

University College of Fort Hare,
P.O. Fort Hare, Alice, C.P.,
Union of South Africa.
10-12-59

C2.203

Professor J.H.A. Lang,
University College of Ghana,
Legon, Accra,
Ghana, West Africa.

Dear Professor Lang,

I have just received the letter dated 18th November, 1959 which you wrote me c/o Mr Harold Isaacs in the U.S.A. This will explain my delay in replying to your letter.

I am leaving Fort Hare at the end of this year. As you may know the Union Government is assuming full control of the College as from January 1, 1960 in terms of the Fort Hare Transfer Act passed in the last session of the Union Parliament. As a result of the fundamental alteration in the terms and conditions of service of members of staff, and following the arbitrary termination of the services of some of the English-speaking members of our staff, a number of us decided to resign rather than to be associated with the new set up. I am therefore now looking for alternative employment.

So far I have not yet definitely accepted any post. Up to now I have had offers of employment as Visiting Professor from four American university institutions and of a Fellowship from one (white) South African university. I have not yet made up my mind about any of them. I have also heard from my friend, Senator Leslie Rubin, about the proposed establishment in Ghana of an Institute of African Law. As one who has taught the subject of African Law as recognised and applied in the South African Courts for over 20 years, I have informed Senator Rubin about my interest in the study of the problems which will probably be pursued in such an Institute. I should be interested in considering an appointment in this field.

I am sending you my Curriculum Vitae from which you will see that I hold the M.A. degree of Yale University (Thesis: Bantu Law and Western Civilization in South Africa) and the B.A. and LL.B. degrees of the University of South Africa. I did post-graduate work in Anthropology at the London School of Economics under the late Professor B. Malinowski and in Historical Jurisprudence under Dr Ivor Jennings.

I have been in the teaching profession since 1925, in the field of secondary education until 1935 and since 1936 in higher education. At Fort Hare I have been in charge of the Department of African Studies in which we prepared students for degree courses in Social Anthropology, African Law and Administration (African and Public). Prior to the establishment of a separate Department of Law at Fort Hare, I was also responsible for degree courses in Roman Law, Criminal Law and Roman-Dutch Law. This year the law courses I gave for the Department of Law included African Law and Roman Law.

For further information about me I should like to refer you to Dr Alexander Kerr, Alice, South Africa, Mr C.P. Dent, M.Sc., University of Natal, Pietermaritzburg, Natal, South Africa and Dr Henry P. Van Dusen, Union Theological Seminary, Broadway at 120th Street, New York 27, N.Y., U.S.A. and Dr H.J. Simons, School of African Studies University of Cape Town, Rondebosch, South Africa, and Mr Daniel Chapman, now of Achimota. Thanking you for your kind letter, I remain

Yours sincerely, J.K. Matthews

University College of Fort Hare,
P.O. Fort Hare, Alice, C.P.,
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10-12-59

C2. 203.1

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