

Rametsana,
P.O. MOLEPOLOLE,
Bech. Protectorate.

9th May, 1950.

Professor Z.K. Matthews,
South African Native College,
FORT HARE.

Dear Professor Matthews,

I am writing this letter from Cape Town. I am here with my wife to combine both business and family work, as she is consulting a doctor.

I particularly want to write to you in connection with the Bamangwato College. I have recently had a letter from the Principal of the College in which he proposed to dismiss Nurse Jessie Kgosana, who is our school nurse, as also Mr. Molwa Sekgoma who was appointed to the school as a secretary and housemaster for the boys. As a member of the Board of Governors you will no doubt have received copy of the Minutes of the Standing Committee, and in these Minutes you will observe that the Committee has accepted the dismissal of these two people, subject to the confirmation by the Chairman of the Board of Governors, who is the Government Secretary.

Personally I am very unhappy about this somewhat continuous losing of our staff. This is only the second year of our school, and we seem to be losing our staff as fast as we get it. During the last year we had a teacher by the name of Mr. Msengi, who, from his qualifications and testimonials, was a very good teacher; it was not long before he resigned. We had also a very efficient European Nurse who socially fitted in very well with the African staff at the school and who got on very well with the students, and yet she resigned, and I was not convinced with the reasons given for her resignation. Then it was proposed to dismiss Mr. Molwa Sekgoma and Miss Neo Pheelwane. Miss Pheelwane is by profession a domestic science teacher, and has a tremendous experience in teaching domestic science at various Native Institutions in the Union, Rhodesia and the Bechuanaland Protectorate. She is a woman of outstanding character and in one of her testimonials given by the Principal of Tiger Kloof she was described as a woman of "sterling qualities" and yet at the last Board of Governors' Meeting Mr. Keen very strongly recommended her dismissal, to be replaced by a servant to be employed in the school kitchen. Miss Pheelwane's present work is a Matron and the cook for the children.

I do not know whether the Chairman of the Board of Governors is going to accept the recommendation of the Standing Committee, and should he suspend these proposed dismissals pending the meeting of the Board of Governors, at the meeting I shall be inclined to oppose the proposals. Nurse Jessie Kgosana is an outstanding personality and it would be a great pity to lose her services on such weak grounds. Mr. Molwa Sekgoma may be inefficient as a school secretary but he is a fully qualified teacher of experience and from my personal contact with the school and the villages surrounding the school Molwa is very useful at that school, being a local man, I know that he has got considerable influence over the students and even the staff and he is the one whom the Principal could use effectively

My real purpose in writing to you this note is to express to you my fears that the moment some of us take a very strong line in opposing Mr. Keen at the Board of Governors meeting he is going to resign as he definitely proposed to at the last Board of Governrs meeting but stayed on on pursuation. Should Mr. Keen resign I have now definitely come round to the point of view expressed by many of you, namely, that we should have an African principal for the Moeng School. In this connection I am afraid we shall have a strong opposition of the Governors, unless we can put up an outstanding personality. Can you think of anybody who could even take over the principalship for a couple of years to assist in getting the school on its feet and then such a person could return to his normal duties? I appeal to you to give this matter your serious consideration because if we do not put up a man the Govern~~ment~~ will put up somebody quite inferior.

Please do not let the present political situation of the Bamangwato people disturb you. I am beginning to see daylight and in fact I am firmly convinced the administration of that tribe will be restored shortly to the African people; it only needs most careful handling and tactful approach, and some of us are busy this very moment to see what can be done.

I shall be glad to receive your reply and comments.

With kind regards.
Yours sincerely,

