

11th February, 1956.

Mr. G.C. Grant,  
Adams College,  
P.O. Adams Mission Station,  
NATAL.

Dear Mr. Grant,

Thank you for your letter of January 30th, addressed to Ngcobo and myself. We were both distressed to learn about the poor matric results at Adams, and in the other Natal schools. As you know, we here at Fort Hare depend upon the good results of the African High schools throughout the country. We can see no reason why Adams should not be able to keep up to the standard of places like Lovedale and Healdtown. At Lovedale this year they had 100% successes in their Senior Certificate class - 28 out of 28, with 20 matric exemptions. Healdtown did not do as well as Lovedale but 22 of their students obtained Matric exemption. We had a number of applicants from Natal where you are writing the examinations of the Joint Matriculation Board, but very few have passed, as a result of which our enrolment is going to be low this year.

You are right in saying that the remedy for this state of affairs is a first class Staff, of men and women who are devoted to their work. I am convinced that there are African teachers who can deliver the goods, if only we can find them and keep them. Much of our trouble is due to the fact, with so many secondary schools being opened, good teachers are snapped up as Principals of these new schools. We can see from the good results in many of the secondary schools doing J.C. work that good teachers must be in charge of them. The Principalships also offer better remuneration and so the competition for them is keener. I am inclined to believe, too, that much closer supervision of the work of the teachers during the year is absolutely necessary, if good results are to be obtained. I know that it is the experience of the Principal of Lovedale High School that he has got to keep his teachers at their job the whole time. He has the reputation of being a 'slave-driver', but as long as the teachers know that this is done fairly and without discrimination of any kind, they don't mind and soon adjust themselves to the pace. The same applies to the students. The students at Lovedale know that any slackness on their part will cost them their place in the school. In this way both Staff and students are kept up to the mark. I know that examination results are not everything, but I think you will agree that it is a bad sign if the results of a school are consistently below standard. It generally indicates that other things as well are not as they ought to be.

We shall do what we can to keep you informed of any promising students that you might approach for service at Adams in 1957. Your suggestion about doing something to remove or minimise inequalities in salary scales based on colour only is not only fundamental but should be

broadened...

broadened to include other things besides salary scales. Adams, as we know, has risen to great heights in the past and there is no reason why it should fall off in achievements when its faith and its principles have not changed.

By the way, in view of what is happening in the Transvaal e.g. to the School of Christ the King, are you hopeful about registration as a private school?

With kind regards and best wishes for 1956,

Yours sincerely,

J.K.A.

