

In 1720 the Dutch East India Company resolved to take possession of Delagoa Bay and establish a factory there. It was intended that the station should be a dependency of the Cape government, just as Mauritius had been. Thus important cases were to be sent for trial to the Cape, and in all cases except the most trivial there was to be a right of appeal to the high court of justice at the castle of Good Hope.

Towards the close of the year the advance party sent from the Netherlands to form the station, consisting of forty-four soldiers, as many sailors, and a few mechanics, with the officers one hundred and thirteen souls in all, arrived in Table Bay in two small vessels, the *Kaap* and *Gouda*. The officer who had been appointed head of the expedition died soon after reaching South Africa, when the council of policy selected a clerk on the Cape establishment, Willem van Taak by name, as his successor. A council was chosen to assist him, and a petty court of justice was constituted.

On the 14th of February 1721 the expedition, accompanied by a small vessel named the *Zeelandia*, sailed from Table Bay, and on the 29th of March reached its destination. The natives near the mouth of the Espirito Santo were found to be very friendly. They were under a chief named Maphumbo, who was a vassal of another named Mateke, though he seemed to be the more powerful of the two. Among his people was a black from Mozambique, who spoke the Portuguese language fluently, and who was at once engaged as an interpreter. This man stated that in his early days he had frequently come from Mozambique in the trading vessel, and it was on his seventh visit, about twenty years before, that he escaped from the pirates. Since that time no Portuguese had visited the place. He pointed out where the huts in which they had resided formerly stood, but as these had been made of reeds, no vestiges of them were left. The site was on Shefina island, which the Dutch afterwards