

President committed to conservation

Dave Savides

'I AM impressed with our new President's interest in and understanding of environmental and conservation matters.'

Grateful to have had two separate meetings with President Jacob Zuma where they could share matters of common concern, world-renowned local conservationist Lawrence Anthony believes the President will be

firmly on the side of the environment.

'Global warming is his one great concern.'

'At our first meeting in Nkandla, he mentioned that he had spent two hours with Prince Charles discussing the matter,' said Anthony.

'He then proceeded to show me dried river beds where he had swum in the flowing water as a child.'

'However, he told me not to assume that all environmental

disasters are man-made, and that all opinions should be based on solid scientific evidence.'

'The President's good insight into the global conservation picture will surely stand the country in good stead.'

Local environmentalist Lawrence Anthony had the privilege of meeting President Jacob Zuma to discuss matters of common interest



Controversy keeps matric student at home

Lesley Stephenson

REFUSAL to enrol matric student Karessa Govender at Isandlwana High School in Gingindlovu has cost her four months of teaching time so far.

Govender relocated to Gingindlovu after her family moved there for work purposes.

As a result, she left Stanger Secondary and tried to enrol at Isandlwana High School in order to complete her matric.

'The principal stated that due to the policy of Grade 12, she could not accept my child,' said her father Peter Dhaver.

'Matric work begins in Grade 11.'

'However, I know that exceptions are made for situations such as ours.'

'It is unacceptable that her final year has been turned upside down and nothing is being done about it.'

'She is depressed and I do not know whether she will, at this late stage, be able to complete matric at all.'

'Even though she has been trying to keep working at home, I do not think it will be enough.'

Dhaver approached the Department of Education in Empangeni for assistance, but, according to him, this did not result in any progress.

Dhaver was constantly met with new reasons why his daughter could not enrol.

'First the school said that there was no place available, then there was a problem with my child's matric subjects.'

'I even offered to find a tutor for Karessa to overcome any curriculum problems.'

'The story keeps changing, and I suspect that the reasons are personal or racial and are not actually valid.'

Frustrated, Dhaver even contacted MEC Ina Cronje in February, sending her multiple letters requesting assistance, but didn't receive feedback.

According to the KZN Department of Education's spokesperson Mabali Thusi they are aware of the situation but cannot elaborate further due to the delicate nature of the matter.

She would only say that the former MEC Ina Cronje has met with the principal and the matter was under investigation.

Isandlwana High School could not be contacted for comment at the time of going to print.



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