

Fort Hare,
Alice, C.P.
5-3-51

Mr M.O.M. Seboni,
P.O. Box 93,
Nigel.

Dear Mr Seboni,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 22nd ult. When your letter arrived we had already had the pleasure of entertaining Mrs Seboni in our humble home. She did not wait to be looked for by us but she came on her own to her home and we were very pleased about that. Yesterday she was here again and we spent a very pleasant afternoon with her. She seems to have settled down very well. No doubt she has already written to you about the subjects she has decided to take, and I am satisfied that her choice is wise, having regard to the future. You can rest assured that as far as we are concerned all our services will be at her disposal at any time. We hope she will make herself at home in our home where she will always be welcome.

As far as my son is concerned, he is already up at Wits. Unfortunately he has not yet been able to get accommodation in the University Hostel, so that at the moment he is staying at Robinson Deep with Mr and Mrs Denalane. I hope you will look him up now and again. He is in a very difficult atmosphere, as you know, and we are naturally very anxious about him. So far we have found him to be a very sensible fellow, with a mind of his own about things, but one never knows how the temptations of youth may overcome a promising lad.

Now for some confidential information about your application for the post of Senior Lecturer in Bantu Languages. The appointing Committee has gone into the matter, and I am informed that the majority are in favour of the appointment going to you. There are however one or two points about which they are not quite happy. It is felt that your application would have been strengthened if you had had a senior degree in Language, say B.A. Honours or the M.A. in Bantu Languages. In a way it is a pity that you did not write your B.A. Honours last year. Anyway you will be receiving a letter from the Principal in the near future offering you the post on condition that you arrange to do some senior work in Language at a University either before or after you have taken up the post. Personally I would prefer that you do this advanced work at Wits under Duke rather than at Cape Town under Lestrade. I am of the opinion that Duke is a better research scholar than Lestrade and a better teacher. One suggestion is that you should resign your post as soon as possible and spend the rest of this year doing postgraduate work at Wits, and take up your post here at the beginning of 1952. The College would see to it that you and your family are adequately provided for during the period of your study. Alternatively you might come and take up the post say in June, and then go off next year for your postgraduate work. I think that the former would be the better course, because you would know that once you came down, you would not immediately have to go off again. You see we are anxious that the man who takes up the headship of this Department should be well up in the latest developments in Language study so that he should develop the Department on the right lines and gradually develop the research side of the work. That is what we had prepared Letele for, but unfortunately he was cut off right at the beginning of his work. That is the position in a nutshell. When you receive the Principal's letter I want you to give the matter careful consideration and make up your mind as to what you consider would be the best course. I sincerely hope that you will find it possible to accept the post, whatever the conditions laid down. These conditions are intended for your academic protection as well, of course, as for the good of the work of the College. The prospects here are fairly good for a man who is determined to work hard at his subject. I have no fears about you as far as that is concerned. Ke di bonwa ke wena? Kwena. Rona le Ngwetsi kwano re solofela gore o tla re itumedisa ka go dumalana le dintlha tse Principal o tla bang ha pele ga gago.

Ka ditumediso Weno rure,

J. K. Matthews