

MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH AFRICA: A TRIBUTE TO DR CYRIL RAMAPHOSA

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Abstract

The aim of this Paper is to narrate a personal experience, which led to my encountering the President of South Africa through research. I was at the University of Transkei, which now is known as Walter Sisulu University in Mthatha, South Africa. I served as Professor of Educational Psychology and Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor Professor Alfred Moleah who had returned to South Africa from exile in America after 27 years. One of my engagements was to coordinate exchange academic programmes between South African and American Universities. With Unitra the exchange programme was with the City University of New York. The programme involved exchange of both students and academic staff. In the process of doing this, I ended up in New York as a Fulbright Senior Resident Academic at New York Metropolitan College for a year. While there, some of the research involving world cultures, which were published in the Encyclopedia of World Cultures. Mine was on Banyankole ethnic group in Western Uganda, where my spouse was born and grew up. About ten or more years after the publication of my research, President Cyril Ramaphosa, was busy researching on Ankole cattle, as he had a keen interest in Ankole long-horned cattle. In his literature review, he came across some of my national and international research on Banyankole. He found my publication valuable to his own research. His interest was not only in what I had written, but also wanted to meet the author of such Papers. Therefore he launched an earnest search for Professor Mwamwenda! Only, finally to find me at the University of Mpumalanga, Nelspruit! During our first meeting, we must have talked for more than an hour. In brief, This is the story I want to share with you, as you read this Paper.

Keywords: World cultures, cattle farming, encounter tribute, president literature review, meeting with the President, Uganda, America, South Africa.

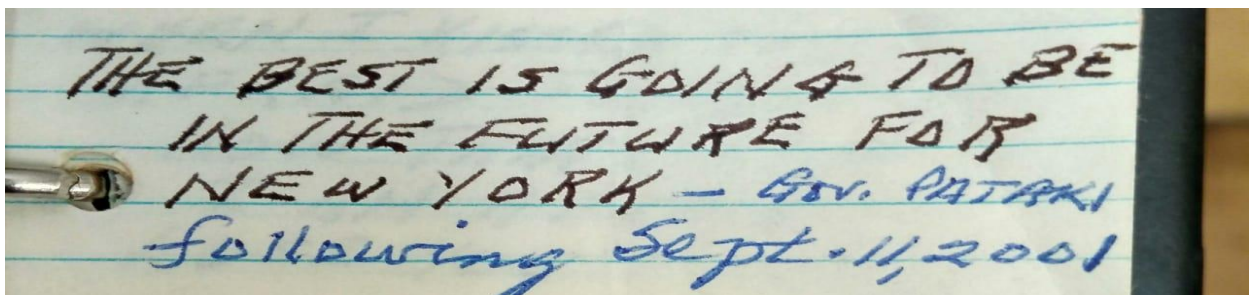


My Encounter with the President: A Tribute to Dr Cyril Ramaphosa

To all College and University Students, Academics, Scholars, Educators, Teachers, Learners and all other interested Readers. The honour and pleasure is mine to share with you: **My Encounter with the President: A Tribute to Dr Cyril Ramaphosa; the newly elected and inaugurated President of the Republic of South Africa! What an honour! God Bless!**

I do recall some years back, I was in the United States of America, as a Visiting Professor attending the Inaugura Address of George Bush Junior as President of America. He told the Americans and World audience at large that, he had an American story that had no end, which he wanted to narrate. And I assume you know what story that is. **DEMOCRACY!**

I too have a story to narrate, though it is not related to democracy. It is related to scholarship and generation of new knowledge through research;



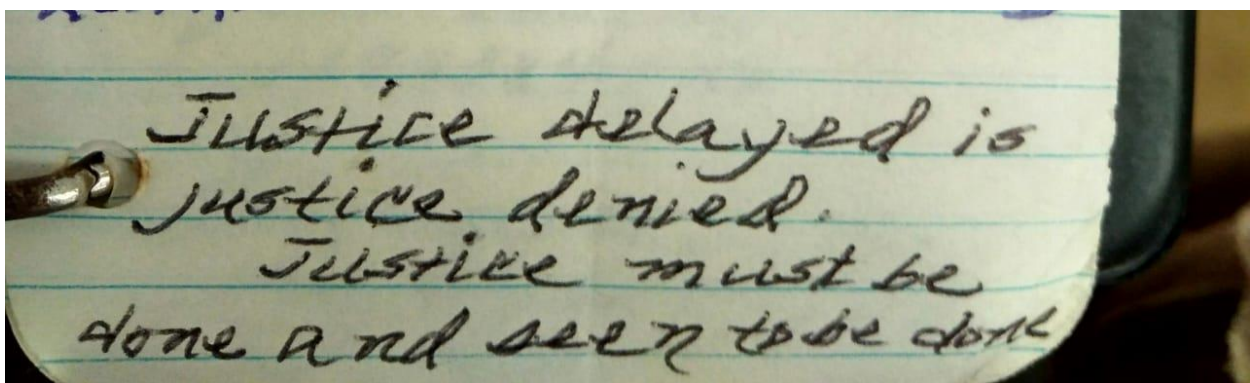
Prior to my joining the University of Transkei, I was born and grew up in Mbeya, Tanzania, where I completed my Primary and Middle School Education. This was followed by completion of Secondary Education in Uganda. Then worked as a Teacher in Kenya for a year, prior to my proceeding to India for University Education. On completion, I returned to Uganda as a Secondary school Teacher for three years. From there, Left for Canada and America for Graduate Studies. This was followed by being appointed as a Lecturer in Educational Psychology at the University of Botswana for two years.

The University of Transkei needed an Educational Psychology Professor. And so they sent the Dean of Education, Professor Moletsane to recruit me. I was agreeable to going to the University of Transkei. And therefore I was invited for an interview, which I performed to their satisfaction. I reported on Duty last week of December 1983.



