

April 8, 1981

Mr W.S. Mcwabeni  
3083 Coglan Avenue  
Ekuhlanyeni  
Bulawayo  
ZIMBABWE

Dear Mr Mcwabeni,

Robert Sobukwe was a very close friend of mine, and I am at present writing a book about him. Veronica Sobukwe has told me about you, and has suggested that I write to you in the hope that you will be willing to give me some information about his stay in Standerton.

I would greatly appreciate it if you could let me have answers to these questions:

- 1) Over what period was Mr Sobukwe in Standerton?
- 2)
  - a) At which school did he teach?
  - b) Which classes did he teach?
  - c) Which subjects did he teach?
  - d) What was the reaction of
    - (i) students,
    - (ii) staff, to him?
  - e) Can you describe the school? i.e. what type of building was it? What were the classrooms like?
  - f) Where did Mr Sobukwe live? (Mrs Sobukwe tells me she thinks he lived in your house for a time, and then across the street). Did he have his own room? What sort of house was it?
  - g) What did he do at night and over weekends?
  - h) Was he involved in politics? What was he doing? (I believe he was warned at one stage by an education department inspector to leave politics).
  - i) Do you know why he did not take part in the 1952 Defiance Campaign?
  - j) Did any people visit him in Standerton about politics?
  - k) It is said that at one stage he was involved in a coal business. Do you have any details about this?
  - l) Did he have any encounters with the Security Police in Standerton?
  - m) In what circumstances did it happen that Witwatersrand University offered him a job to teach Zulu? (I ask this because he seemed to have been more fluent in Xhosa than in Zulu).

I do/2.....

I do hope that you will not mind my asking you these questions. Any other comments or information you might have would also be welcome.

Yours sincerely,

BENJAMIN POGRUND

***PUBLISHER:***

*Publisher:-* **Historical Papers, The Library, University of the Witwatersrand**

*Location:-* **Johannesburg**

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***DOCUMENT DETAILS:***

*Document ID:-* **A2618-C115-1**

*Document Title:-* **Letter to Mr Mcwabeni with questions (copy)**

*Author:-* **Benjamin Pogrund**

*Document Date:-* **08-04-1981**