawanda Chinofunga -Achiford Mutsigiri -Freddy Ngirazi -Majoni - Gabriel Chipadze - John Mangezi - Dhongi Mamvura -William Dzimati	TM BN EM
2	<p><u>Murder (June 2008)</u> Tedious Chokuda (headmaster at Murowe Primary school) was beaten to death by ZANU-PF youths led by Patrick Basopo. The youths later hung the dead body to portray a scenario of suicide.</p>	NE NM		-Patrick Basopo -Sosana Munongoya	TC

MUTIUSINAZITA

Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p>(Masvo Base(Gunura))</p> <p><u>Murder</u> (17/05/08, 1500hrs) Joseph Chinotimba issued the orders. Perpetrators approached the victim at his home. The victim sought to defend himself using a machete. He hid himself in a toilet. Perpetrators destroyed the toilet first, then took the machete from the victim and slashed him till he was unconscious. Chinotimba moved around with the victim bleeding profusely. He ordered his relatives to take the victim whom he referred to as a baboon.</p>	JS		<p>-Joseph Chinotimba -Watson Dzere -Didymus Madziturira -Never Munhanga (neighbourhood) -Alec Murairwa -Karakadzai Musharu -Simon M (War Vet) -Munhopa Zebeddi -Columbus Garavafa</p>	CM
2	<p>(Muchuwa Base)</p> <p><u>Rape</u> (06/08, 1000hrs) Margret Mudawose was raped by Tapesimba Mutazo. Perpetrators approached the victim at her home demanding food to be used at the base. Whilst some were busy looting food the others raped her.</p>	NE		<p>-Tapesimba Mutazo -Dema Musaputira -Never Munhanga (neighbourhood watch committee member)</p>	MM PG MP

3	<p>(Masvo Base(Gunura))</p> <p><u>Food, stock & property theft (05/08 – 06/08, 2000hrs-2300hrs)</u></p> <p>ZANU-PF youths moved around the village threatening villagers and looting stock and food. Norosy Dzere had his house destroyed by the youths. Goats belonging to Stewart Madziturira were looted. Esnath Munipa had her roofing material (12 sheets asbestos) and a plough confiscated. Ronica Dakasha had her bags of ground nuts confiscated. Mrs Dzere had her bags of maize and mapfunde confiscated.</p>	SM (Victim) -ND (Victim)	Researchers interviewed all victims	-Watson Dzere -Amos Munhopo -Columbus Garavafa	MM PG RM JM SR MB TD RD EM ND SM
4	<p>(Masvo Base(Gunura))</p> <p><u>Murder (06/08, 1500hrs)</u></p> <p>The victim was tortured to death. He was accused of supporting the MDC yet his sons were soldiers.</p>	ND J S SM RM		-Taurai Nemadire (Base Commander) -Jefta Masikati (Cde Chimuti) -Wevhu (War Vet)	SI

Notes: There were bases where there were no incidents of serious violence. The bases include Birchenough Brewery, Mutiusinazita-Nechikowa, and Zumbi. Zumbi base was the command base.

2.3 Current intimidation and violence

- Incidents of current violence and intimidation (for each base/place)

BIRCHENOUGH CHIKOMO BASE					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p>Threats (08/10, 1400hrs)</p> <p>People are threatened to support the Kariba Draft when COPAC members arrive to discuss the new constitution.</p>	JS		-Joseph Chinotimba -Collin Chiwata -Youths and War Veterans	JS BM CM

Notes: MDC Supporters are told to support the ZANU-PF talking points on issues like President's Executive powers.

MUTIUSINAZITA					
Incident	Description of Incident (Date, Time)	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p>Threats (20/06/10, 1300hrs) Norosy Dzere was threatened with arrest when election time draws near. Dzere was told that he would be released after elections. MDC activists were told that they will have to pay \$20 per head for being a MDC member in the community.</p>	ND		-Columbus Garavafa -Watson Dzere -Didymus Madziturira	ND SM RM

Notes: Victims were threatened with being beaten and arrested after the 2010 World Cup and being forced to pay \$20 for supporting the MDC. Perpetrators said they need a one state party in the country. In COPAC meetings constituents are told to support ZANU-PF on issues like executive powers of the president. Youths directed by Chinotimba are the source of intimidation. In Ward 27, ZANU-PF councillor Baskiti is forcing people to buy ZANU-PF party membership cards in order to be eligible for food assistance in the area.