From that date I remained at Unitra for 18 years! Serving the University as Professor, Head of Department, Dean of Education for six years, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Executive Assisntant to the Vice-Chancellor for six years. During all these years of management, I retained my work of teaching and doing research and publishing. I was the most popular Professor among students and academics and non-academic staff. In Research and Publications I remained unrivalred in all six faculties, including the Faculty of Science and Mathematics. For your information, Mathematics is not a Science! I learned this when I was doing my undergraduate in India. While there, I registered for an elective course in College Algebra taught by an American Professor.

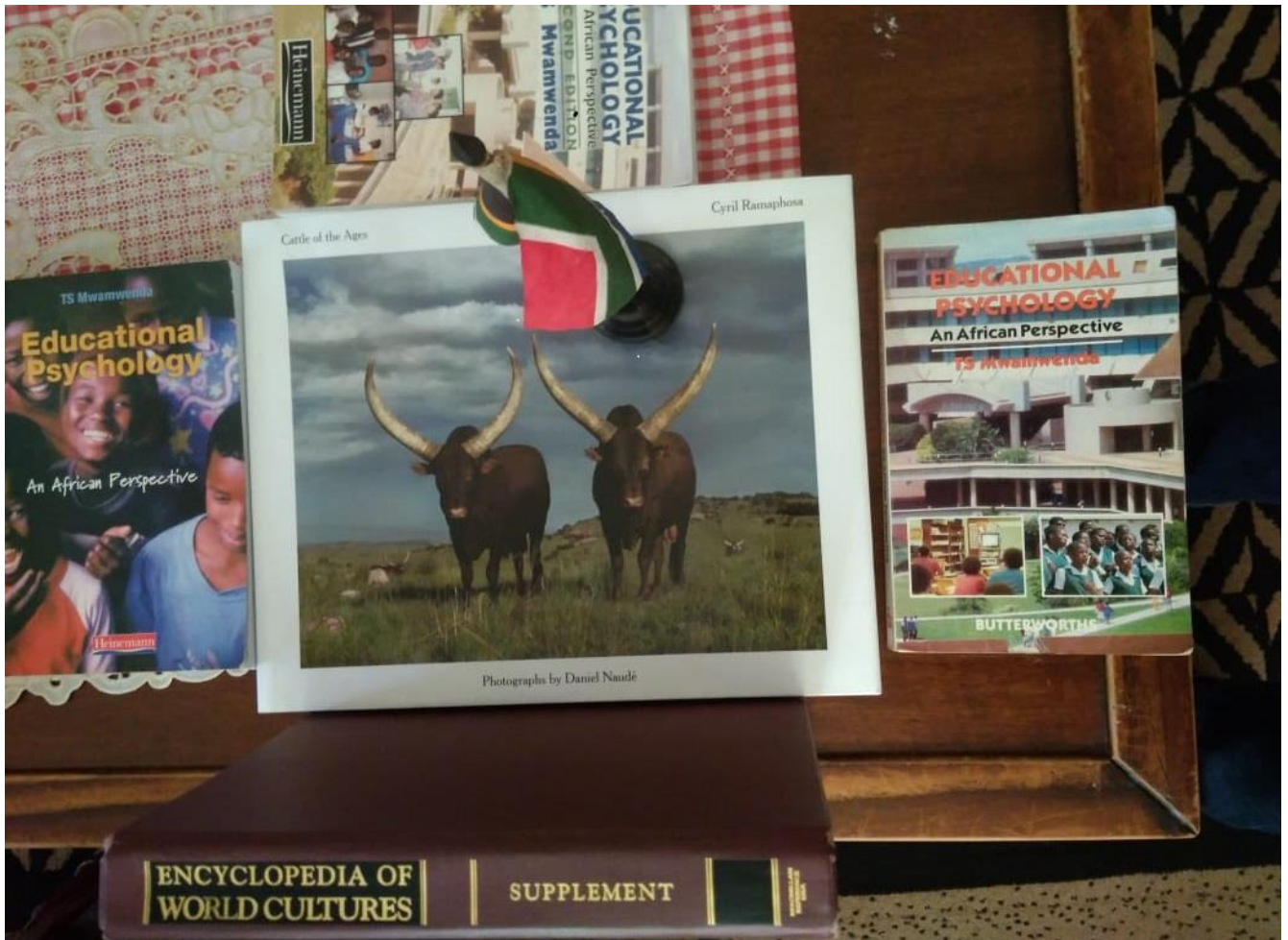
You might ask, how does this have a bearing on the President? It does because, I have mentioned my involvement in research, which he has been doing for a while. We will get there soon and now! But before we get there, give me a minute or so, to clarify something I have mentioned in my profile. I pointed out that after being a Deputy Vice-Chancellor, I assumed office as Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor. That was not a promotion, as it was a demotion! You are right! It happened because of cheap University politics! The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alfred Moleah resisted this move to no avail! But he was very eager to have me continue as Deputy Vice-Chancellor. When this failed; he resolved to appoint me as Executive Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor.



Now the President is getting closer to emerge more directly. But I warn you, there is quite a while, before you get a full revelation! This is a story, am narrating. Be patient! It was during my new office that, I was in charge of a Programme called Academic Exchange Programme, which involved South African and American Universities students and academics Exchange Programme. So Unitra sent its academics to further their studies at the City University of New York, in addition to some academics visiting the University for a month or so. All this was part of my work, which also made provision for me to visit America for important meetings.

