

## OBITUARY

**Professor E.S. Moloto, M.A., D.Litt. et Phil.**

Professor Ernest Sedumedi Moloto was born in the Rustenburg district of the Transvaal Province in 1917. He was educated at various schools in the Transvaal and Orange Free State before completing the Matriculation examination in 1938. In 1939 he commenced his undergraduate studies at Fort Hare then known as the South African Native College. After graduating he became Headmaster at Ofentse Primary School which he developed into a secondary and teacher training institute. Subsequently, he became Inspector of Schools, and for a brief spell was seconded to the University of the North as Lecturer in Sotho languages. Thereafter, he became Chief Inspector of Schools and then Chief Education Planner for Bophuthatswana.

In 1976 he joined the staff of the University College of Botswana as Professor and Head of the Department of African Languages and Literature. He held the following university degrees and certificates: BA (1942), U.E.D. (1943), B.A. Honours (1962), M.A. (1964), D.Litt. et Phil. (1970) all from the University of South Africa. In 1974 he read Linguistics at the University of Essex (England).

His extra-curricular activities included Chairmanship of the Tswana Language Committee which produced the current (1981) Standard Orthography; Chairman of Botswana Secondary Schools Setswana Language Panel, Chairman of the Botswana National Cultural Council and first Chairman of the World University Service (Botswana).

The six years that the late Professor Moloto spent at the University of Botswana were years of tremendous growth and development. He transformed a weak department, threatened by a lack of staff and leadership into a strong cohesive unit with clearly defined goals and objectives. Among other things, he established the M.A. programme, for a long time the only post-graduate programme on the Botswana campus, and left the Department with two members of his own staff having qualified under his own direct supervision and a third near completing his M.A.

Also while at the University of Botswana the late Professor Moloto served as examiner for the Cambridge School Certificate Examination in Setswana, external examiner in oral literature for the degree B.A. Honours (Unisa), UNESCO Consultant on Setswana Language and Culture. He published Tswana school grammars, Tswana translations of various schools texts e.g. in social studies, science, religion, etc. He published numerous articles on linguistic and literary topics in international journals, and reviewed many manuscripts for various publishing houses.

The late Prof. Moloto resigned from the service of the University of Botswana and joined Vista University in 1983. He died suddenly on 28th May 1984.