

7.20 Annexure 4C: Report by D Baboolal

<div data-bbox="290 499 403 645" data-label="Image"></div> <div data-bbox="485 488 691 620" data-label="Text"><p>Professor D. Baboolal School of Mathematical Sciences University of KwaZulu-Natal (Westville Campus) Private Bag X54001, Durban 4000, South Africa Phone: +27-31-260 7884 Fax: +27-31-260 7886 e-mail: baboolal@ukzn.ac.za</p></div> <hr/> <div data-bbox="381 716 609 739" data-label="Section-Header"><p>REFERENCE LETTER: DR S MUKWEMBI</p></div> <div data-bbox="288 754 541 777" data-label="Text"><p>It is a pleasure to write a reference for Dr Mukwembi.</p></div> <div data-bbox="288 790 700 851" data-label="Text"><p>I have known Dr Mukwembi since 2006 when he joined the School as a lecturer. I got to know him quite well during my term as head of the School of Mathematical Sciences from 2008-2010, and since then up to the present, as colleagues within a larger School.</p></div> <div data-bbox="288 864 699 922" data-label="Text"><p>He has contributed substantially to all facets of activities within the School, and on this basis I would say he is very deserving of a promotion to the level of Associate Professor. Let me outline what I believe his valuable contributions are in each of these facets.</p></div> <div data-bbox="288 936 702 1104" data-label="Text"><p>His teaching is quite outstanding. From my perspective, especially as a former head, I would rate Dr Mukwembi as one of the top teachers in our School. During the period 2008-2010 when it sometimes became necessary to replace a particular lecturer in a module, owing to student's complaints of poor teaching, Dr Mukwembi would rank high on my list of those lecturers I could call upon to rescue the teaching in that module. Knowing the quality of his teaching, he was one of the first lecturers I approached to teach the first level mainstream mathematics in the Northern Cape Teacher's Programme, a task he fulfilled with great distinction. These are some of the main recollections I have of his teaching.</p></div> <div data-bbox="288 1120 702 1305" data-label="Text"><p>I see from his CV that he has published many papers since his appointment in 2006, showing that his research productivity is impressively high. Since I am not in a position to judge the quality of his research work, being in a different field to his, I can only report to you how others in his field view his research work through my interactions with them. All the Graph Theorists in our School, both past and present, have a high regard for the quality of his research work. This includes Professor Henda Swart as well who at some point in her career held an NRF "B" rating. Included amongst this group also is Professor Gerd Sabudski, an Honorary Professor here, who hails from Canada and an eminent researcher in the field of Graph Theory. In one of the conversations we had he made special mention of Dr Mukwembi as a researcher of good quality.</p></div>	<div data-bbox="876 501 1297 685" data-label="Text"><p>In terms of community engagement, I am aware that Dr Mukwembi does a fair amount of refereeing of journal papers. He has also been involved as a lecturer in the Northern Cape Teacher's Project, as I mentioned before. I can recall that he participated in a project involving a group of secondary schools which was aimed at improving the matric mathematics pass rate in that particular year. Most recently, in fact a few weeks ago, he participated in the Geometry Project run by our School which was aimed at improving the understanding of high school geometry amongst a group of selected mathematics teachers. He is a member of the Science Expo Committee at this university, a position he has held for many years. His contributions here have been very valuable, something I have learnt from other members who have sat on that committee.</p></div> <div data-bbox="876 698 1287 813" data-label="Text"><p>Lastly, with regard to his involvement in administrative matters, he is Academic Leader of Mathematics in the Durban centre of our School, a position he holds since the latter end of last year. In my estimation, he carries out the functions in that position with dedication, diligence and a lot of hard work. I think I speak for many in Mathematics when I say that we are very grateful to have someone like Dr Mukwembi in this very important leadership position in our School.</p></div> <div data-bbox="876 826 1291 869" data-label="Text"><p>In conclusion I would strongly recommend to you, for the reasons I have outlined above, that Dr Mukwembi be promoted to the position of Associate Professor.</p></div> <div data-bbox="884 945 989 1016" data-label="Text"></div> <div data-bbox="876 1050 986 1072" data-label="Caption"><p>Professor D. Baboolal</p></div>
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