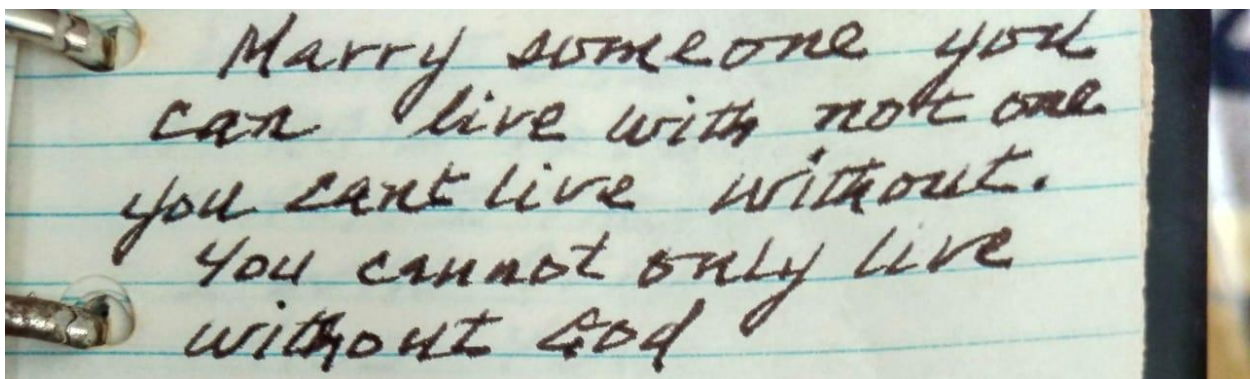
The President is getting closer and closer! While this was going on, Professor Jinx Grace Rooselvet of New York Metropolitan College expressed interest to Professor Diana Gordon my counterpart from the City University of New York, of her College getting someone from South Africa join her College as a visiting Professor. Professor Gordon recommended my name, as a suitable candidate. She advised her to go through the State Department, which would make

arrangement with The Fulbright Fellowship Programme, who would do the financing for my going to America and partially pay my salary. I was then contacted to submit an application. This was successful and commenced packing ready to leave for New York in the USA! I did leave in December 2000.



Came January 2001, I reported on duty at New York Metropolitan College as a Visiting Professor from the University of Transkei, South Africa. On their learning that I had written Educational Psychology: An African Perspective 2nd Edition, arrangement was made for books to be imported from Heinemann Publishers in Johannesburg to be used as textbook. This was not the first time to happen in North America. Ten years before, I went to Canada as a Visiting Professor for a year. I was assigned to teach Psychology. Students had bought their textbook and work Book. On learning that my book first Edition had been published by Butterwrths in

Durban, the students demanded that I place for an order the books from Durban. I argued against the idea, on the ground that they already had the textbook and work book. They insisted that I do so. And so I conceded! Following this, I made a remark that, normally Africa places orders for books from America or Europe. Now we were doing the opposite. The students told me that, it was rare to take a course taught by a Professor who is the author of the textbook. They were wonderful students! The first time, I had a five-hour lecture; they all rushed to the Director of the Campus and wanted knowhow he got me to teach them! When asked why, they raised such a question? Their response was that my performance for the five hours I interacted with them was superb! I was told this by the Director himself! This made my day! This was not all! During one of those five-hour lectures, they challenged me on the question of polygamy, as practised in Africa. They said a number of times you have told us about African husbands getting married to more than one wife, including your father who had four wives! “How would you like your wife to have more than one husband? I was shocked and screamed, “That will never happen!”



Let us go back to New York, where the President may be arriving at any time. So I continued teaching at New York Metropolitan College. The students enjoyed my classes and some of them were persuading me to remain in America after my visit ended. But this was not possible on the basis of the agreement I made with the American Government. What was the agreement? On completion of my visit, I was to return to my country and share my American experience for two years! Then if I was interested to go back to America and live there; I would be free to submit my application for permanent residence. I am an African and want to remain in Africa!

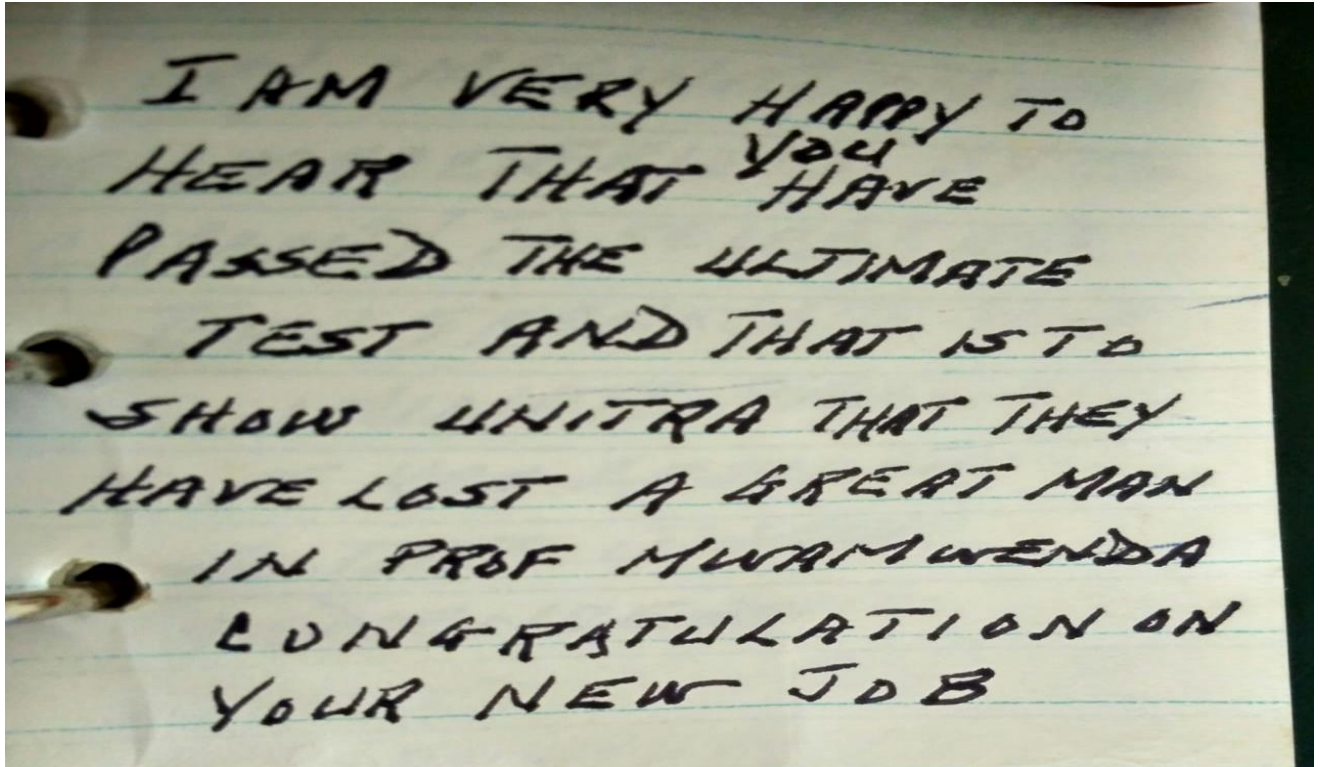
Within three months of stay at the College, I stopped by the office of the Senior Administration Officer, Ms Jacqueline Span, of the College, who happened to be a close friend of mine. She knew the Mandela family well; she used to talk to people like Kadar Asmal, the Minister of Education and Henry Kissinger a former Secretary of State of America. She told me that she had received an advert from Yale University in New Jersey, which is the backyard of New York City. Yale is one of the top universities in the USA. During the weekend, I was talking to Dr Sam Bosire, Chief Information Officer at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. When I mentioned Yale University in connection with President Ramaphosa, he alerted me that Yale University is number five on the list of the best universities in the World! I told him that I did not know that, and thanked him for such information.

