

Somagwaza background and lyrics

Accompanied by drums and clapping, Mpondo men and women sing praises to their chief. Mpondo people traditionally sing this song to thank a chief for having killed a beast for them.

The **Mpondo people**, also called **amaMpondo**, are a **Southern African Nguni/Mbo** ethnic group.^[3] Their traditional homeland has been in the contemporary era **Eastern Cape** province of **South Africa**, more specifically what used to be the **Transkei** region.^[2] They speak a **Nguni / Mbo language** called *isiMpondo* which is similar to other Mbo languages like **Siswati**, **IsiHlubi** and **isiNdebele**. The amaMpondo are currently calling for their language to be recognized as the 12th official language of South Africa.

Having started establishing themselves as a nation from around 500AD, and by 1800 being one of 2 lands under **King Faku** (the last head of the Faku family) who inherited it from King Faku (the man who fathered the last King) before him, **Pondoland** (emaMpondweni) was a fully institutionalized society for hundreds of years before encountering Europeans or Zulu. During the colonial and Apartheid era, the Mpondo people lived in emaMpondweni in the **Transkei** along with a minority of free Europeans and Xhosas.^{[2][4]} (Wikipedia)

Away
Away
Somagwaza