



Faculty of Science

Department of Mathematics

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**REPORT PRESENTED TO IMU FOR THE VISIT KU-LEUVEN,
BRUSSELS BELGIUM, FROM 01 JUNE 2017 TO 31 JULY 2017**

First of all I would like to thank IMU- SIMONS African Fellowship Program for giving me a rare opportunity to visit KU-Leuven from 2017-06-01 to 2017-07-31. It has been a very successful trip academically and professionally in a number of ways.

I arrived in Leuven on 01 June 2017 which was on Thursday.

From 02 June and to 06 June 2017

I was busy sorting out accommodation issues, registration to the university and registration to the council for the permit. This was done on 02, 05 and 06 January respectively since 03 and 04 January were weekend days.

From 06 to 10 was attending presentations for assessment for Masters Students. It was towards the end of academic year and postgraduate students were making their final presentations for assessments. Also attended PhD defense from one of the postgraduate students. I started interacting with the students and members of staff in the department.

From 10 June to 01 July 2017

Continued interaction with the professors and PhD students. They organized presentations whereby PhD students made formal presentations of their research work they were doing. There were three PhD students under the host professor, Prof Jan Dhaene and a Dr who recently graduated under him. There were also two PhD students under another professor whom we were interacting with. I also started sharing with them some of my research work.

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On 16 June 2017

Attended an actuarial science seminar co-organized by National Bank of Belgium and Actuarial research group KU Leuven, UCL and ULB titled “The past, the present and the future regulatory landscape by Prof Dr Paul Embrechts.

From 01 July to 06 July.

Together with the host Professor Jan Dhaene, other professor and PhD students we went to attend the 21st International Congress on Insurance, Mathematics and Economics –IME 2017, in Vienna Austria. This IME conference is also one of the successful parts of my trip as it gave me more opportunities for interaction with other members in Actuarial Science community.

From 07 July to 30 July 2017

Further discussions and sharing of research ideas with the PhD students and the host Professor. I had time to read a number of their research work.

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Benefits of the trip

Professional development.

Fruitful discussions and sharing of ideas of research problems. This led to some research projects we are working on and very soon we will have publications. We will send copies once ready.

Research collaboration

A long term collaboration to work together between the Actuarial research at KU Leuven and the research group at our department here at University of Botswana. A suggestion was made that our department should organize and host a workshop where by Prof Jan Dhaene and the PhD students will come to attend. They will present their research work and we will also make a presentation. This will be so beneficial to the whole university.

Our university is also in the process of introducing Actuarial Mathematics. I also took advantage of this visit to get know on how they run their programme. Through this visit Prof Jan Dhaene with his research group have promised to give us any assistance if needed as we are introducing our new programme.

The International Congress of Mathematics, Insurance and economics in Vienna, Austria which I attended during this visit gave me more

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opportunity to get in touch with professors in Actuarial Mathematics from other universities hence opened more communication between research groups at University of Botswana .It also gave me a chance to listen and discuss diverse research ideas from the presentations.



Dr Elias Rabson Offen
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