

March 2017

[View this email in your browser](#)



COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

SAHRC mourn human rights champion Ahmed Kathrada

The South African Human Rights Commission, Commissioners, its staff and the human rights community are deeply saddened by the passing of Ahmed Kathrada, an unwavering warrior for human rights and a committed fighter in the struggle for freedom for all. The nation's tragic loss comes at the end of Human Rights month, a stark reminder of what he and so many fought to realise. [Read more](#)





Launch of the Centre for Human Rights at University of the Free State.

Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission, Adv. Bongani Majola, delivered the Keynote address on *Transformation at Universities* at the Launch of the Free State Centre for Human Rights on 14 March 2017. The centre was formed following the widely reported incident, involving black cleaners who were humiliated by four white students in an initiation-type ceremony, in 2007. The centre is a result of one of the clauses of the settlement agreement between the SAHRC, workers, Reitz 4 students and the University. The other clauses; public apology, compensation, and a reconciliation ceremony have already taken place.



Free State Provincial Manager, Buang Jones; SAHRC Chairperson, Bongani Majola and Professor Leon Wessels from the Centre for Human Rights.

Did you know

The Research Function of the Centre include:

- To assist, by means of appropriate research initiatives, in the cultivation of a human rights-oriented institutional culture at the UFS.
- To contribute, through appropriately targeted research projects, in remedial interventions to promote human rights awareness and alleviate human rights abuses in the University's associated communities.



Commissioner Mohamed Ameeria; Chairperson Bongani Majola; Free State Provincial Manager Buang Jones; Senior Legal Officer Shirley Mlombo; Tsoane Khoarai Legal Officer and Neo Tsikwane Human Rights Advocacy Officer.

Mohodi FM wins Community Radio Awards competition for defending the rights of listeners.

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) held the Community Radio Award ceremony on 29 March 2017 to honour community radio stations that heed the call from the two human rights bodies to '*stand up for someone's rights*'. Mohodi FM, a community radio station from Molemole in Limpopo won the ultimate award, a Hewerd Packard Laptop, with runner-up Inanda 88.4 FM from Kwa-Mashu in KwaZulu-Natal winning a Samsung 9 inch tablet and second runner-up Vaaltar News

from Taung in the North West receiving a 7 inch Samsung tablet.

Community Radio stations entered the competition by sending news/current affairs programme clips where they defended the rights of a listener/s. Provincial finalists were subsequently chosen through a vigorous process. Subsequently, the three finalists were selected. Commissioner Angie Makwetla echoed Commissioner Jonas Ben Sibanyoni that "Community Radio stations are a good platform to disseminate human rights awareness information."

The event which coincided with Human Rights Month activities also honoured provincial finalists with certificates as a token of appreciation and recorders to enable them to record news interviews efficiently and continue to make a difference in the lives of their communities.



Thulani Ngcobo from Inanda 88.4 FM, Commissioner Jonas Ben Sibanyoni, Ms Katherine Liao from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Moyahabo Gwangwa from Mohodi FM, Commissioner Angie Makwetla, Ms Chantal Kison and Omphemetse Leshobo from Vaaltar News at the ceremony.

Below: Provincial finalists with the Advocacy and Communications Unit following the hosting of a successful award ceremony.



Moyahabo Gwangwa from Mohodi FM's acceptance speech.



Thulani Ngcobo from Inanda 88.4 FM on the significance of the award.



Omphemetse Leshobo from Vaaltar News responds to being second runner up.



Commissioner Jonas Ben Sibanyoni on the importance of community radio stations in disseminating information and human rights messages.



Commissioner Angie Makwetla on the judging panel.



Message of support by Ms Katherine Liao, the United Nations Regional Representative delivered at the Community Radio Awards ceremony. The event honoured community radio stations that stood for the rights of community members.

SAHRC hosts Canadian Minister of Justice

Chairperson Bongani Majola and Commissioner Mohamed Ameeria met with with Canadian Minister of Justice and Attorney General, Honourable Jody Wilson-Raybould regarding 'the Commission's role in human rights promotion and protection, especially in the context of efforts of reconciliation and redress' at the Head Office, on 29 March 2017.



Media Training for Commissioners

Advocacy and Communications Unit conducted a *Media and Communications Training* Session for Commissioners on 31 March 2017 to enhance their media and communications skills in preparations for interviews.