Lest I forget what I wanted to say, which does happen, when am lecturing wherever I have been. The advert she received was calling for academics in the USA to participate in writing Papers about cultures of many ethnic groups in Africa and other parts of the World. Such Papers would be published in the Encyclopedia of World Cultures. Supplement. The Publisher was Macmillan Reference USA, New York. Inasmuch as I was from Africa, she thought I would be interested in participating.

I looked at the advert and saw a good number of African ethnic groups that I could write about. In fact, I had already written on some of them in my **Educational Psychology: An African Perspective**. After looking at the list, I looked at her and asked what will I get for writing what is expected? She said I would have the Paper published and would be given two American books on cultures of American Red Indians! I responded that, but writing Papers of that kind takes time and money to get it typed. I told her that if there will be no money paid, then am afraid, am not interested in participating. Those who may not know how President Ramaphosa comes in. Because his research on The Cattle of Ages is directly related to what I have been talking about. The first contact I had with him was related to what I wrote on Banyankole in Uganda, where he got the Cattle of the Ages!

After turning down the request for participation, I was challenged by own mind for several days! I started debating within myself both silently and loudly, regarding the decision I had taken. The

debating went on like this: Tuntufye, you have been given an opportunity to write about your people and you turn it down! And yet you complain about Westerners not writing correct information about African cultures. Here you



have the opportunity to correct this! You say you want money. What will that money do for you, and how long will you have it? Is that money more important than the contribution you will be making to knowledge? People will be able to read what you have written for years! Is this not worth more than money you want? Please take up the challenge and go back for the advert and respond positively!

I resolved to go back for the advert and the Lady gladly gave it to me. I felt happy I had taken up the challenge and prayed that God would help me do it well. I made my submission indicating that, I would write on two of the Ugandan ethnics, namely Basoga and Banyankole. Within a week, I heard from Professors Melvin Ember and Carol Ember, the Editors at Yale University in



New Jersey. They wrote back expressing their gratitude that I had decided to participate in the Project. They indicated that I should write on one of the ethnic groups. They did not stop here, but proceeded to raise an important question! They said tell us why you think you qualify to write on Banyankole?

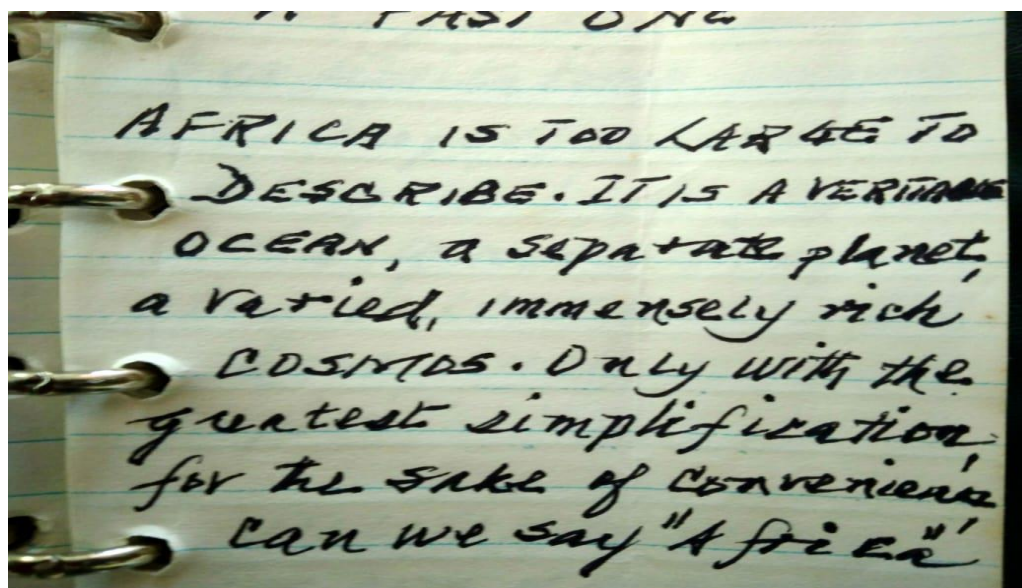
I wrote back and stated that, I had several reasons why I thought I was the right person to write on Banyankole. One, though am a Tanzanian, I studied in Uganda for my Secondary Education; I taught in Uganda after completing undergraduate studies in India; I had written a book in Educational Psychology in which there was a section that I had written about Banyankole; and most importantly I had visited Ankole a number of times, and that am married to Bernadette, who was born and grew up in Ankole!

