

Cape Times editor fired



By [Rod Baker](#)

9 Dec 2013

NEWSWATCH: Cape Times' editor Alide Dasnois has been fired, reports Mail & Guardian. Dasnois' removal appears to coincide with the publication of an article on Public Protector Thuli Madonsela's finding on fisheries minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson, reports IOL.

For more:

- Mail & Guardian: [Cape Times editor fired after Joemat-Pettersson report...](#) Is this just an unfortunate coincidence or is there something fishy about this - pardon the pun - given Joemat-Pettersson's portfolio?

[An article by Melanie Gosling on Thuli Madonsela's findings on Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson](#) appeared in the Cape Times on Friday, and the newspaper's editor was allegedly fired shortly afterwards.

Public Protector Thuli Madonsela's verdict on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson performance is a great deal less than flattering, finding that the minister was, among other alleged failings, guilty of reckless handling of state money and services, which in turn led to fruitless and wasteful expenditure.

The Mail & Guardian reports that "Dasnois was informed by Sekunjalo Consortium executive chairperson Iqbal Survé of her removal on Friday" and goes on to report that "Dasnois was told on Friday not to return to work" and "was apparently offered redeployment in another capacity within the company."



Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson: The Public Protector's findings on the minister's performance are a great deal less than flattering. (Image: GCIS)



The fishing industry faces enough challenges as it is, but if the Public Protector's verdict on the minister is justified and correct, then the industry deserves a great deal more than it has been getting from the department. (Attribution: [Banes](#) at the [English language Wikipedia](#))

The Mail & Guardian article reports that Dasnois "declined to comment on Sunday, except to say: 'I am in the process of seeking legal advice'" and that "it is not clear why Dasnois was fired."

Back in February this year, Bizcommunity, via i-Net Bridge in its report on Sekunjalo securing its bid for Independent Media, reported that Iqbal Survé [was adamant that the group's editorial independence would be preserved](#) and quotes him as saying "I am an independent thinker and I expect those who work on the newspapers to be independent too."

To be fair, however, he is quoted as going on to say "However, I do believe that reporting should be balanced and fair."

Of course, what constitutes balance, or fairness, is very much an individual thing, isn't it.

ABOUT ROD BAKER

Rod Baker is Content Director at Bizcommunity.com. A journalist since before computers, he worked on a wide range of magazines and, in his youth, rose through the ranks from being a lowly and abused sub-editor, to a high and still abused editor and publisher. He has been editor and publisher of a number of magazines, as well as a newspaper. He has edited many books, and written a number too. Email him at rod@bizcommunity.com

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