

PROFESSOR LEKHELA ERNEST PELALO

DOCTOR OF LITERATURE, D Litt

24.04.1993

Ernest Pelaelo Lekhela was born in Kimberely on 04th April 1913. He received his primary education at St Mathews Anglican Mission School, the Lyrdhurst Road Public School and the perseverance C.E.C. Mission Practicing School in Kimberely. From very humble beginnings he qualified as a teacher under the Cape Department of Education. He obtained the School Teacher's Music Certificate of the Tonic Solfa College of Music (London) in 1936; the Laer Taalbond in 1938; a BA Degree in 1939; a U.E.D in 1943; a B.Ed. in 1948; a M.Ed. in 1959 and a Doctor of Education in 1970 from the University of South Africa.

He has been involved in education and training for more than fifty years and during his period he made significant contributions to the training of teachers and community leaders; supervision of educational curriculum development with specific reference to the teaching of the History of Education; the development and advancement of education administration; the development of sports; Setswana Literature and language development.

Ernest Pelaelo has served as an assistant teacher; a principal; a supervisor of schools; a lecturer and a professor of Education at the University of the North. Most of his former students and protégés are currently making important contributions in various fields, particularly in education, business and politics. He has supervised and promoted several Masters and Doctoral candidates and has been an external examiner at the Universities of Fort Hare, Transkei and South Africa. In addition he has written and published many articles, a book of Setswana Poetry and a Novel. He has presented scholarly papers at both local and international conferences.

He has been a tirelessly and innovative educator, musician, businessman, sports administrator and a devoted Christian. He was Chairman of the 1977 National Education Committee of Bophuthatswana which, among others, recommended the establishment of this university emphasizing the special functions a university has to perform in a developing country. He was the first Vice-Chairman of the first Council of Universities of Bophuthatswana and is currently serving as a member on numerous educational and community boards including the Council of the Tlhabane College of Education. During the 1992 UNIBO Graduation Ceremony, he reflected on: The role of UUNIBO, past, Present and Future. The union the North conferred the status of Emeritus Professor on him in 1977.