They promptly responded and told me I was eminently eligible to write on Banyankole! It was beautiful to read and hear such wonderful response from Professors at Yale. With the letter I received, they had attached an outline of 24 subtopics they wanted me to write about Banyankole. President Ramaphosa is now fully involved in our discussion, because this part directly touches on his research on Banyankole and the Cattle of Ages. Welcome Mr President! You are welcome to raise questions for clarification. Where am unable to answer satisfactorily, Bernadette will come to my aid, since she is an authority on Banyankole on virtue of being a Mnyankole. Hope that is fine with you Bernadette!

After carefully examining the 24 subtopics I was expected to write on, I went to the College Library in search of sources of information. I did find some, but not to my total satisfaction. On consultation with the Librarian, I was advised to visit several other Libraries, which were quite a distance from the College and residence at International House 500 Riverside Drive. With Subway Trains all over New York, reaching such Libraries was not a serious problem. And so I visited them for a number of days. It must have taken about a two months working on the given assignment. When I completed handwriting it, my Student Assistant did the typing for me. It must have been about 30 pages long. I did the editing and to me it looked quite fine. Therefore I submitted it to the Editors for their attention. There was no acknowledgement that the Manuscript had been received.

It must have taken about two or so weeks, when I received the feedback. That day was not a good day for me. What I read and saw, I could not believe! It was terrible and very depressing. The Editors were outrageous in their criticism, and they spared me no hope of ever getting it right! I resolved that I would not work on the Manuscript again! For more than a week, I continued thinking about it and wondering whether it was smart of me to give up writing this important Manuscript. I resolved to give it a shot one more time! And so I worked on it carefully and resubmitted it.

They worked on it and sent it back. I looked at and compared it with the first submission, and convinced myself that,



I could live with the second set of feedback. Since the criticisms were germane, it gave me hope, that I would get it right. And so I started working on it immediately. As soon as I completed it, I resubmitted it. They sent it back, and looked doable with ease. What they did was that they would take a sentence from the beginning to the end, cross out every word that they thought was redundant and retain only the words needed. They did this almost on each page. And so I made the correction, as directed by them, which I thought was very easy for me. And indeed it was!

On completion, I resubmitted it for the third time, confident and proud that this time round, I was going to be successful without question. And indeed I was! I received their email without the Manuscript attached! What did they say in their communication? I was told that, as far as they were concerned, they were satisfied with the Manuscript. However, the Manuscript would be forwarded to a Senior Editor, who would decide whether indeed the Manuscript was ready for publication. That did not worry me much, as I was certain that, the chance of them disagreeing with the previous evaluation was not that good. And indeed I was right! They wrote to say all was okay and the Manuscript would be published shortly. I felt good and proud again! Then a thought came to my mind that I should phone one of the three Chief Editors, namely, Carol Meyer. What did I want to say to her? I expressed my gratitude that finally my work had been accepted for publication. I went back in time, and told her the first time I got their feedback, I had given up of ever working on the Manuscript. She congratulated me on my success. And then proceeded to tell their side of the story to which I listened attentively! She told me that the first time they sent me their feedback; they never hoped hearing from me again! What a good ending of the story! But do not forget that, like the American story as presented by George Bush Junior has no end. We continue on the next paragraph, Mr President.

All the above has been happening in New York, since we arrived here on our way from South Africa. Soon we will be boarding our flight **back home sweet home, the land of our fathers and mothers long time ago!**

My tenure at New York Metropolitan College came to an end in December 2001. Prior to this that is November, I was interviewed and appointed telephonically for the position of Executive Dean for the Faculty of Education at the University of Natal. I was the first Black Dean in a

White University comprising ten Faculties! I shook the foundation of that University with my fiery speeches as an orator! The Whites could not believe it! That is Professor Mwamwenda. The same year, I commenced serving at the University Natal, my article on Banyankole in Uganda was published in the Encyclopedia of World Cultures Supplement. Ready for President Cyril Ramaphosa to engage with it, as he researched on Banyankole and their Cattle of Ages. That was history in the making. And it took him about a decade to get in touch with the Author Professor Tuntufye S Mwamwenda. Welcome President Ramaphosa and Thank you for gracing this Chapter in **Educational Psychology: An African Update Perspective**. In this chapter many people in South Africa, many African countries and some parts of the World will get to know that, you are more than a politician and President of South Africa. You are also a scholar, a researcher, an author, multilingual, business man, multimillionaire, married to Dr Shepo Matsepe a daughter of a South African multimillionaire His Excellency Patrice Matsep;, a father of a son Andile married to a Ugandan, from where the Cattle of the Ages have their origin before emerging on South African soil; they owe you their existence, for without you, they would not be here; and you are a farmer in your own right! You are a Jack of all Trade! You are much more than an ordinary African hero; you are a super hero worldwide! Congratulations on such outstanding achievements in your lifetime!



My appointment at the University of Natal was a contractual one for a period of five years. This coincided with my retirement and so I left the University of KwaZulu-Natal, which was its new name after merging with the University of Durbanville. For the following months, I stayed home doing research and my work, as External Examiner both in South Africa and outside South Africa. During this period, I came across an advert in the Sunday Times. Long Island University in New York wanted to establish Global College Centre in Durban, South Africa. For this they were planning to appoint the Director for the College Centre. Students would come from Long Island University in New York for a period of three months, and then return to New York to complete their various Programmes.