SAHRC IN THE MEDIA

'Qwelane a delinquent who disrespects the Constitution,' human rights commission tells court

Former journalist and ambassador to Uganda Jon Qwelane's absence from his hate speech court case indicates delinquency and disrespect for the Constitution.

This was among the submissions made by the South African Human Rights Commission when it made closing arguments in the matter on Tuesday at the High Court in Johannesburg.

Qwelane has not attended the hearing, dealing with homophobic views he expressed in a 2008 newspaper column, since its commencement last week, after he collapsed in a shopping mall and was hospitalised. Source: Times Media, [Read more](#).

'Qwelane a delinquent who disrespects the Constitution,' human rights commission tells court

Roxanne Henderson | 2017-03-14 13:45:43.0



Jon Qwelane, SA's ambassador to Uganda, who wrote a column called 'Call me names but gay is not okay'. File photo.

Image by: Robert Botha/Business Day

Equality remains one of the most violated rights in SA - SAHRC

The right to equality remains one of the rights most violated in South Africa. This is according to South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) Spokesperson, Gail Smith. March marks Human Rights Month in South Africa with the focus on human rights issues.

"Since 2012, the number one human right violation in South Africa has been around the right to equality. So, that remains the right we go to court on the most as the South African Human Rights Commission ... specifically those cases (which) would involve

the use of the "K" word and other derogatory comments with racial undertones such as the use of terms baboon or monkey. So, it is the right to equality that is a top right, followed by labour disputes. We get a lot of labour disputes, most of those we send to the CCMA because they are another body that is setup to deal with specific labour rights and the third top right we deal with is around access to health care services, water, food and social security." Source: SABC

[Read more](#)



Tag: SAHRC



Equality remains one of the most violated rights in SA - SAHRC

Monday 20 March 2017 21:49

The SAHRC says the right to equality remains one of the rights most violated in South Africa.

Seshego Equality Court orders Limpopo department of education to pay up

The department has to pay personal compensation to Nare Mphela, a transgender woman from Moletji following discrimination against her.

POLOKWANE – The Limpopo Department of Education was recently ordered by the Seshego Equality Court to pay R60 000 in personal compensation to Nare Mphela, a

transgender woman from Moletjie, Ga-Matlala. The case was brought to the court by the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) last year on 14 November after there were allegations of humiliation and harassment based on the gender identity of the learner. Source: Review Online [Read more.](#)



Mr Dennis Matotoka from Commission for Gender Equality, Nare Mphela and Dr Eileen Carter from the South African Human Rights Commission.

SAHRC requests urgent meeting with Minister Dlamini over social grants

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) on Friday said it had requested an urgent meeting with Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini to discuss the lack of clarity on the payment of social grants.

There are heightened fears around the payment of social grants, as the current contract with Cash Paymaster Services (CPS) ends this month. No new arrangements have been finalised to pay social grants in April to 17 million recipients.

In a statement issued by spokesperson Gail Smith said the SAHRC said it has “requested an urgent meeting” with Dlamini and Thokozani Magwaza, the chief executive officer of the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa), to discuss the lack of clarity on the payment of social grants. [Read more](#)

Source: The Citizen

national 3.3.2017 10:22 am

SAHRC requests urgent meeting with Minister Dlamini over social grants



ANA



Bathabile Dlamini. Picture: DoC

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

SAHRC ON TWITTER @SAHRCommission



KhoiSan Julian @JulianMasimila · Mar 15

Seminar: Violence on the Cape Flats. Tygerzig Primary School Hall Uitsig Western Cape





SAHRCCommission @SAHRCCommission · Mar 24

SAHRC staff members attending Internal Seminar on how best they can use the library to advance knowledge on human rights.



2 2

You Retweeted



Kupido Baron @kupidobaron · Mar 20

I pledge to denounce racism in all its forms and to work towards the advancement of non-racialism, nation building & the common good of SA!



