

University College of Fort Hare,  
P.O. Fort Hare, Alice, C.P.,  
Union of South Africa.  
16 July 1958

The African Authority,  
Bamangwato Reserve,  
P.O. Serowe,  
Bechuanaland Protectorate.

Sir, Re: Application for Residential Rights.

I herewith bego to apply for residential rights in the area of the Bechuanaland Protectorate under your jurisdiction.

I was born on October 20, 1901 in the district of Barkly West in the Cape Colony which was then a British Possession. Of Bamangwato extraction my forebears originally came from Bamangwato territory and my grandfather lies buried in Serowe where he died in 1920. Although I have lived all my life in what is now the Union of South Africa, I have maintained my interest in the Bechuanaland Protectorate, and have at different times served in various bodies concerned with the affairs of the territory. I am at present a member of the Governing Council of Moeng College in which I have been interested since its inception.

I am married and have a family of five children, two sons and two daughters. My wife holds the B.A. (Social Science) degree of the University of South Africa as well as a professional teaching certificate, and has had much experience in Child Welfare work and in Library work. She has held the post of part-time Library Assistant at the University College of Fort Hare for over ten years. My eldest son holds the B.A. degree of the University of South Africa and the LL.B. degree of London University which he obtained as an external student. He has been admitted to the Side Bar of the Supreme Court of South Africa and is at present practising as an Attorney in Durban. He is married and has a family of two daughters and one son.

My eldest daughter holds the B.Sc. degree of Rhodes University and the University Education Diploma of the same university. She is married, her husband being on the clerical staff of the Transkeian Territorial Authority at Umtata.

My second son holds the B.Sc. degree of Rhodes University and is at present temporarily employed as a Demonstrator in the Chemistry Department at Fort Hare. He still desires, however, to pursue his studies towards the Medical degree. He has been admitted for October 1958 to the Medical School of Birmingham University.

My second daughter is a second year student at the Durban Medical School for Non-Europeans. My youngest daughter is still at High School at the Matriculation stage. She intends to take up the Nursing Profession in the near future.

I myself hold the degrees of B.A. and LL.B. of the University of South Africa and the M.A. degree of Yale University in New Haven, Conn., U.S.A. I also did post-graduate study in Social Anthropology at the London School of Economics under the late Professor Bronislaw Malinowski. Being a qualified teacher I have been in the teaching profession since 1925 when I took up the headmastership of Adams High School in Natal. Since 1936 I have been on the staff of the University College of Fort Hare where I hold the post of Professor of Social Anthropology, Native Law and Administration and Vice-Chairman of the Senate of the College. In this latter capacity I have at various times acted as Principal of the College.

As far as public service is concerned, you may know that I was appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to serve as a member of the Royal Commission which reported on Higher Education for Africans in East Africa in 1937, and that I was a member of the Native Representative Council from 1942 to 1949 and of the Union Advisory Board on Native Education from 1945 to 1950.

As regards character and personality I should like to refer you to Dr Alexander Kerr, former Principal of the University College of Fort Hare whose address is P.O. Alice, C.P. and Dr H. Jowitt, former Director of Education in Bechuanaland Protectorate. Mr Seretse Khama and Mr Tshekedi Khama to whom my family is well known would also be able to furnish you with such information as they would care to give.

I shall be reaching retirement age in a few years' time but I have no doubt that if my application is successful I should be able to render service to the tribe and the territory in different directions for some time to come.

Although this is a general application for residence anywhere within the area under your jurisdiction, my present preference would be for residence at Pilikwe.

I shall be glad to furnish you with any further particulars you may require. Trusting that my application will receive your favourable consideration,

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Yours respectfully,  
J. K. Matthews