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P.O.Box 81,
Alice.
15.3.61

CONFIDENTIAL

The Registrar,
Rhodes University,
Grahamstown.

Dear Sir,

in reply to your letter RM/B dated 6th March, 1961 in which you ask for my opinion of Mr S.M.Guma, I beg to make the following statement:-

I have known Mr Guma personally for many years. I first got to know him as a young undergraduate student at Fort Hare where he was studying for the B.A. degree of the University of South Africa. By the time he had completed the requirements for the B.A. degree-- which he did with distinction in the Bantu Language--we had formed such a high opinion of his capabilities that we persuaded him to accept a temporary appointment as Junior Lecturer in our Department of Bantu Languages to act for one of our Senior Lecturers who was going to London University for post-graduate-study.

Mr Guma acquitted himself so creditably in that temporary job that when he completed his service the College granted him a bursary to enable him to proceed to Cape Town University where he studied for the M.A. degree in Bantu Languages. As soon as he had completed his studies there, we offered him a post as Lecturer in our Department of Bantu Languages, a post which he has filled with distinction up to the present time. I understand that he has recently been promoted to the status of Senior Lecturer in Bantu Languages. Mr Guma is equally competent in both the Nguni and the Sotho group of Bantu Languages, although he himself regards the Sotho languages as his special field.

Both during his student days and since Mr Guma has shown himself to be a scholar of outstanding ability, who is meticulous in his work, devoted to his students and of unimpeachable loyalty to his superiors. His teaching ability is proved by the uniformly good results he has had with his students. His research has been concerned with the "Ideophone" in Bantu Languages and with historical aspects of the development of the Sotho Language.

Always neat in appearance, courteous and dignified in his deportment, he has a pleasant personality, is of a cheerful disposition and has always got on well with both staff and students. His character and conduct have always been beyond reproach.

I might mention that Mr Guma is happily married to one of the most distinguished women graduates of Fort Hare, who holds the degrees of B.A. and B.Ed. and is a teacher of wide experience who recently acted as Principal of the Jabavu Secondary School.

I have no hesitation in recommending Mr Guma warmly for serious consideration for the post for which he has applied.

Yours faithfully,