

**ISU LA MBEDI**  
**(THE INDIGENES OF THE**  
**SEA)**

**The Bimbia People**  
**(Botoba ISUBU)**  
**(THE REAL AND DEFINED**  
**HISTORY)**

**AS NARATED BY: PA PETER MOSSIMA LUMA.**

**CULTURAL: MOLA MBELLA EMMANUEL.**

## **INTRODUCTION**

There have been stories and comprehensions about the origins of the ISU LA MBEDI PEOPLE in other terms, THE BIMBIA PEOPLE.

Some say THREE fishermen came and settle in this beautiful sea area and they were called NGOMBA which is now BONANGOMBE, NGOLLO who discovered EKOLO which is now DIKOLO, LOSSENGE which is now BONABILE.

Some say a courageous fisherman came and after trying fishing various areas landed in BIMBIA, went back and brought his wife and started bearing children.

## **BIMBIA, WHO ARE YOU?**

*This thousand questionings and contradictions are one worth to know.*  
After a long research to know about the origin of my beloved people, which I was told was a strong and courageous community and now so diminished to face the test of time.

This is what I gathered from Elders, Historians. The INDIGINES OF THE SEA (ISU LA MBEDI) will speak for herself. Their style, cultural and interaction with various types of people around the world. This master piece is to appease THE INDIGENES OF THE SEA 'ISU LA MBEDI'.

**A MAN IS NO MAN UNLESS HE KNOWS HIS ORIGIN.**

## THE STORY OF BIMBIA (ISU)

Along the coastal region of this beautiful landscape, there live the INDIGINE OF THE SEA 'ISU LA MBEDI'. Men strong and courageous, who live in a community whose economic activity was fishing. He the decided to leave his people to look for a new settlement, so he moved eastward along the Atlantic Ocean. He came to a place along the eastern region of the coast, and tried to do fishing but due to the high current of this part of the Ocean he decided to move further eastward.

Then he settles in an area where the Ocean was slow and nice for fishing where he exercised his normal activity fishing. When he realised that fishing was good here, he then went back to his home land to meet his wife. He later came back with his wife to that prominent land which the water current was slow and nice for fishing. This strong and courageous man was called BILE "BILA". They settled in that area and exercised their normal activities, fishing and farming respectively. After a period of time, they were later blessed with children called MBIMBI and NGOMBE WILLIAM.

BIMBIA and NGOMBE, grew up to be as strong as their father Bile, They were as sharp and bold like a lion. Exercising fishing and helping their father in his daily activities. People were visiting and trading with these people in their newly discovered land, so both of them got married and NGOMBE and WILLIAMS gave birth of four children namely:-

- NGOYO JKACOBS
- NAMBEKE WILLIAMS
- ELATE WILLIAMS

These children had Christian's names because of their father interaction with the white men who could not pronounce their Native names.

Later on when the western began exploiting AFRICA, this part of the world was well known for the white actually traded with them. Now the Portuguese were the first to arrive and interacts with these people, after trading for a period of time, the son of the great and courageous man BILE was spotted out and recognised by the strangers as chief , or Leaders or better still head man, this was so because Mbimbia was the great and powerful man BILE. After trading with these people, the

stranger at first sight could not pronounce the name MBIMBIA, so they called him MBIMBIA.

They all lived together with the sons of his senior brother, Mbimbia's father and mother, now there was level of discontentment among the children and area became too small to content one of the sons of Ngomba Williams, the grand son of the great BILE had to migrate to the western part of the land, so NAMBEKE WILLIAMS decided to do his own exploit by travelling far away land, saying 'Nakedi Limbola', I am going to see. This new land was named after his statement (Limbola). He then settles in this new location and got married, Nambeke Williams gave birth to:

- MANGA WILLIAMS
- MAKI WILLIAMS
- ELUFA NAMBEKE WILLIAMS.

As grand son and great grand of the great BILE, thy exploited that great region and spread it throughout the western region.

MBIMBI, left behind with his elder brothers, father and mother. Mbimbi now gave birth to:

- NGOMBE MBIMBI (nick name after his beloved brother NGOMBE WILLIAMS)
- NGOLLO MBIMBI
- LOSSENGE MBIMBI.

The all only girl child and grand daughter of the BILE. They live in the same settlement with their Grand Father, Mother and Uncles, doing fishing and farming. Development actually speeded up and the area, in which they live, became small to contain all of them.

NGOMBE MBIMBI and NGOLLO MBIMBI, decided to move a little further with their wives and children, while LOSSENGE their sister was left behind with their Father, and Grand Father and the rest of the their Families.

Ngombe and Ngollo, live happily together, doing fishing and farming respectively. After a day's job, they gather in the evening with their family drinking and telling stories. They drank PALM WINE and BREWED

DRINK like MANGO STYLE AND RUM. One faithful day, while the son of Ngollo, the junior brother of Ngombe was fishing, he was eating up by a shark, this sad event cause Ngollo to move and search for a settlement, Ngollo was so grieved that the environment reminded him of his dead son and decided to leave alone in search of a new settlement. He spent the in newly discover area and come and come back to collect his wife and other children, he called the area 'EKOLO', which means a large area, that was how he then settle in 'EKOLO' accompanied with his wife and children leaving behind his senior brother and family.

Meanwhile, Lossenge got married to a stranger from a far away land (Douala) from the Bona Mokenge clan and had her own children.

Now the people had four, major settlements the area where they all lived as family, Ngombe's area, and that of Ngollo, not forgetting that of Nambeke Williams in Limbola. There was an increase in population and the people had to satisfy their spiritual desires. They worshipped the gods of the sea "Jiengu La Muanja". This ritual is been performed in the sea, by the chief priest and other members of the secret cult. They offer gifts to the Jiengu La Muanja, in various position or spots, which can be refer to as shrines. These gifts is given to the Jiengu La Muanja in a basket and the Jiengu is seen receiving the gift in the sea with it hands, at times this people in this secret cult discuss with the gods directly in case there is a serious problem in the village. On arriving on shore after rituals has been performed, the boat is pushed into the sea seven times before being anchored.

To confirm that the gift has been accepted, a basket is merged into the sea and if the basket is full with fish then their gods has accepted the sacrificed. This ritual is being performed usually when their fishing activities are not fruitful. The people used two typed of net called the Ndemba and Tasa. The three settlement gather together to perform this ritual. Fishing is said to be fruitful after a successful ritual.

These three settlements now became BONABILE named after the Great Bile who discovered the area and his daughter is said to have been the custodian of the area after the death of her parents. BONANGOMBE

after Ngombe the son of Mbimbi. Ekolo became Dikolo named after Ngollo who discovered the large area Ekolo.

These four settlers lived happily together in their various locations, after along period; strangers from Europe brought new type of worship that is the worshipping of an unseen GOD. Some of the members of the family were converted to this style of worship. This brought confusion and quarrelling among the people, since they were use to worshipping their god of the sea, the Jiengu La Muanja.

It is said that converts could be heard chanting and worshipping the Jiengu La Muanja, on the same day they also worship the newly introduced GOD to them, rebuking the strange GOD which their people now worship confrontations and fighting became the order of the day because of this new religion, that was the slow end of the peaceful community that live in harmony at first, stories and many other tales have been said about this confrontation between the Bimbia people and the strangers that brought this new type and style of worship.

These strangers from the western world brought in a lot of development to the MBIMBIA area, which can still be visible today. Now a son of this area, a true worshipper of this new worship, built a church house, the place of worship of the new GOD in BONANGOMBE. This great son of the indigene of the sea ISU LA MBEDI is called MR HENRY NJAILLA QUAN.