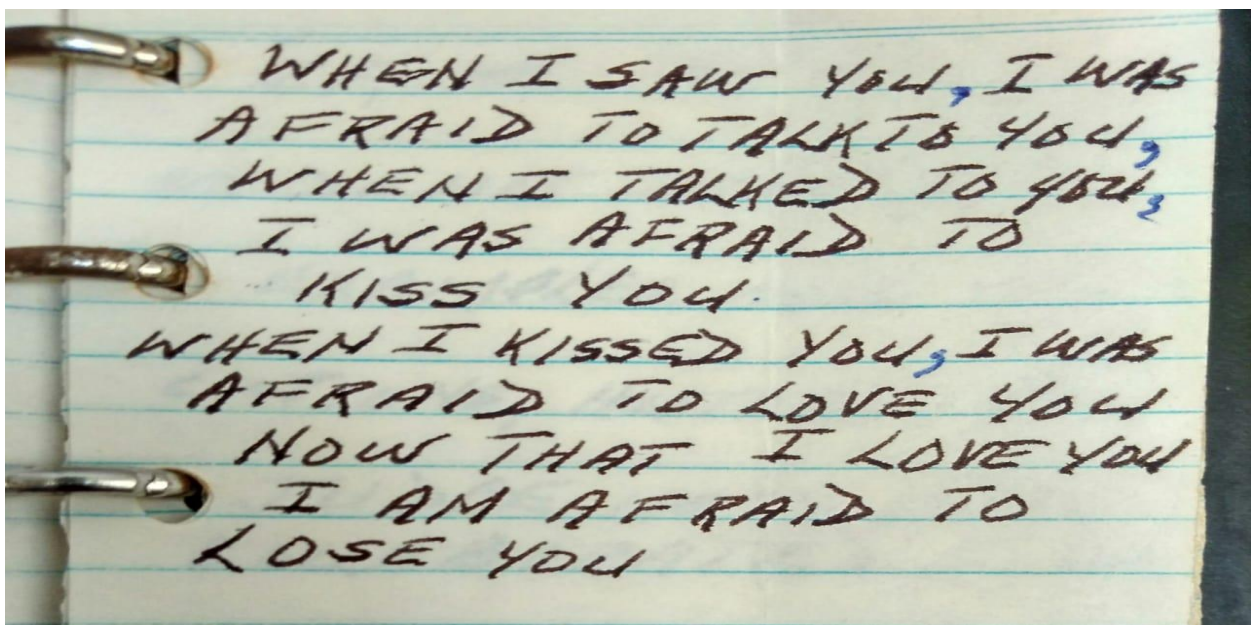
I submitted my application for the position of Director. In no time they responded. They arranged for a telephone interview. After interacting with me for about an hour, they were more than satisfied with my performance. I was under the impression, that was the end of the interview. Not in their perspective! The bomb exploded! I was told arrangement was being made for me to fly to New York, for yet further interview! I screamed and said I cannot believe this! They said it was true! I thanked them immensely on my knees! America was calling Professor Mwamwenda again in his lifetime! Hallelujah!

And so within two weeks, I flew to New York to spend a week of interviews and orientation. I was directed to start Global College in Morningside, Durban. Apparently some of them had been there and thought it was the ideal place to have Global College, South Africa Centre. My Mandate was to search and identify the appropriate building for this purpose. All students would come from the Main Campus and I would also be responsible for recruiting staff within South Africa. All this, I did to their satisfaction, my Lord! Professor Mwamwenda in action! I cannot help being a proud African!

After serving there for more than a year, I was appointed as a Research Fellow and Project Manager at Africa Institute of South Africa in Pretoria. I was assigned to carry out research on Education in Africa starting from Early Child Education, Primary Education, Secondary Education, College Education and University. Participants were academics selected from universities located in North Africa, West Africa, Central Africa, East Africa and Southern

Africa. Each participant was asked to write a Chapter on their given countries. All these Chapters were submitted for monitoring and evaluation to make sure they were written as expected. It took an entire year to do this enormous amount of work. When this was completed, the Chapters were compiled into a big book of 700 pages called **The Triumph and Prosperity of Education in Africa**. Edited by Professor Tuntufye S Mwamwenda and Director Research Professor Phindile Lukhele-Olorunju of AISA. An International Conference was organized by AISA for all participants from Across Africa to present their chapters at the Conference. It was more than wonderful for us all to come together and talk about the work that we had done so delightfully for the Continent and People of Africa and the World at large. God bless Africa!

The end of the Conference ended my work as a Research Fellow and Project Manager with the Africa Institute of South Africa Pretoria, as well as my excellent working relationship with the Director Research Professor Phindile Lukhele-Olorunju. In Kiswahili we have a saying which says, "Mountains never meet; but human beings do meet!" Indeed, two years later both of us found ourselves serving at the University of Mpumalanga, whose founding Vice-Chancellor is Professor Thoko Mayekiso whom I have known for three decades! President Ramaphosa while in search of Professor Mwamwenda, finally traced him to the University of Mpumalanga. And who did they contact?



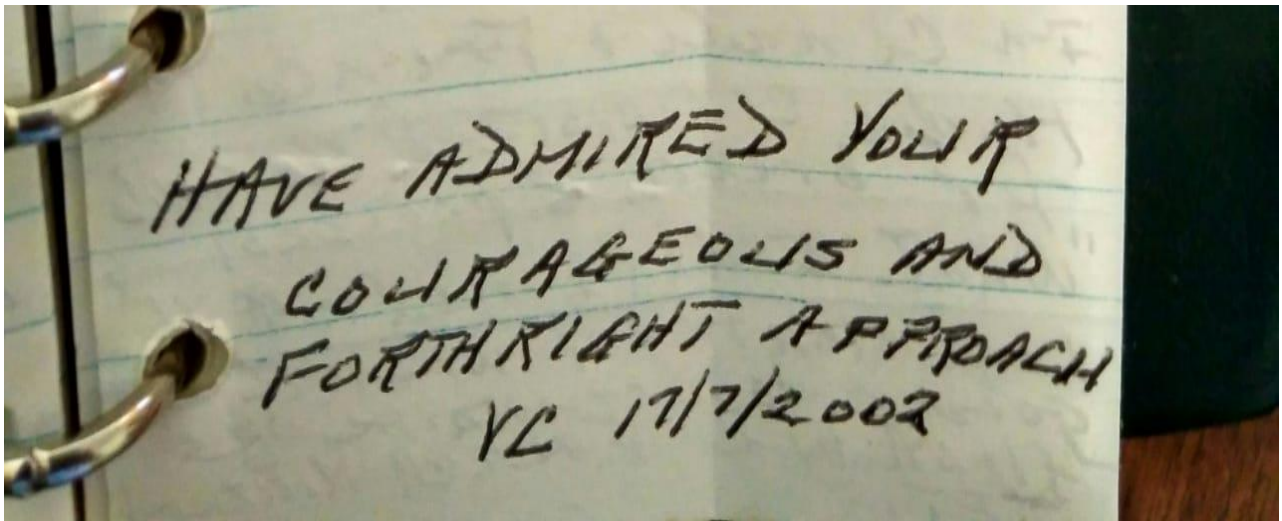
Professor Lukhele-Olorunju Director Research Management: University of Mpumalanga, under which I serve the University of Mpumalanga headed by Professor Thoko Mayekiso. In the course of last year, I found myself writing to our joint colleagues at the University of Transkei, namely, Professor Henry Thipa in Port Elizabeth and Professor Norman Hodge in Australia. What did I write and say about Professor Mayekiso? I would rather cite it than paraphrase my own words:

