

# SA policymaker to help Nepal

**AMELIA NAIDOO**

FORMER kingdom, Nepal, has called on constitutional expert Prof Karthy Govender to address the country's policy makers on drafting their country's constitution ahead of its national elections in November.

Govender was invited by Nepal's Prime Minister Girija Prasad and Koirala's BP Koirala India-Nepal Foundation (BPKF), which is an autonomous bilateral body formed by the Indian and Nepalese governments to discuss and debate the new constitution.

## Interim

In December last year the country began a new chapter when King Gyanendra, ended his absolute rule. In April Nepal's former Maoist guerrillas joined an interim government under a peace deal that took them into the political mainstream after a decade-long civil war that killed more than 13 000 people.

Govender has been addressing the Nepalese and Indian governments in Kathmandu since last week on South Africa's experience in constitution drafting. The SA Human Rights Commissioner and University of KwaZulu-Natal law academic also spoke on affirmative action and reverse discrimination.

Indian ambassador to Nepal and BPKF spokesman Shiv Shankar Mukherjee said the countries were privileged to have Govender



**GIRIJA PRASAD KOIRALA**

participate in discussions on the constitution.

"The Nepalese and Indian Governments want to ensure a settlement that is enduring and will guarantee participation and dialogue enabling the people to make a more informed decision," said Govender who was both excited and daunted about his address ahead of his departure.

He continued that the invitation was indicative of the esteem with which South Africa is held.

"The Nepalese are very impressed with the SA constitutional drafting process and regard our constitution as an excellent example of a workable and fair constitution arising out of a process of negotiations," said Govender.