

Van Vuuren is elected president of the SAAA

Tonight Reporter

LOUIS Jansen van Vuuren, chairman of the Western Cape branch of the South African Association of Arts, was elected national president of the association at the annual meeting in Verwoerdburg recently.

Wendy Ross was elected first vice-president and Gunther van der Reis second vice-president. A life-long honorary vice-presidency was awarded to Marilyn Martin.

Van Vuuren said in a statement: "South Africa is presently experiencing a transformation process and I would like to see that the role of the SAAA becomes that of an actively involved and initiative body within this process.

"Our aim to promote art at all levels can thus not remain an abstract and conceptual ideology. Over and above the SAAA's usual projects



Louis van Vuuren

to promote art, attention ought to be given to the needs and desires of different communities as well as other existing institutions.

"Because the SAAA has a national infrastructure, participation of all communities is possible on all cultural levels.

"When referring to the active participation of the SAAA it does not only pertain to the promotion of art in our beautiful venues — it means introducing actions to reach out to everyone involved in the cultural fields.

"In this the SAAA can play a vital role by balancing the disequilibrium which exists and shifting the focus from Eurocentredness to a true indigenous South African cultural movement.

"I believe that having a united approach the SAAA will not only grow from strength to strength, but will facilitate the entry to important international art events."