

13 JABAVU John Tengo

One. Jabavu must not be confused with his son, Davidson Don Tengo. Jabavu the father was born in 1859 near Fort Beaufort. He qualified as a teacher at Healdtown, and taught at Somerset East from 1876 to 1881. There he did night-work as printer's assistant on the local gazette. In 1881 he went to Lovedale to edit the missionary CHRISTIAN EXPRESS. He became the second African to matriculate.

Cartoon: Jabavu in the printing press.

Two. He also helped to found (a century ago!) the Native Electoral Association, and helped James Rose-Innes to get into Parliament in 1884. With white help he founded IMVO ZABANTSUNDU, the first vernacular newspaper. In 1909 he accompanied Rubusana, Abdurahman and Dube to London to protest against the colour-bar in the Act of Union.

Cartoon: Can we repeat the cartoon? Or a variant of it?

Three. After this his reputation declined. He did not oppose outright the Land Act of 1913. He held aloof from the South African Native National Congress, and therefore the A.N.C., regarding the formation of an all-black organisation as too extreme. Owing to personal rivalry he opposed RUBUSANA in Tembuland and allowed a white contestant to win. He finally returned to education, was a prime mover in the Establishment of Fort Hare; and was on its Council from its founding in 1916 till his death in 1921.

Cartoon I suggest - The white contestant walking away amid congratulations, while Rubusana says to Jabavu, "I told you so" or "How stupid can you be?"
- (A mere suggestion!)