

SMD/008/0012/9

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

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Our ref : CFTC/CSASF/ 811
(Please quote this reference number
in all correspondence)

22 April 1988

Dear Mr. Xaba,

RE: Mr. D. M. Xaba

Course in Public Administration

The above-mentioned candidate has applied to the Commonwealth Secretariat for an award under the Commonwealth Nassau Fellowships scheme, details of which are provided in the attached paper. He/~~She~~ has indicated that you would be willing to submit a reference in support of this application.

I shall be grateful for your comments on the applicant's personal and academic suitability for such an award. Your reply will, of course, be treated in the strictest confidence.

Yours sincerely,

Chris J. Cannon
for Director,

Fellowships & Training Programme,
Human Resource Development Group.

COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT

COMMONWEALTH PROGRAMME FOR SOUTH AFRICANS: COMMONWEALTH NASSAU FELLOWSHIPS

(information for applicants)

The Commonwealth Programme for South Africans was established in 1986, following a decision made by Commonwealth Heads of Government at their meeting in Nassau in October 1985. It is designed to assist South Africans who are suitably qualified for further education at universities, technical colleges or other training institutions, and who require financial assistance to cover the costs of their study and training programmes. In order to distinguish this new Commonwealth initiative from other existing schemes, all awards under the Programme are known as "Commonwealth Nassau Fellowships".

These Fellowships are made available under two separate arrangements. The first consists of bilateral scholarships which governments administer, using their High Commissions and Embassies to identify suitable candidates. The Commonwealth Secretariat has no role in administering these awards.

The rest of this information paper refers to the second arrangement, which consists of multilateral scholarships. Governments contribute in several ways: by providing places at their education and training institutions, by contributing to the Commonwealth South Africa Scholarship Fund, by waiving tuition fees and by offering employment opportunities for those who have completed courses. This scheme is administered by the Commonwealth Secretariat's Fellowships and Training Programme.

Under this multilateral tier, the Secretariat makes awards to selected students, who are placed and supported at appropriate education institutions in Commonwealth developing countries, especially in Africa. Only in exceptional circumstances (e.g. when training in a particular course is unavailable in a developing country of the Commonwealth) are awards made for study in Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand. They are never made available for study in non-Commonwealth countries.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration for a Commonwealth Nassau Fellowship, an applicant must be:

- (a) a South African who is disadvantaged by apartheid;
- (b) at least 16 years of age;
- (c) medically fit;
- (d) in possession of at least 'O' level qualifications, or their equivalent;
- (e) qualified to continue studies at a university, technical college or on an appropriate vocational course. (South Africans with 'O' level or 'M' qualifications who wish to pursue their studies at university, but who need 'A' levels or equivalent for admission purposes, can be considered for awards for study at this level. However, this category of training will form a very small part of the Programme);
- (f) prepared to return to South Africa on completion of the course or, if this is not feasible at the time, to apply for employment outside South Africa.

Priorities

The resources available to the Commonwealth Programme are limited and it is likely that there will always be far more applicants than can be offered assistance. In these circumstances, preference is given to candidates who have not already obtained a first degree, a diploma, or a technical or professional qualification, and who wish to pursue courses leading to the acquisition of skills which are likely to facilitate their subsequent employment in Commonwealth developing countries and also to contribute towards meeting the anticipated human resource requirements in

post-apartheid South Africa. Preference is also given to younger candidates (those over 40 years of age are not normally considered). Special consideration is given to applications from women candidates and to applicants seeking financial assistance to enable them to pursue courses of technical and vocational education and training.

The possibility exists of Commonwealth Nassau Fellowships being provided for post-graduate courses, but very few awards are granted for study at that level.

Awards

Awards normally cover the following items:

- (a) travel to the place of training by the most direct route and by the most appropriate and economical means available;
- (b) approved fees;
- (c) books;
- (d) modest allowances for board, lodging and personal maintenance.

All Commonwealth Nassau Fellowships are provided on the understanding that they will normally be continued for the period of study or training for which they are granted but may be terminated at any time for reasons of poor health, unsatisfactory conduct, breaches of the conditions of the award, or failure to make satisfactory progress.

Employment

Should students so wish, the Secretariat will endeavour to assist them to secure suitable employment in Commonwealth developing countries, on the termination of their courses. This assistance includes sending completing trainees' job applications to the governments of Commonwealth countries and to selected agencies such as the OAU's Bureau for Refugees.

How to apply

- (a) Applicants may be able to obtain advice and application forms from the Ministry of Education, or from High Commissions, if they are living in a Commonwealth country. If applicants are living in a non-Commonwealth country, the Embassies of Commonwealth countries may be in a position to assist.
- (b) Candidates may find it more convenient to write to the Commonwealth Secretariat and to address their enquiries to:

The Director,
Fellowships & Training Programme,
Commonwealth Secretariat,
Marlborough House,
Pall Mall,
London SW1Y 5HX,
United Kingdom.
- (c) Applications should be submitted at least four months before the beginning of the proposed course of study or training. It is particularly helpful if candidates can submit documentary evidence of their acceptance on suitable courses at publicly financed and managed institutions in Commonwealth developing countries. However, if applicants have not already received such offers, the Commonwealth Secretariat will endeavour to arrange appropriate placement.