COPAC

The run up to the COPAC outreach programme was marred by intimidation from Joseph Chinotimba and his lieutenants. However, the researchers completed the fourth visit before the constitutional process was done. People were forced to adopt the Kariba Draft, which is a brainchild of the former ruling party ZANU-PF.

2.4 Description of bases

CHIKOMO BASE						
PERSONNEL						
<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Rank/ID</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Source of information</i>
Collin Chiwata	40+	M	Base Commander	DCC (District Chairperson Commissar)	Informer	JS
FINANCE AND SUPPORT						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chiwata receives his payment from ZANU-PF. The money is delivered as cash to Chiwata by Joseph Chinotimba. • Chiwata receives incentives from Chinotimba occasionally. • In addition, Chiwata receives cash and groceries from Chinotimba occasionally. • Food distributions from NGOs are sometimes impounded e.g. recently they distributed food amongst themselves which was meant for the aged. 						
VEHICLES						
<i>Name of owner/ driver</i>	<i>Make/model</i>	<i>Reg.No</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Colour</i>	<i>Marking</i>	<i>Use</i>
Joseph Chinotimba	Toyota Hilux			Red	No mark	Personal vehicle used for disseminating information, campaigning etc.
WEAPONS						
<i>Name of owners/users</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Display(Yes/No)</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>		
J. Chinotimba	AK 47		Sometimes	Weapons were displayed during the 2008 campaign. Chinotimba used to fire shots in the mornings during the election campaigns.		
T .Muzokomba	AK 47		Sometimes			
Colonel Mzilikazi	AK 47		Sometimes			
ACCOMODATION AND EQUIPMENT						
<i>Description</i>	<i>Use</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>				
Residential Homestead for Collen Chiwata	Residence	This base is on the Chairman's residence. It is the site used to bring in information and make plans for the next agenda.				
Cellphones	Communication					

Notes:

Footprint (Q3-4)

The base is 100 metres away from peoples' homes. People have been subjected to violence and intimidation at a distance of about 4-5km.

Base (Q5-7)

The base is the homestead for Collin Chiwata. ZANU-PF top leadership like Joseph Chinotimba frequently visit the base.

Collen Chiwata is always at the base since it is her residential homestead. About 10 youths are usually at the base.

Perpetrators of violence (Q15)

Currently threats are being issued by youths from the base. People are being told what to say during COPAC meetings.

Vehicles

Joseph Chinotimba's vehicle is always seen whenever there are meetings or distribution of food.

Sources of information:

JS (Victim)

B M (Victim)

MUTIUSINAZITA BASE

PERSONNEL

<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Rank/ID</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Source of information</i>
Columbus Garawafa		M	ZANU-PF	Youth officer	Commander	JS
Watson Dzere	30s	M	ZANU-PF	Activist	Mobilising	ND
Didymus Madziturira	30s	M	ZANU-PF	Youth officer	Mobilising	

FINANCE AND SUPPORT

- Youth officers are paid by the government through Ministry of youth

WEAPONS

<i>Name of owners/users</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Display(Yes/No)</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>
J. Chinotimba	AK 47		Sometimes	Weapons were displayed during the 2008 campaign.
Colonel Mzilikazi	AK 47		Sometimes	Chinotimba used to fire shots in the mornings during election

				campaigns.
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Notes:

Footprint (Q3-4)

The base is 500 metres away from peoples' homes. People have been subjected to violence and intimidation at a distance of about 10 km.

Base (Q5-7)

The base is disguised as a shopping centre. Army personnel such as Colonel Mzilikazi frequently visit the base.

Columbus Garawafa is always at the base. About 25 people are usually at the base.

Perpetrators of violence (Q15)

Currently threats are being issued by youths from the base. People are being told what to say during COPAC meetings.

Sources of information:

SM

ND

2.5 Summary of Means of Control

- **Denial of access to food, resources and benefits**

ZANU-PF supporters take control of the distribution of all food resources in the constituency. For example, recently in Ward 33 ZANU-PF received maize from GMB meant for the old aged. However, the ZANU-PF structures shared it amongst themselves (Mai Mudimu, DCC Collin Chiwata and others). In Ward 26 (Mutiusinazita) people are forced to buy ZANU-PF membership cards at \$2.00 each before buying maize from the GMB. As a way of luring in people from the MDC to ZANU-PF, the alleged perpetrators shared amongst themselves ploughs, harrows and scotch carts. One of the major beneficiaries of these schemes is Chief Chamutsa who controls the committee responsible for distribution which was set up by Joseph Chinotimba to control NGOs entering the constituency. In addition, Charles Muzokomba (ZNA) disrupted the installation of an Econet booster when he demanded to know who had employed MDC youths for the project and why. The MDC youth commandeered a large number in the project.

