

OUR

SCOOP!



"Z.K." WRITES FOR IMVO

By The Editor

ONE of the greatest figures to emerge from the masses of Dark Africa, is our own Professor Z. K. Matthews, born to humble parents in Kimberley in 1901, and today recognised as one of the world's leading educators—and among our own people as one of our natural leaders. The diary of the milestone in the Professor's life reads like the pages from a biography of any other world figure, but all his achievements, and all his heartbreak and distress have not changed his ways of life as a humanitarian and a gentleman.

His first distinguished academic achievement was in 1923 when he became the first African graduate of Fort Hare under the wing of the University of South Africa. In 1930 he became the first African graduate in Law when he obtained the LL.B. degree of the University of South Africa.

In pursuit of further knowledge he went to the United States of America. It was in 1934 that he graduated M.A. at Yale University.

A year later he went to the London School of Economics for a Post-Graduate post in Anthropology.

APPOINTMENTS

His appointments included Headmastership of the Adams College High School, lecturership in Social Anthropology, Native Law and Administration at the University College of Fort Hare where he was also part-time Lecturer in Law. He was later appointed Professor and Head of the Department of African Studies.

Prof. Matthews has been vice-principal of Fort Hare for some time until his resignation of his Professorship at the College in 1959, after 25 years service. But the highest academic appointment ever to be accorded an African was when, in 1955 he was made

Acting principal of the University College of Fort Hare.

There is strong belief in many quarters that 'Z. K.' might have been appointed principal but for the fact that his work at the College was interrupted by his long absence during the marathon treason trial as he was one of the 156 leaders of all races involved in the case.

As a Christian gentleman Prof Matthews was once a member of the Ciskeian Missionary Council; as a leader of South Africa's multi-racial society he was once elected an Executive member of the S.A Institute of Race Relations.

As a politician he was once the Cape Provincial president of the banned A.N.C. and was a member representing Cape Rural Africans in the now defunct Native Representative Council.

As a writer he has contributed articles in numerous publications. He has also served on the Union's and U.K. Government Commissions on African Education.

And in recognition of his services to the cause of African Rhodes Education conferred on him an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws at the University's 1st graduation ceremony.

Such is the man who is writing a weekly feature for IMVO.