

HONORARY GRADUATE

Tamsanqa Wilkinson Kambule

Tamsanqa Wilkinson (Wilkie) Kambule was born in Aliwal North on 15 January 1921. He attended St Peter's School in Rosettenville in Johannesburg and furthered his education at Adams College in Natal, where he obtained his Secondary Teacher's Diploma in 1946.

On obtaining this diploma he took up a teaching post in Zambia. After having taught both there and in Malawi he returned to South Africa to teach mathematics at Johannesburg Bantu High School in Western Native Township from 1948 to 1956. He later became the Vice-Principal of the school. In 1958 he was appointed Principal of Orlando High School, a post he held with distinction and acclaim until he felt forced to resign from teaching in sympathy with his pupils and as a mark of protest against the system of Bantu education in the turbulent mid-1970s.

In 1978 Wilkie Kambule was offered and accepted a post at the University of the Witwatersrand, where he became a tutor in mathematics while continuing to help school pupils in Soweto. In 1979, in recognition of his standing in Soweto and the range of his contacts both in South Africa and abroad, he was persuaded to take up a part-time post as education adviser at the United States Embassy. Fortunately for his students, he also retained his teaching position at Wits.

During his period at the University he collaborated with a colleague and friend, Professor Norman Ferrandi, to produce a set of school mathematics textbooks specifically aimed at alleviating the problems encountered by ill-qualified teachers at black schools.

In 1988 he was again persuaded to change course, this time by the students and parents at Pace College, to take on the full-time post of Principal of the college. In this position he did a remarkable job, keeping calm and maintaining discipline at a time when the education boycott in the country's townships was at its peak. Mr Kambule remained at Pace College until 1994.

From 1995 until his retirement in 1996 at the age of 75, he was Principal of ORT Step College of Technology in Midrand. He is still an honorary lecturer at Wits, where he has served on the Council since 1989.

In 1996 Wilkie Kambule was awarded the Johannesburg College of Education Gold Medal in recognition of his distinguished contribution to education in mathematics.

A quiet, unassuming and remarkable man, he has made immense contribution to both the teaching of mathematics and education in general. Throughout his career he has been a symbol of restraint and constructive action and, above all, has been a beloved mathematics teacher to whom students could turn and to whom they could relate. The University takes great pleasure and pride in awarding the degree of Doctor of Laws *honoris causa* on Tamsanqa Wilkinson Kambule.