For the past five years, I have served as a Research Consultant at your former University NMMU and the University of Mpumalanga. Beyond merit, Prof Thoko Mayekiso's magnanimity has been instrumental in my appointment and retention in the two Institutions of Higher Learning in South Africa.

I wish to remind you that, what I have been narrating in the preceding paragraphs is a branch off, from what I had started commenting on my departure from from AISA. Where did I go? I joined Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University as a Research Consultant, reporting to Professor Mayekiso who held the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research, Innovation and Community Service. Within a year of my service, Professor Mayekiso was appointed Vice-Chancellor of a new University of Mpumalanga. I was extremely delighted that, she was so highly honoured by the people of South Africa. But I did not want to part with her, the way I had to part with Professor Lukhele-Olorunju. And so what did I do? Inevitably, I pursued her to where she had gone! No sooner had I commenced working, did Professor Mayekiso inform me of the appointment of Professor Phindile Lukhele-Olorunju, as Director Research Management, and that I would be reporting to her, as a Research Consultant. Without regret, that is what I have been doing ever since! And so Professors Mayekiso, Lukhele-Olorunju and Mwanwenda constitute a geometric triangle of 180 degrees!x

I have been talking for too long and I think it is time I concluded, so that you have time to see some transparencies in this particular Chapter. Now the President is about to go through an encounter with Professor Mwanwenda. One of his staff in Pretoria phones the University of Mpumalanga, in search of Professor Mwanwenda, The call is redirected to Professor Lukhele-Olorunju as Director Research Management of the Division. He introduces himself as being from the Office of the Deputy President in Pretoria. Professor was rather puzzled, why the Office of

the Deputy President, second in Command, would be looking for Prof Mwamwenda and asking for his phone number! The representative calmed her down by elaborating that, the Deputy President is engaged in research in which Professor Mwamwenda has had some of his papers published internationally! That is what he wants to talk with him about. That disarmed Prof. and she proceeded to furnish him with my phone number. Professor called me to tell me about this anecdote and alert me to be expecting a call from Pretoria. That naturally excited and delighted me! Prior to this, I had interacted with Thabo Mbeki, Sibusiso Bhengu and Kadal Asmal; but not Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.



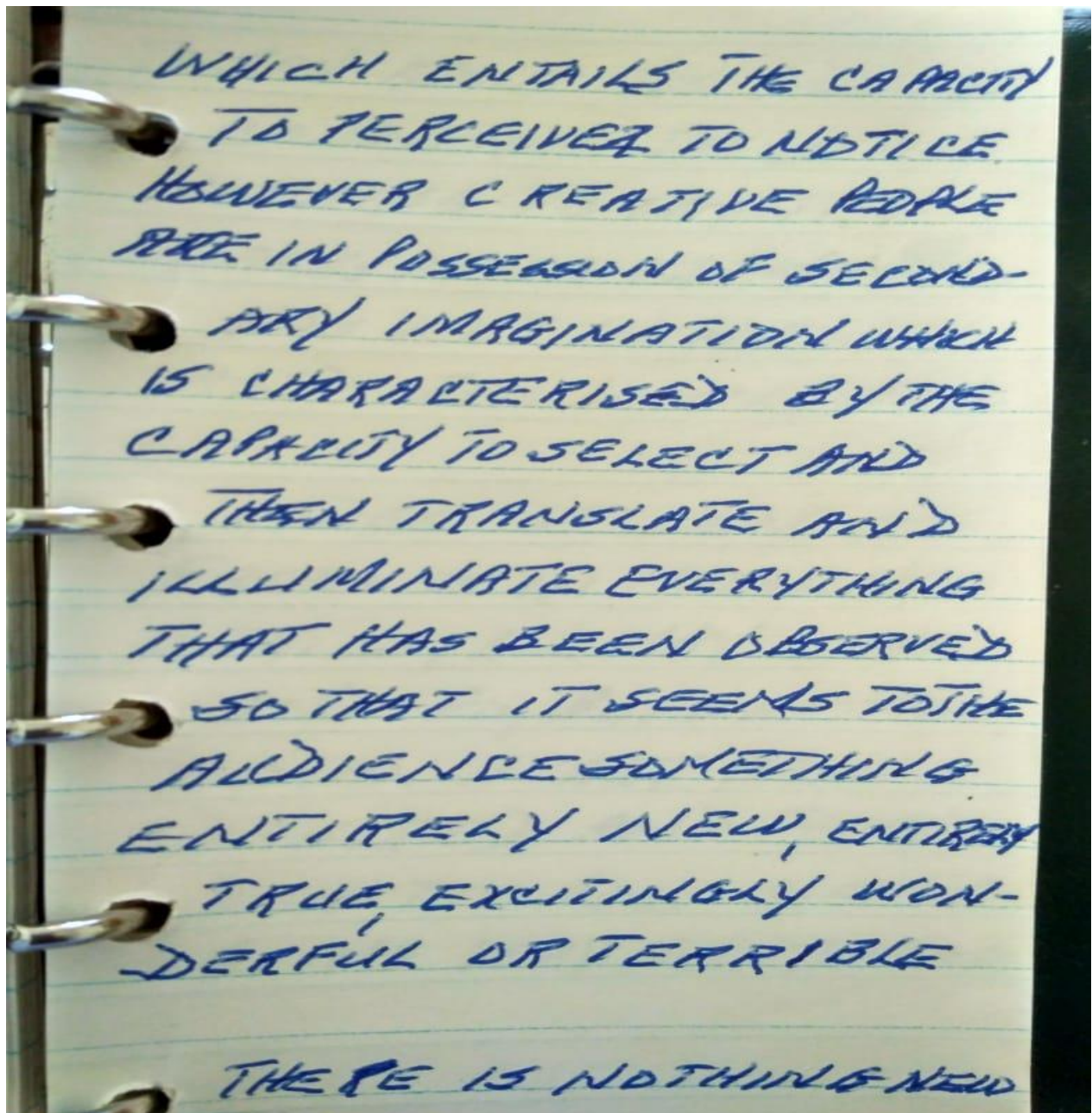
And so for a few days, I awaited for a call from Pretoria. And so my mobile rang! Behold it was Cyril Ramaphosa Himself! He surprised me by his approach and interacted with me for an hour. He was humble, gentle, embedded with respect and his command of the Queen's English was crystal clear!. I salute him for such excellent rapport! After introducing himself formally, he proceeded to tell me that he was engaged in research involving Banyankole and their long-horned cattle, which he found rather fascinating. As he read for the Literature Review, a good number of sources of information, he came across what I have written about Banyankole of Uganda. He went on to say that of all what he read; he found my writings the best and therefore used a lot of this information in writing his book, **Cattle of the Ages: Ankole Cattle in South Africa**. His mission for contacting me, was to solicit my permission for using my writings, so that he would not be accused of engaging in plagiarism. That made me feel so good and great!