SAHRCCommission @SAHRCCommission

@ParliamentofRSA, Take the SAHRC's Anti-racism pledge- eepurl.com/cHc8y5

You Retweeted



Buang Jones @IamBuangJones · Mar 16

@SAHRCommission FS Training on Human Rights Advocacy for community-based org, NGO's and the paralegal movement #humanrightseducation





Ongie_BRIDGE @Ongie_BRIDGE · Mar 17

Philip Molekoa of @SAHRCommission speaking on role of the commission in the protection of children. @BridgeProjectSA @RexMotheo @EducationGP



You Retweeted



Ayanda Nene @Ayanda_Nene28 · Mar 15

Community Hall filled to maximum capacity at Gezubuso, to commemorate human rights and promote rights ascertainment @SAHRCommission KZN Dialogue



You Retweeted



Buang Jones @lamBuangJones · Mar 15

@SAHRCommission Chairperson meeting with
@SAPoliceService Free State Provincial leadership



YOUTUBE: South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC1)

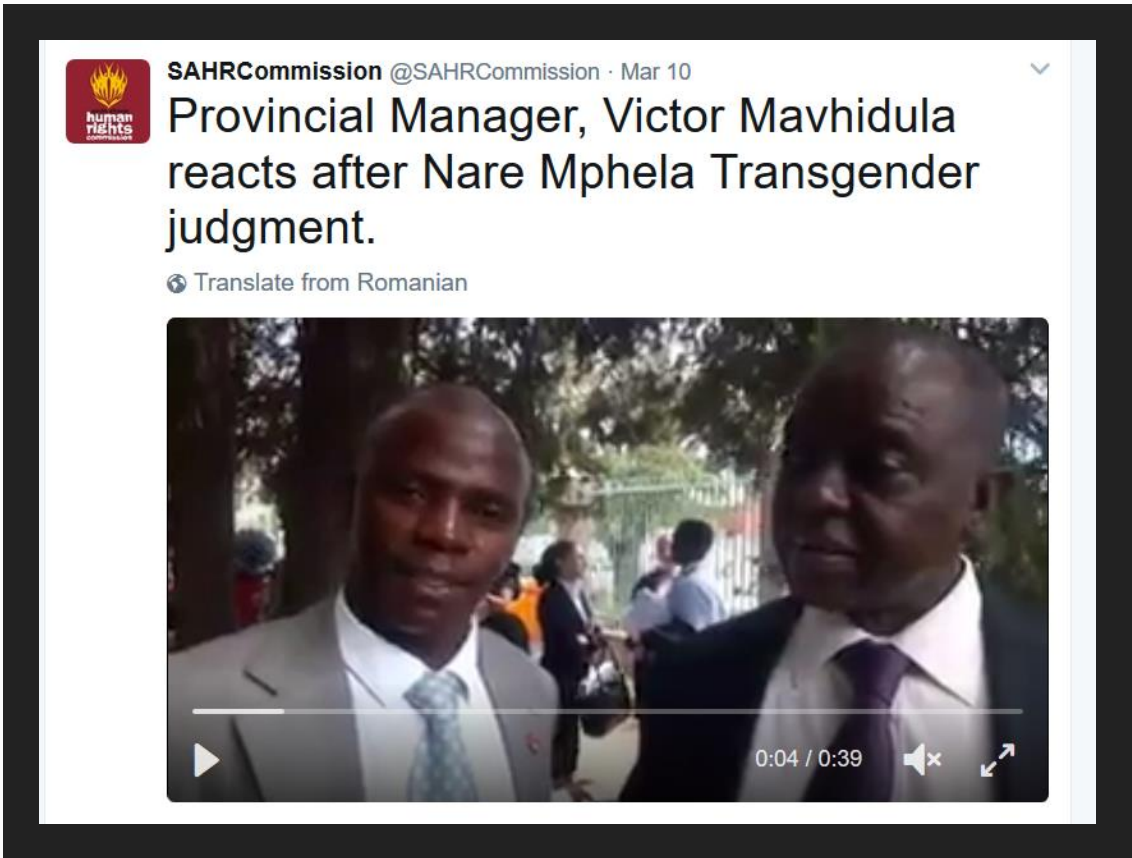
Commissioner Makwetla on Children's Rights, SABC



Communications Coordinator Gushwell Brooks speaks on the importance of Human Rights Day on ANN7.



Communications Coordinator Gushwell Brooks speaks on the importance of Human Rights Day on Question time, SABC 2.



HUMAN RIGHTS DAYS

Freedom Day, 27 April

Freedom Day is celebrated annually on 27 April. It celebrates freedom and commemorates the first post-apartheid elections held on that day in 1994. The elections were the first non-racial national elections where everyone over 18 from any race group, including foreign citizens permanently resident in South Africa, was allowed to vote. Previously, under the apartheid regime, non-whites had only limited rights to vote.

TALK TO US...



Copyright © South African Human Rights Commission 2016, All rights reserved.

**Our mailing address is:
Forum 3 Braampark Offices,
33 Hoofd Street,
Braamfontein, 2017**

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)