

NGCOBO Selby Bangani

1. Ngcobo was born in Pietermaritzburg in 1908, of devout Presbyterian parents who had ten children. To educate the children his father left Johannesburg to work for a saddler in Pietermaritzburg, and his mother became "a washerwoman". In 1923 Selby went barefoot to the Amanzimtoti Institution, later Adams College. His headmaster Z.K. Matthews, helped him to get to Fort Hare, where he graduated brilliantly. He returned to teach at Adams from 1932 to 1964 and made a happy and fruitful marriage.

Cartoon: Selby going barefoot to Amanzimtoti Institution, with books.

2 He joined the ANC under Dube and the All-African Convention of 1935/36. He saw the trade unions as instruments for change, and he determined to master economics - 1937 B.Econ., 1940 M.A.Yale, 1964 Ph.D. at L.S.E. He taught at Fort Hare 1952-59, but resigned with Z.K. Matthews, Nyembezi, Mtimkhulu, in protest against Government control; then at University College Rhodesia 1960-69, University of Lesotho, Botswana, Swaziland as professor 1970-75; finally consultant to the World Bank. His mother died in 1962, proud of the son for whom she had sacrificed all pride, and whom she had called in earlier years, her "little devil".

Cartoon: Meeting of Ngcobo, Nyembezi, Matthews, Mtimkhulu, where they decide to resign.

3. In 1975 Ngcobo came home to be Economic Adviser to his old student Chief Buthelezi. His hope is to raise the living standards of Kwa-Zulu. Success would be the crown of his illustrious career.

Cartoon: Ngcobo and Buthelezi together, both seated, or Buthelezi seated, discussing some economic plan.