As one hunger strike ends another begins

DURBAN lawyers plan to meet Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok early next week to put to him the plight of their detained clients and make representations for their release.

It is understood they will be making representations for, among others, the former SRC president at the University of Durban-Westville Koven Naidoo, currently undergoing psychiatric treatment in hospital for the second time since his detention in June last year.

While detainees in other parts of the country begin calling off their hunger strike, lawyers in Durban have revealed that at least 112 detainees in the city are on strike.

At the week-end, lawyers said that they had discovered an earlier hunger strike at Westville Prison had been called off, and that as far as they knew there was no-one in the jail on a strike.

However, at a legal briefing yesterday, they said during visits they had made that morning, they discovered the detainees had begun a large-scale hunger strike on Sunday. They said a prison warden had confirmed that this was the case.

The Prisons Department was asked for comment, but had not replied at the time of going to press.

Many legal representatives acting for detainees involved in the strike are apparently not yet aware of their clients’ protest.

About 70 lawyers and legal academics attended yesterday’s briefing to discuss the role of lawyers in relation to detainees.

One of the speakers was the president of the National Medical and Den-