I have not known Simisani very long as this is our first semester working together. What I have seen in her transcript from her previous school shows an impressive range of courses in Information Systems and Computer Science from Computer Programming to Information management which are fundamental for understanding how computer programs work.

What I have seen from her dedication in her research proposal is her passion for research and her involvement in co-authoring other Data Science research papers with researchers outside of her home institution. Her need of always wanting to meet to discuss updates on her proposal leads me to believe that she wants to know whether she is doing the right thing and is serious about obtaining her PhD. The obstacles she has to overcome with the constant long distance travelling, her lack of financial resources for university administration such as printing and registration fees is a testament to her dedication and perseverance. Simisani being far away from school means she doesn't know the institutional culture that she cannot thoroughly acclimate to because she is not on campus. However, she has overcome this by being patient with the administration and has asked for guidance to get assistance. For instance, part of the institution's culture is not answering the phones and answering emails, her need for an enrollment confirmation letter means she must travel all the way to the school to collect the letter without sending an email and go back to where she lives which is an all-day task. As I had mentioned about her diverse range in her Information and Computer Systems courses, her degree change from Business Information System to Computer Information Systems means that she can fluidly work between interdependent subjects. This flow of work is necessary, particularly in Machine Learning to apply different aspects to prediction from how data is stored in Data Structures to efficiently accessing data to extract, transform and load data from different systems.

Based on the interaction I have had with Simisani, I have no doubt that she will complete her research. She has already completed her research proposal which she will defend at the end of this month. The pace at which her proposal is ready for defence is rare especially for PhD students who do not know what they want to research when they start which results in them taking a long time to complete their work. I have already allowed her to work on the implementation of her research while preparing for her proposal defence which I am positive she will successfully carry out. After a few of our meetings, she has made drastic improvements to her research which makes it clear on what she wants to work on. This clarity will guide her implementation and the changes she will need to make will be minimal such as further explanation in her methodology. Her early research work is also at an advantage when she waits for journal publication replies which needs to be achieved before completing her degree.

Although Simisani has not chosen to work at the Botswana International University of Science and Technology (BIUTS) after her studies, the impact of her PhD study will mean an addition to the research areas we work on at BIUST. Machine Learning Optimisation is one of the most critical techniques that is highly studied and her innovative technique in her study can broaden the way we develop the Optimisation task which is part of the task’s international standard.