

# Dear Friends

June 2020

## Rural Dust

I introduce to you my debut novel, *Rural Dust*. The plot explores the familiar subject of power and money and the hurt that powerful persons cause to their community conscience. I deviate from the familiar by exploring the hurt that powerful persons cause to those close to them and should ideally care for.

The villain is a Mayor who causes harm to his comrades, his party, municipal employees and inadvertently the community. He publicly professes to be a priest who even wears the Clerical Collar and the Robe and is thus supposed to be celibate. Themba is the protagonist who is born and grows under difficult circumstances. He tries to escape his circumstances and almost always finds himself drowning and tripping from the potholes of life and particularly the web of deceit and betrayal set up by his nemesis, the Mayor.

The setting is crafted in such a way that the story could have happened anywhere in the country. The story is written in plain English and is not elitist in approach. In as much as it explores difficult socio-political and even socio-economic notions, it is a novel and is thus meant to be enjoyed. I promise that you will find it pleasant to read.

Colleagues and friends who read the draft, confirmed that the story is exciting, thrilling and gripping from the beginning to the end. Notwithstanding, there are episodes or parts of the book that **may** not be 'read at night or while standing'. The twist at the end will surprise the reader.

**Point of Interest** - A part of the novel that I wrote in 2017 tackles the issue of government officials keeping to themselves food parcels that were meant for shack dwellers in Clare Estate, Durban. The episode explores the role of the media in exposing such incidents. It is interesting that in 2020 the issue of government officials keeping to themselves food parcels meant for the poorest of the poor amid Covid-19, reared its ugly head again. I dare say that we have not seen the end of such ugly episodes in our country. Sad but true.

## Editing, Publishing and Accessibility

The novel was edited by my former student Nkosinathi Sithole who is currently Professor of English at the University of the Western Cape and a prolific writer in his own right. Rural Dust is self-published and self-marketed. It costs R150.00 including shipping and can be ordered from my website [www.cesrix.co.za](http://www.cesrix.co.za) or via whatsapp on 0823888812.



**Scelo Duma**

*uMlil' ohlul' imvula yaseMpendle  
uMlil' osh' ubuhanguhangu  
entaben' iMpendle  
Kwash' iNzinga neLotheni  
Kwash' iNguga neSwampu  
Kwash' uKhetha noNovuka  
Kwash' iNhlabamkhosi kwaze  
kwasha noGomane  
Bathe bethi bawubambile kwaGasa  
kant' kudal' udlulile*

*Ingweny' eza kancane kancane*

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