

University College of Fort Hare,
P.O. Fort Hare, C.P.
30th October, 1957.

Mr. S.D. Ngcobo,
Nuffield Foundation House,
34 Leinster Gardens,
LONDON, W.2.

Dear Mr. Ngcobo,

Thank you for your letter of 24th October 1957. I was glad to learn from it that you are settling down fairly rapidly in your new sphere of labour. I have no doubt that the longer you stay in the U.K., the more thankful you will be that you did eventually decide to make the trip.

Since my return from Johannesburg for our 'long vacation', I have been wanting to write to you, but the resumption of my duties as Acting Principal has left me very little time. My colleague, Professor Giffen, as soon as he saw me arrive, turned over everything to me and retired to the precincts of his Department. I do not even see him around the College unless I summon him to my office or to a special committee meeting. He did, for example, serve quite faithfully on the committee appointed by Senate to draft a memorandum for the Commission on Separate University Education. Believe it or not we did manage to get out a statement and the Senate did agree on it unanimously and it is now in the hands of the Secretary of the Commission. We do not know when the Commission will call for personal oral evidence and if it does, who will represent our Senate. The Lecturers' Association also sent in a memorandum separately.

As far as appointments are concerned, as you know the Mokoena's have left us and are now in Ghana. I should not like to say anything about the manner of their going. Dollie will tell you more about that. Simon Radebe has also resigned and is leaving for Ghana soon to join Murphy who is running there a branch of the Institute for African-American Relations. The latest loss on our staff is Dr. Rooks who has been offered the Chair of Divinity in Natal. He is more than pleased about this promotion. On November 8 the Appointments Committee will have to deal with about 8 or 9 appointments which Council will have to confirm on November 15.

The Principalship question is still hanging fire. At the last special meeting MacCrone failed by one vote to secure the nomination. Now Alty has decided to advertise the post and applications are slowly coming in. We hope a final decision will be arrived at on November 15.

I am sorry that you were not informed about the Lectureship in your Department. When I got here I found that the three Lectureships in Divinity, Mathematics & Economics had been approved and had already been advertised. I am afraid the applications for the Economics post are very few. In fact Mayisela's application is the only one that is worth serious consideration. Whether the Council will decide to appoint I cannot say. Parsons is not interested as he intends to go overseas for further study next year.

I have noted your request with regard to the sub-letting of your house. Dollie hasn't said anything to me about the matter yet, but there's plenty of time. There's such a shortage of houses that it will probably not be difficult to get a tenant for the period indicated, although every tenant is naturally anxious to get a house which he can occupy for a longer period than just a few months.

I have heard about Miss Nongauza's going to Oxford next year. The African Overseas Scholarships have been advertised and a number of people seem anxious to take advantage of them. I am busy writing testimonials for them.

The family is keeping well. Pulane & Co at Healdtown are doing well. They have not yet become members of the M.R.A. which seems to be concentrating on Healdtown and Umtata nowadays. We are planning a Luncheon for my son Joseph who has now successfully completed all his examinations and has applied for admission to the Side Bar. The Luncheon will be held on November 30, 1957. I am sorry you will not be there to deliver the oration, and to do justice to the meal which will be available.

I must close. Please give my greetings to all my friends over there. Tell them I hope to make the trip to the U.K. as soon as Swart & Donges decide to become more amenable to reason. How's Yolisa getting on?

Yours sincerely,