

# 49. Dr. Abdullah Abdurahman (1873-1940)

by D. Marquard and P. W. Wheeler



In 1909, accompanied by Tengo Jabavu and led by W. P. Schreiner, he went to England to protest against the clause in the Act of Union which limited membership of the proposed Union Parliament to White persons.

The most important leader whom the Cape Malays have produced was Dr. Abdurahman. He took his medical degree in Scotland, married a Scottish wife and settled down to practise in Cape Town. Although a Malay himself (he always wore his black fez) he had great influence among all sections of the Coloured community and was chairman of the African Peoples' Organization.

The deputation failed to achieve its object, but Abdurahman became one of the two non-White members of the Cape Provincial Council, as well as being for many years a leading member of the Cape Town City Council, on which his daughter Mrs. Gool also served. He devoted his life to fighting for the rights of his people and against what he thought was unfair discrimination. He died in 1940.

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