



First Black Scientist obtained Doctorate

History was made on Saturday, 21 May 1983, when the Ph.D degree was conferred on Mr Sevid Ntlogeleng Mashego, the first Black Scientist to receive a doctorate in the Natural Sciences from the University of the North.

He received the Ph.D. degree, based on the thesis "A Seasonal investigation of the helminth parasites of *Barbus* species in water bodies in Lebowa and Venda, South Africa", which concerns research on the seasonal prevalence of helminth parasites of eleven *Barbus* species occurring in the Limpopo and the Olifants drainage systems in Lebowa and Venda. Three monogenean parasites were described and discussed as new species.

These research findings contributed extensively to our knowledge and understanding of the parasitofauna of indigenous South African freshwater fish, and is of particular importance in the light of the latest interest in intensive aquaculture practices in the warmer regions of South Africa.

Dr Mashego was born on 8 January 1946 in the district of Pilgrimsrest,

where he started his primary education in 1955. He matriculated at St Francis College, Marianhill in 1966. During 1972 he graduated from the University of the North with a B.Sc. degree in Zoology and Botany, followed by B.Sc. Honours and the M.Sc. degree (cum laude) in 1977.

He was appointed Senior Laboratory Assistant in the Department of Zoology and Biology of the University of the North in May 1973 and was promoted to Lecturer in January 1977 and to Senior Lecturer as from January 1981. During 1976 he worked for two months as a visiting scientist at the British Museum for Natural History in London conducting research on fish parasites. During 1980 he visited the Marine Biology Laboratory of the University of Jerusalem on a South African — Israeli Scientific Exchange Programme where he worked in close consultation with Dr Elan Paperna, a renowned authority in Ichthyoparasitology.

Prof Dr J E Saayman, Head of the Department of Zoology and Biology of the University of the North, supervised Dr Mashego's doctoral studies. □



Dr S N Mashego