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We wish all our readers peace in the N

# Sunday Times

THE PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE

EMBER 31 1995

## JANI LOOKS INTO SVENGALI'S EYES

■ FORMER Sunday Times columnist Jani Allan's predilection for powerful men seems to be as strong as ever.

Out in South Africa from London recently for her mother's funeral, she was seen having a cosy dinner *a deux* at the plush new Hyatt Hotel in Johannesburg with Mario Ambrosini, top advisor to the Minister of Home Affairs, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi. Ambrosini, an Italian/American lawyer called the Svengali of the IFP by some opposition politicians, is said to earn R336 000 a year — more than the chief justice.



NEVER TOO RICH ... Jani Allan stands to inherit millions

Jani also spent time at Ulundi at the invitation of the IFP leader who, she told friends, had been "extremely supportive" during her bereavement. She was even seen on a plane from Durban to Johannesburg closely studying IFP documents — though this could be all in a day's work.

In London she works for a news agency, owned by former SABC newsman Cliff Saunders, which specialises in stories about minority political parties all over the world.

Jani, during her pre-Eugene Terre Blanche days, always told colleagues that her maxim, like that of the late Aristotle Onassis, was "you can never be too tanned, too rich or too thin". She's doing well on two scores, say old acquaintances who saw her on her trip home. She may be pale, but she's as slim as a rope, and stands, they say, to inherit millions from her mother's estate.

## IT'S A MOVEABLE FEAST IN PLETT

■ PLETT truly is a town of contrasts. Its mayor is an unemployed homeless person who strides through the municipality wearing his chain of office over a

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## Three school models for Natal

KWAZULU-NATAL has drawn up three provincial education Bills for general, college and technical education.

The passage of these Bills through the provincial legislature was one of the topics discussed at Friday's KIC-CET meeting. The Bills were tabled to the provincial cabinet on September 7. The education policy Bill came under fire from 18 democratic organisations belonging to a provincial education forum launched last weekend.

The Bill does not fall in line with the parameters of the national policy on schooling.

### Three types of schools

For example, it makes provision for three types of schools. In contrast, the recommendations of the School Review Committee report on schooling recommend only public and private schools.

Committee members Mr John Pampallis and Ms Nitithi Muthukrishna said education-MEC Dr Vincent Zulu misunderstood that the report in fact proposed a partnership between the state and the school community, a system which Zulu supports.

Zulu said, however, the province will go ahead with its legislation despite differences with the national Government as education fell under the provincial government.

# Slow educational pace in KwaZulu

By Claire Keeton  
Education Reporter

**T**HE CLOCK ON TOP of the Durban City Hall had stopped when I was in KwaZulu-Natal last week to investigate the state of education in the province.

The immobile hands seemed a symbol of how slowly the system of education is changing in KwaZulu-Natal - so slowly it is virtually imperceptible - the province with the country's largest education department.

The size of the department, with around 2.5 million pupils, is no doubt one of the reasons for the difficult unification of the fragmented education system, along with the historical political conflicts in the region.

Despite these problems, however, the education system in KwaZulu-Natal is finally starting to show signs of progress with the recent establishment of an advisory council to MEC for education Dr Vincent Zulu, interviewing for top departmental posts, and the tabling of three education Bills.

The new KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education and Culture is responsible for schooling and instruction at nearly 5 000 schools, of which 2 284 are primary schools, as well as 23 technical colleges and 16 colleges of education.

But the everyday running of education in the province is not yet done by the new department; instead, in the interim, the five former departments operating in the province are providing education on an agency basis.

The former KwaZulu Department of Education and Culture still plays a major role since its pupils - at around 72 percent of all the pupils - make up the bulk in the province.

Although the integration of the ex-departments has been dragging this year, it got off to an early start in 1992 with the establishment of the Committee of the Heads of Education Departments in KwaZulu-Natal.

