

Professor Davidson Don Tengo Jabavu

20th October 1885 – 3rd August 1959



Professor Davidson Don Tengo Jabavu, an academic and writer, was born in King William's Town, Cape Colony, South Africa.

His father was unable to enrol him at a white high school in King William's Town so he was sent to a Quaker high school in Colwyn Bay in North Wales, known locally as the Congo House.

This 'African Training Institute' sought to instruct African students sent from their local areas on the ancient continent of Alekebulan in a variety of skills such as law and medicine so that they could return to their communities and support them.

Davidson then entered the University of London, gaining a B. A. (Bachelor of Arts degree). He then briefly attended a business college, following up with several months working for a newspaper.

He then travelled to the United States and spent three months at Tuskegee Institute assessing the utility of Booker T. Washington's "industrial education".

After gaining a teacher's certificate at Birmingham University back in Britain, Davidson returned to South Africa in 1914 and took up a teaching position in languages as the first Black professor at the University of Fort Hare in 1916 and he set up the South African Native College. It was there he would teach a young Nelson Mandela.

<https://www.sahistory.org.za/people/davidson-don-tengo-jabavu>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Davidson_Don_Tengo_Jabavu

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