- **Raiding resources and destroying property**

ZANU-PF stalwarts exhibited their power and control over the area by burning houses of their opponents in the constituency. For example, Collin Chiwata and his colleagues burned Jethro Simango's home in ward 33 in the run up to the June 27 runoff. They also confiscated livestock from some constituents, for example, they took 9 beasts from Aaron Mudekunya who is a former ZANU-PF central committee member who is now supporting the MDC. They took his livestock as a form of punishment for defecting from ZANU-PF. They destroyed property in Ward 33 when they smashed a local councillor's vehicle which used to carry MDC members to meetings. They also looted groceries from his shop at Birchenough Bridge growth point.

- **Coercion, threats and violence**

The militia operating in the area also used threats to force people to support the ZANU-PF perspective in the new draft constitution. Recently army members were deployed in every ward to educate people on what to say during the constitutional outreach programme. For example, Peter Nendanga (ZNA) was deployed in his home area in Birchenough Bridge (33) to threaten people to support the ZANU-PF agenda.

3. COMMUNITY STRATEGIES AND TACTICS FOR VIOLENCE-FREE ELECTIONS

3.1 Background

- **Community assessment**

Level of fear

Able to speak freely

1	2	3	4	5
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Unable and unwilling to speak freely

Willingness to resist violence

Strong will to resist violence

1	2	3	4	5
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No will to resist violence

Capacity to resist violence

Well organised, strong leadership

1	2	3	4	5
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Weak organisation and leadership

Comments

Through this turmoil people within the communities are scared of being exposed. They won't be able to gather freely for the forthcoming COPAC outreach meetings. ZANU-PF is gaining ground since people in some areas are scared to come out in numbers. No-one is empowering these constituents so that they are able to withstand the pressure exerted by ZANU -PF.

• Nongovernmental Organisations

ORGANIZATION	MANDATE	LEVEL OF INDEPENDENCE
OPHID	To cater for HIV/AIDS Orphans	Infiltrated by Chinotimba who stopped all activities that were taking place in the area of Mzokomba. The organisation has been catering for 103 children and 15 teachers have benefited from the project.
Mercy Corps	Borehole drilling (water source points)	The project was infiltrated by Chinotimba who is acting as if the project funds are his own. The organisation provides equipment and Chinotimba hands out the equipment to beneficiaries. Chinotimba then claims the funds came directly from him. Communities are told that the assistance of clean water is from Chinotimba.
Dananai	Cater for people living with HIV / AIDS. Food assistance is given to people in their programs. Dananai also has pass-on projects e.g. goat keeping.	Independent
MSF (Medicines Sans Frontiers)	Cure and prevention of cholera	Independent

3.2 Organisation

• Establishment of committees and operational unit

Defenders of peace have been established in three wards out of the six that were studied. The DoPs had a membership of six. Peace committees have also been set up in two wards comprising a membership of nine individuals. JS was appointed as the overall defender of peace for the whole constituency.

• Building of membership

Membership per ward is around twenty and it has been established in six wards out of eight. Defenders of Peace and peace committees have been tasked to drive membership within their respective areas. They also have been tasked to set up a district peace committee that will

oversee the overall project objective in the area. It shall be the duty of the district peace committee to act as connecting fibre amongst all wards.

3.3 Information and communications

- **Methods of gathering information**

The defenders of peace shall join ZANU-PF structures and try to claim positions of power in order to influence decision making and to continuously gather information necessary for the formulation of strategies and tactics to mitigate violence. Others shall assist Defenders of Peace by joining structures of ZANU-PF and gleaning the necessary information which will enable the prevention of violence. They will also gather information from pubs and beer halls. It shall also be the duty of peace committees assisted by DoPs to observe the political atmosphere and report any early warning signs of violence.

- **Methods of relaying information**

The area of Buhera South has moderate network coverage rendering the use of cell phones a viable option for relaying information. Where network coverage is a problem, peace committees shall make use of word pass, although this method shall be confined to areas within the constituency itself. To relay information to areas outside the constituency, the media shall be used. The media can also be used to shame perpetrators of violence.

