

From Professor Cecile (Sam) Jackson:

“I am so thrilled to hear about this event for VaPhiri, who inhabits my memory as one of the most impressive organic intellectuals I have the pleasure to meet in many years work in rural Nigeria, Zimbabwe and India. His insights and observations on gender relations and many other matters were always inflected with warmth and a wry recognition of his own positionality and contradictions. A lot of what I learned about the complexity of gender relations when in Masvingo comes from precious conversations with VaPhiri and from the introductions to others which he helped me with. Most of all I remember what great company he is, and I am delighted that his contribution to social science research in rural Zimbabwe will be marked and recognized in this way.

Please pass on my warmest possible greetings.”

Professor Jackson undertook research in Zimbabwe in the late 1980s, particularly around gender relations and agriculture. She donated the first typewriter the Zvishavane Water Project ever owned in 1988.