My spontaneous response was he could use all he wanted from my sources, so long as he acknowledged the source of his information.

Then I proceeded to tell him, how I went about the article on Banyankole published in the **Encyclopedia of World Cultures Supplement**. This I have already described earlier on, and therefore I need not repeat it here. It suffices to say, he was impressed to hear about the hurdles, I went through long before he read it. I did not forget to tell him that, I did it with the assistance of my wife Bernadette who is a Mnyankole from Ankole in Uganda.

Having completed the above aspect of research, I took over to brief him how much I know him, given that I have been in South Africa for over three decades. I talked about his introducing Madiba to South Africans and the World at large on the Day he was released from prison, where he had politically, intellectually, psychologically, emotionally and physically languished for 27 years; His own significant role in the multiracial South Africa negotiations; his untimely departure from Politics to engage in Business; his interest in assuming presidency of South Africa and the forces that were at work to block his aspiration and ambition. But forgot to ask him whether he had read in the **Sunday Times**, where I was opposed to such forces. As you can see, this was a long agenda. I am happy he won the ANC national leadership election and went on to win the presidency elections. On both occasions, I sent him SMS congratulating him. Things turned out to be what I said in my first encounter with him, long before this came to pass! God is good!

Any way, what happened after this first encounter! He sent me an sms, asking me to give him a call, if I had a free moment. This I did immediately and he was available to receive my call. He wanted to get some clarification on Banyankole. He said on his further reading for his research, he discovered that there are three ethnic groups of Banyankole instead of the two, which he was familiar with, namely, Bahima and Bairu. The third group that he landed on were Bahinda. So he wanted to know, whether I had knowledge of the third group. My response was



negative, but indicated that I would consult Bernadette on the matter. I did consult her and her response was the same as mine and that of Dr Ramaphosa. I reported back to him that, Bernadette did not know any better than I did. But went further to pledge that, I would consult Professor Alex Nganwa-Bagumah in Ankole, Uganda, who had retired as a Surgeon at Walter Sisulu University. His response was as follows: **I only know of the two. If they are to be 3, one would cater for an elite faction of Bahima called Bahinda. This is just royalty. Hence Bairu,**

Bahima and Bahinda. This response was forwarded to him. We learned something from him, that we did not know.

Preface

The cow engenders the man.

– Old African proverb

This book is a narrative and pictorial celebration of the Ankole, the most magnificent breed of cattle in the world. It tells the story of how these beautiful animals made their way to South Africa. The quest to bring the Ankole to this country began in 2004 and has been a major part of my life and a key focus of my farming endeavours for the past thirteen years. Referred to as the ‘Cattle of Kings’ by the Banyankole people of Uganda, the Ankole have a special place in my heart. The photographic portraits of these splendid animals, taken by Daniel Naudé, allow us to experience their majesty and the awe they inspire.

Once I had first set eyes on the Ankole in Uganda, I was determined – in some ways to the point of obsession – to ensure that this breed could find a new home in South Africa, some 4 000 kilometres away. I count the birth of the first Ankole

calf on South African soil as one of my proudest achievements, and it is a privilege for me to tell the tale of how it happened. It is especially gratifying to have enabled the Ankole to be officially registered and recognised as one of the most recent cattle breeds in South Africa. I also take joy in being the largest Ankole breeder in the country.

I am sure my late cattle-loving father would have been proud to see that I have become a cattle breeder. That I have become a breeder of three stud cattle – the Boran, a Kenyan breed; the Bonsmara, a South African breed developed by Professor Jan Bonsma; and, of course, the Ankole – would have amazed and pleased him no end. My hope is that the words and pictures in this book pay due tribute to the Ankole and will deepen our knowledge about them and other African cattle breeds.