October 23, 1948.

Prof. Z.K. Matthews,
P.O. Fort Hare.

Dear Sir,

I have read through Mr. Mbebe's manuscript which you handed to me for perusal. Before I make my comments on the work I must apologise for having taken so long over this work small though it is. This has been due to pressure of work.

(a) The plot of the book is not bad but the geographical setting is in some cases at fault.

(b) Also some of the facts need revision, for example, the writer in one place says: "Singabantu afavela kwaSandile kwaNgqika eBofolo---etc." If the writer has set out on a purely simple path of fiction and created his own geographical surroundings it would not matter so much but where he tinges his work with actually known places, I think he should be correct in his geographical setting. So to correct the above I have suggested "KwesikaNaqoma" instead of "KwaSandile" and I have explained the facts on the opposite page.

(c) The writer has not divided his work up into chapters what one finds is merely headings.

(d) The manuscript is too short for a book, I reckon that the manuscript would only produce as big as booklet as E. Guma's Nomalizo or less.

(e) One writer indicated to us, on advice, that it takes about three full pages of foolscap, handwritten, to make one printed page of an average size book. I think the writer would be advised to follow the same plan.

(f) The other mistakes of orthography and obscure points, I have tried to indicate as I marked along.

(g) On the whole the manuscript makes interesting reading and I advise the writer to be free and not try to tie himself to what he reckons to be the strict Xhosa idiom as that may have a bad effect on his style. This does not observe however mean that he must not observe grammatical rules.

Lastly I would suggest to Mr. Mbebe to re-orientate his manuscript and re-write again bearing in mind the points I have indicated above and also those appearing in the book as a result of my marking.
Hoping that Mr. Mbebe will take my remarks in good spirit and make a further effort to write once more.

I am,

Yours sincerely,

G. I. H. Nyan'ane