

Hlengwe-Karanga conflict in Matibi 2 of Chiredzi district, 1950-2010

Introduction

The Hlengwe are dominant group in the southeast Lowveld of Zimbabwe since the 19th century. They were independently charting their course of socio-political and economic development till the turn of the 20th century when the whites began to have a direct interest in their area. The growing colonial interest in Hlengwe land between 1908 and the 1940s directly impacted on the hold of the Hlengwe on their land as they gradually lost it to the colonial master. By the end of the Second World War , they had lost most of their land and were driven into the reserves mainly Matibi 1 and 2, Sengwe and Sangwe. Matibi 2 was turned into an ethnic frontier after 1950 when the Karanga from the then Victoria province were driven into the area. This move by the colonial government shaped new relations between the Karanga from and the Hlengwe as both groups had to learn to live together side by side, sharing the limited resources in a hostile environment. This study therefore seeks to examine the resultant interaction between the two groups from the 1950s to 2010. in the study, I tried as much as possible to understand the causes and origins of ethnic tension in the area and subsequently went on to suggest possible interventions to transform the ethnic conflict upwards by offering positive goals for both parties so as to avert violence in the area