3.4 Strategic Objectives

- To build the capacity of local communities to prevent and contain violence through peaceful means
- To understand how violence is organised so as to disable party sponsored violence
- To facilitate the registration of new voters
- To clean the voters' roll

3.5 Key Strategies

- **Food security and livelihoods**

The area under study receives very little rainfall. It is therefore necessary to make sure food reaches the villagers before elections to prevent the manipulation of voters. Hijacking of food distribution programmes initiated by NGOs should be brought to a halt. Agricultural inputs coming through GMB and other government subsidiaries should reach the intended beneficiaries on a non-partisan basis.

- **Conflict avoidance: getting out of harm's way**

Sometimes the level of violence puts the lives of villagers at risk. Peace committees have seen it fit to establish safe houses in Mutare so that those evacuated will have somewhere to stay.

- **Neutralising key points in structure of violence and control**

Personnel: The chief culprit is the self styled war veterans' leader Joseph Chinotimba. There is need to neutralise his influence. Collen Chiwata is also a key perpetrator. Colonel Mzilikazi is also a dangerous man whose presence can mean the taking away of someone's life. Amos Marowa and Christopher Mukpombe are also key perpetrators.

Organisation and bases: Bases which are disguised as shopping centres or as beer halls should be neutralised.

3.6. Tactical Actions

- **Food security and livelihoods**

The peace committees have tasked six MDC councillors within the constituency to negotiate with the management committee of Care International and push for a fair distribution of food. The peace committees shall help those who have been denied access to food. They shall push to inspect the list of beneficiaries. Peace committees have also talked to the researchers and asked if they can assist with a project that is centred on breeding of livestock which is a viable form of livelihood in the area.

- **Conflict avoidance: Getting out of harm's way**

Buhera South has a poor transport network. The roads are always in a bad condition especially during the rainy season. This renders the use of public transport a difficult option when evacuating targeted villagers. There are only two buses which ply the route of Buhera South. Defenders of Peace shall escort those targeted to an area as far as Birchenough Bridge where they will get transport to Mutare. Transport arrangements shall also be made to ferry these people back to the constituency so that they exercise their democratic right to vote. After voting they will also leave the area and go back to Mutare only to resurface after the announcement of the election results.

- **Neutralising key points in the structure of violence and control**

To neutralise Chinotimba, villagers shall be mobilised to shun using his grinding mills. Defenders of Peace and peace committees will claim that Chinotimba's grinding mills are making use of Chokuse Mupango's (Nyoka) blood which Chinotimba acquired after murdering the deceased in June 2008. They shall tell the villagers that Chinotimba still needs more blood for the success of his grinding mills.

The peace committees are going to file a case against Chinotimba for the murder of Village Headman Maunganidze and also the former headmaster at Murowe Primary School Tedious Chokuda as well as Chokuse Mupango.

A peace order shall be sought from the courts against Colonel Mzilikazi. Peace committee members shall reveal his influence in organising violence and therefore seek to declare Colonel Mzilikazi a prohibited person in Buhera South.

To neutralise youth officers, the committees shall identify the account numbers and EC numbers of these youth officers and engage the relevant authorities to make sure these perpetrators are removed from the government pay roll.

To neutralise shops which are being used as bases it will be suggested that soft drinks and drinks sold within these shops are actually made from the blood of those who were killed during the 27th June 2008 elections.

Peace committees have also planned to stage a demonstration against the police for their failure to open dockets for the 27th June 2008 violence. The Defenders of Peace shall gather the victims and organise a demonstration well before election time. Whilst in the process of demonstrating, it will be claimed that all perpetrators will be arrested soon and a death sentence awaits them at the courts.

Defenders of peace shall assist in arresting anyone who is convicted of an offence or who has been issued with a warrant of arrest by either the police or a court of law.

4. Support

Legal representation and support may come from Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. Funding should be sought for the logistical and technical support necessary. For example, cell phones and air time are needed for communication. In addition, bus fares for evacuations are needed.

Discrepancies

1. On page 1 in the 'organization of violence' box, four bases are named but only three base commanders. In addition, Mzokoba base is mentioned in the box twice but not on the organogram where as all the other bases are. Mzokoba is also mentioned in the table of bases.