

RECIAS MELATO MALOPE
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY- PhD

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Professor Recias Merlato malope, a Setswana activist, an author and a publisher, is a Motswana of the Bakgatla Clan born on 18th April 1944 at Ga-Mosetlha. he is married to Lefentse Daphne Malope (nee Mametsa) and their marriage was blessed with five children.

A graduate of the University College of the North and University of South Africa, Prof obtained BA in 1967 (University College of the North), Bed in 1972 (Unisa), Hons BA in 1973 (Unisa) and MA in 1977 (UNIN). The title of his thesis is: *Tshekatshekotsenelelo ya dipadi tsa ntlha tse tlhano tsa ga DPS Monyaise* (A critical analysis of DPS Monyaise's first five novels). This was the first research to be done through the medium of an African language in South Africa.

Professor Malope has enjoyed a distinguished teaching career, beginning in 1969 as a school teacher at Moruleng High. After serving as a deputy principal in 1972, he was appointed junior lecturer in Setswana at the University of the North in 1974. He was Head of the Department from 1980 until 1982. From 1983 to 1987 he served as Rector at the Taung College of Education and Hebron College of Education. In late 1987, he was appointed Deputy Vice Chancellor at UNIBO from 1988 to 1994. In August 1994, he was appointed professor in the Setswana Department of the University of North-West. After serving as Dean of Faculty of Human and Social Sciences UNW from 1997 to 1999, he retired at the end 1999.

Professor Malope's exceptional contribution to the advancement of Setswana is legendary. After obtaining his Honours Degree, he started fighting for Setswana to be offered in the medium of Setswana. To demonstrate his conviction he conducted his Masters' research in Setswana in 1977, thereby becoming the first Black South African academic to research in an indigenous language. His first Scientific contribution is titled: *Thutameduopuo ya Setswana* (Setswana Panology textbook for High Schools and Tertiary institutions), published in 1978 and coauthored with the late Professor EJ Setshedi. He subsequently penned down a novel *matlhoko matlhoko* (1980) which was controversial in terms of the apartheid laws at the time. In 1982, he authored and published an anthology of short stories titled *Mmualebe*. His efforts to promote Setswana resulted in the present language policy of that university that postulates that Setswana is one of the official languages in the university and the official language of the North West Province.

Among Professor Malope's many distinguished achievements, he has been an examiner and a moderator for Setswana for the former Joint Matriculation Board, a board member of PanSALB, representing Setswana, and a member of the Board of

Directors of the Setswana Lexicography Unit. He also assesses Setswana manuscripts for Shutter and Shooter, Via Afrika and Oxford University Press. He is an active member of the Anglican Church, and in capacity has served as a warden, a treasurer and an executive member. Professor Malope's sound relationship with Setswana Department of thru North-West University promises to last long.