

As Henry Jeffreys leaves, 'Gupta-press' looks for stability

By Mandy de Waal: @mandyldewaal

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Henry Jeffreys, The New Age's editor until Tuesday, 31 May 2011, is headed back to the Cape for a quieter life filled with writing books, columns and completing his masters' degree. Meanwhile, veteran newspaper consultants Ryland Fisher and Ray Joseph are still hard at work on the paper and say it doesn't deserve all the negative press it gets about being a Zuma mouthpiece.



After six months at The New Age, former editor Henry Jeffreys says he could write a book. Or two. The veteran newspaper jetted in to rescue the Gupta-owned paper late last year after a top editorial team's walkout left the daily high and dry as the presses were about to roll. A month later Jeffreys got the paper on the streets, but now says his tenure is over and he wants to do his own thing.

"My purpose was to handle the crisis the newspaper was dealing with at the time and put it on a footing where it could be taken forward. It was never my intention to build a new career," says Jeffreys, who signed up for a six-month stint with the Guptas, with the option for a review.

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