

P O Box 1138  
JOHANNESBURG  
2000

April 5, 1984

Mr W.S. M'cwabeni  
"Ekuhlanyeni"  
3083 Coglan Avenue  
Bulawayo  
ZIMBABWE

Dear Mr M'cwabeni,

I hope this letter finds you well.

As you might remember, during 1981 you were extremely helpful in sending me details about the time that Robert Sobukwe spent in Standerton. The book about him is now being written and I wonder whether I can ask for further help from you in order to clarify a few matters.

The questions I am hoping you can answer for me are:

1. Did he need to get permission under the pass laws to work in Standerton?
2. Had he been struggling to get a job when you offered him work in Standerton?
3. I assume the Jandrell Secondary School was not a mission school: so who controlled it?
4. What does the name "Jandrell" mean?
5. How many pupils were in the secondary school?
6. You wrote in your letter to me that when Bob Sobukwe arrived at Jandrell in 1950 "things were slightly better but nothing to write home about". Can you please give some details about what this means? How did the quality of the classrooms compare with Healdtown?

7. Do you remember if Bob Sobukwe had any previous experience of singing or training choirs before he took over the training of Jandrell's senior choir?
8. Did the Standerton location have a name? If so, what was it?
9. What was life like in the location?
  - a. Were the houses satisfactory?
  - b. Was there electricity?
  - c. If not, what light was used at night?
  - d. Were there taps?
  - e. And what sort of sewerage?
  - f. Were the roads tarred?
  - g. Was it very cold in winter?
10. How often did Bob go to political meetings in Johannesburg? How did he get there: by train or car? How long did the trip take?
11. What language was spoken by the people in Standerton's location? Was it mainly Zulu and Ndebele?
12. In your letter to me you described how Bob Sobukwe gave a speech at a meeting about Hintsa. But why did he get into trouble about this? If he got into trouble because the interpreter made a mistake what exactly was the mistake?
13. Was Bob Sobukwe actually dismissed from his job and then reinstated when the school committee went to Pretoria? Or was he never actually fired?
14. When did he start preaching in the Methodist Church? Was it very soon after he arrived, or long after? At which church did he preach? How often did he preach?

I do hope that you will not mind my asking you these further questions, and I hope that you will be able to let me have your replies soon.

If you have a phone you could let me have your number and I would telephone you immediately.

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely,



BENJAMIN POGRUND

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