

The Minister
Department of Arts and Culture
Private bag 897
Pretoria
0001
South Africa

For the attention of
The Deputy Minister: DAC and
the Office of the Director-General,
Chief Director Dr. Nomso Mjijima

8 May 2007

Minister Pallo Jordan,

With enormous sadness, we write on behalf of the executive board, members and entire staff of the International Information Centre for Terminology (Infoterm), to convey our deepest sympathy upon the loss of your colleague, Director for Language Planning and Terminology Coordination, Xolile Telford Mfana, his wife Ntombekhaya Nomhi Lucia (née Siqwepu) and their children Oyisa and Umuhle who were killed in a tragic accident on 1 May 2007.

Xolile's untimely death is a terrible loss to his family, to his colleagues at NLS and to his friends around the world. It is particularly devastating to the terminology, multilingualism and cultural diversity communities to which he showed such vision, leadership and commitment.

Xolile was an enthusiastic yet considerate colleague, with whom due to his wisdom, energy, wit and immense humour it has always been a particular pleasure to cooperate with. He brought, through his work the issues of South Africa as a rainbow nation close to the international communities and colleagues in all parts of the world and vice versa, with his immeasurable love for the people and beauty of his country of the Republic of South Africa, brought us all closer to it.

Above all he was a good friend, warm-hearted, soft-spoken and gentle and we all share dear and happy memories of our various encounters in South Africa and Europe. His untimely passing fills us with deep sadness. He was one of a kind and will be acutely missed.

We hereby offer our condolences to his family and colleagues.
An obituary will be published in Infoterm Newsletter, issue 124 in June 2007.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Christian Galinski
Director
Infoterm