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# Imvo ZABANTSUNDU

[April 1961]

South Africa's Oldest African Newspaper.

## Prof. Matthews

It is with pride that we announce the advent Professor Z. K. Matthews as a weekly writer for Imvo.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish a brief biography of the professor one of South Africa's most respected sons on whom Rhodes University is conferring an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws this Saturday.

Very few men and women black or white can surpass his achievements, academically—B.A., LL.B. (S.A.) M.A. (Yale) and an expert in Native law and administration and social anthropology. But it is not on this score only that Rhodes is bestowing this honour, but also because of his contribution to education in general and particularly that of the African.

Professor Matthews has been the leader of Africans in the academic field in many spheres perhaps the most important of which was his appointment as acting principal of Fort Hare during 1955—1957 and his example must surely dispel the political notion that Africans are not really capable of handling complicated affairs or that he is yet another individual who by virtue of his status has cut himself off from the rest of his people, for he is loved by the Africans because of his humbleness and constant ability to associate both with the educated and the uneducated.

No better endorsement of the esteem in which Professor Matthews is held can be found than the fact that in spite of being charged with high treason the Government offered him a re-appointment at Fort Hare subsequent to the State take over. It is well known that Professor Matthews declined this offer.

It is also noteworthy that Professor Matthews shares the same honour on the same day by the same university with his first principal at Fort Hare, Doctor Alexander Kerr. These two men worked together for many years and created a record which we believe still stands of having turned out the greatest number of African graduates on the African continent.

We take this opportunity of welcoming Professor Matthews to the editorial staff of Imvo from the 1st issue in June and can but say that what he has to give in the form of journalism is a MUST for every African.