Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to both my parents. My father, the late Absalom Malobane Nkosi Dlamini did not only raise and nurture me but also taxed himself dearly over the years for my education and intellectual development. Incidentally he met his demise about the same moment I was presenting the proposal to this study on 25 September, 2003. My mother, Mumsie Thab’sile la Mkhatshwa has been a source of motivation and strength during moments of despair and discouragement. Her motherly care and support have been shown in incredible ways recently.
Abstract

Despite abundant evidence that race has been a significant factor in informing historical processes in Swaziland there is presently no major study that focusses on the theme. The main aim of the current thesis is to examine the impact of discriminatory policies and practices in the country by analyzing the reaction of different sections of the society to formal and informal discrimination. While focussing on the period between 1945 and 1973 the thesis traces the evolution of Swaziland’s racial history dating back to the 1840s. The thesis also shows how the conditions created by the intervention of the colonial state as well as competing white interests between 1903 and 1944 deepened political and economic inequality in the country. In parallel, the thesis explores Swazi agency as was manifested through the reactions and initiatives of the monarchy when it stood up to challenge discriminatory policies and practices which were being applied to blacks. This was strongly indicated from the 1930s when a revived cultural nationalism was embraced by the Swazi monarchy to articulate Swazi grievances. To highlight contradictions in Swaziland’s racial patterns Coloured identity is discussed extensively. The thesis also explores the manner in which the Swazi educated elite confronted racial discrimination and argues that their approach was inadequate in alleviating racial injustices as they were experienced by most Swazis in different places. The central argument of the thesis, therefore, is that the formal abolition of discrimination in Swaziland in 1961 is to be understood against the anti-colonial politics in the post-World War II era. The thesis contends that the abolition of racial discrimination by the Swaziland colonial administration was largely a diplomatic gesture necessitated by the local and contemporary political climate as well as changing international relations of the 1960s including developments in the Union / Republic of South Africa. Finally, the thesis observes that since the outlawing of discrimination was not necessarily an indication of government’s political commitment to confronting racism the post-abolition period was not a fundamental departure from the pre-abolition era. Discriminatory attitudes and practices persisted in covert as well as overt, but, subtle forms in most spheres of Swazi society and particularly at the work place. This thesis also observes that the lack of holistic strategies to curb racially inspired practices led to unabated manifestations of discrimination in the country.
Acknowledgements

To finally produce this work which was begun in 2003 I was guided, supported and encouraged by many other persons who deserve my gratitude. First of all I want to thank all the members of my family and mutual friends for supporting me throughout the period of my study. My brother Bongani Dlamini distinguished himself in this regard.

I am grateful to my interviewees who spent their time giving me an account of their experiences and perspectives of the racial history of Swaziland. Their responses went a long way in filling one of the many gaps in the human relations of colonial and immediate post-colonial Swaziland.

I am also grateful for the Post Graduate Merit Award offered to me by the University of the Witwatersrand during the course of my study. Canon Collins Educational Trust for Southern Africa also sponsored me for a one-year period, and Wits Institute for Economic and Social Research (WISER) also offered me its prestigious and generous fellowship for one year and eight months.

I also want to thank all those who assisted me in different Libraries and Archives. Carol Archibald and Michele Pickover offered me meticulous service at Wits Cullen Africana Library, Historical Papers. The staff at Government Publications also assisted me greatly. Suzette Jansen van Rensburg at Wits Interlibrary Loans was incredibly efficient. Nellie Sommers and Hloli Dlamini at Killie Campbell were very helpful. Robert Dlamini and Paiki Muswazi at the Swaziana section of Uniswa Library were always helpful. The staff at the Pretoria State Archives was also of great assistance. Sipho Mkhonta and Mfundza Ginindza at the Swaziland National Archives gave me excellent service.

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Prof. Debbie Posel’s WISER doctoral seminars assisted me in putting together different blocks of the thesis. Debbie’s support was especially felt towards the completion of the study. Prof. Ackson Kanduza who has since relocated to the University of Botswana but formerly at the University of Swaziland read my work and offered helpful suggestions. Prof. Balam Nyeko of the University of Swaziland read my proposal and raised some challenging questions. Dr. Lara Allen at WISER read part of my work and made useful suggestions. She also supported and encouraged me towards the completion of the study. Prof. Christopher Lowe of Oregon, USA responded promptly to my queries whenever I needed clarification on broader issues.

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

ANC    African National Congress
BPA    Basutoland Progressive Association
EAC    European Advisory Council
HC     High Commissioner
HCT    High Commission Territories
I      Independent
ICTFU  International Confederation of Trade Unions
INM    Imbokodvo National Movement
JCEN   Joint Council of Europeans and Non-Europeans
JCM    Joint Council Movement
KCAL   Killie Campbell Africana Library
KCM    Killie Campbell Manuscript
Legco  Legislative Council
MNC    Mbandzeni National Convention
NNLC   Ngwane National Liberatory Congress
PAC    Pan Africanist Congress
PSA    Pretoria State Archives
PWD    Public Works Department
RC     Resident Commissioner
RTM    Railway and Motor Service Transport
SC     Special Commissioner
SAR    South African Republic
<table>
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<tr>
<td>SAGM</td>
<td>South African General Mission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SARB</td>
<td>South African Railway Buses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAIRR</td>
<td>South African Institute of Race Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCC</td>
<td>Swaziland Constitutional Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMC</td>
<td>Swaziland Missionary Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCWA</td>
<td>Swaziland Coloured Welfare Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDA</td>
<td>Swaziland Democratic Alliance</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDP</td>
<td>Swaziland Democratic Party</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIF</td>
<td>Swaziland Independent Front</td>
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<td>SNA</td>
<td>Swaziland National Archives</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Swazi National Council</td>
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<td>SPA</td>
<td>Swaziland Progressive Association</td>
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<td>SP &amp; TWU</td>
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<td>SSU</td>
<td>Swaziland Students Union</td>
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<td>UK</td>
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World War II Second World War