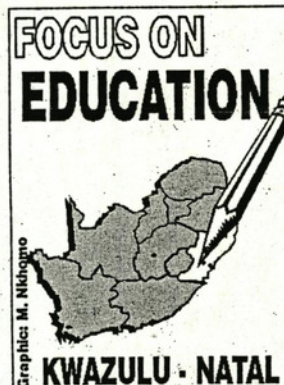
They appointed three working groups to deal with the unification, primary schooling and networking among the departments. The committee released reports in December 1993 and May 1994, and made a contribution to national policy discussion.

Political jockeying appears to have interfered with the initial progress made by technocrats, however, leading to the appointment of the Interim Provincial Strategic Planning and Management Committee (IPSPMC) by Education Minister Sibusiso Bengu in 1994 to keep unification on track.

The committee attempted from the outset to involve education stakeholders in the process by establishing 19 Project Task Groups.

Most of the committees were

*Sowetan* will regularly publish articles on the state of education in the provinces. Today's articles look at KwaZulu-Natal.



replaced this year by Technical Task Teams after submitting final reports to the IPSPMC, while others have continued to function as channels for public participation.

In addition, Zulu established an advisory body, the KwaZulu-Natal Interim Consultative Committee on Education and Training, to assist him in designing and finalising departmental policy.

Last Friday this committee held its first meeting. High on their agenda was the progress of the task teams, particularly the work around facilities in KwaZulu-Natal. At the moment poor rural communities have to bear most of the cost of building schools, receiving only R7 000 for a classroom costing them around R30 000. They are generally poorly funded and understaffed.

Zulu told *Sowetan* they have set aside money for work to continue with the ex-DET and KwaZulu programmes of school-building: "Most schools are overcrowded and we have submitted a proposal to the central Government to increase our budget."

Zulu said most schools do not have electricity or water: "We are dealing with the RDP to look at funds for renovating and repairing schools, building toilets and the possibility of installing electricity."

Zulu added the province will boost the number of teachers by 3 064 posts this financial year. The distribution of teachers was a problem, with too many teachers in urban settlements.

"Soon the number of teachers will reach saturation point. Technical colleges need to be a major focus and we want to increase their numbers, easing the pressure on education colleges."

This idea of technical education was stressed by the acting head of department, Dr Sydney Tshabalala: "Our biggest challenge is to provide the kind of education that offers skills training for students."

"We are focusing on the development of the rural community and setting up vocational colleges. We want to improve the standard of living and provide entrepreneurial skills which lead to self-employment."

One of the ways in which KwaZulu-Natal has moved forward is in distributing the new syllabuses and preparing for a single examination.

IPSPMC secretary Mr Lampies Cornelius said teachers have received in-service training for most subjects and been prepared for new examinations next year, when all matrics will write a common exam paper.

The department's management structures are also in the process of being assembled into a working whole following a difficult time during which many education officials are overloaded, particularly with retirements and a moratorium on fillings posts.

Now the top management posts have been approved by the Provincial Service Commission, advertising and interviewing of candidates is presently taking place. Another 6 600 school-based posts have been ratified to improve the pupil-teacher ratios, along with 150 head office posts.

Educationalist Mr John Pampallis said the lack of leadership and the remoteness of Ulundi from the big population centres could have contributed to the paralysis in the provincial education system.

The new department will have eight regions - Ulundi, Empangeni, North and South Durban, Port Shepstone, Maritzburg, Ladysmith and Vryheid - and each region is sub-divided into five districts for better management.

KwaZulu-Natal is the first province to establish a provincial chamber of the Education Labour Relations Council, which aims to promote labour peace in education through regular meetings twice a month.

"The first obstacle in KwaZulu-Natal has been the fighting and misunderstanding among ourselves," Zulu said. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. For the first time, we had such a productive meeting with Zulu on Friday," said KICCET member Mr S'bu Ndebele. "We feel we can work together now rather than approaching education from a confrontational perspective."