



# Fanelo

*"It's Your Right"*

Transforming Society. Securing Rights. Restoring Dignity  
The South African Human Rights Commission Newsletter



Volume 32

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# SAHRC says no to Xenophobia



**SAHRC Chair leads delegation to Xenophobia hit KZN**  
**SAHRC hatches a plan to tackle Xenophobia**

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## Africa Day, 25 May

Africa Day is the annual commemoration on May 25 of the 1963 founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). On this day, leaders of 30 of the 32 independent African states signed a founding charter in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In 1991, the OAU established the African Economic Community, and in 2002 the OAU established its own successor, the African Union. However, the name and date of Africa Day has been retained as a celebration of African unity.

2012's theme of Africa Day is "Africa and the Diaspora." The New York celebration was held in New York City on May 31, 2011. In Nairobi, it was celebrated at Uhuru Park Recreational Park. It should also be noted that Africa Day is observed as a public holiday in only five African countries, that is, Ghana, Mali, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe. However, celebrations are held in some African countries, as well as by Africans in the diaspora. *Source: Wikipedia*

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### CONTRIBUTORS

• Benjamin Ntombela, Legal Officer, KZN Office

# SAHRC appoints new CEO



**CEO: Lindiwe Khumalo**

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) is pleased to

announce the appointment of Ms Lindiwe Khumalo as the Chief Executive Officer with effect from 01 May 2015.


Ms Khumalo brings vast experience in the human rights field. The former Chief Operations Officer at the SAHRC was responsible for the running of the operational programs of the Commission, including the Legal Services, Research, Promotion of Access to Information as well as the Human Rights and Advocacy.

Before her appointment as the COO Ms Khumalo was the Provincial Manager for the Commission's Free State Office.

She holds B.A. Law (Bachelor of Arts in Law) Degree, University of Swaziland; LLB (Bachelor of Laws) Degree, University of Swaziland;

LLM (Master of Law – in Human Rights & Democratisation in Africa) Degree, University of Pretoria as well as MM-PDM (Masters in Management, Public and Development Management), University of Witwatersrand (in progress).


Ms Khumalo is the admitted Attorney of the High Courts of South Africa, Swaziland and Lesotho.

The Commission and staff would like to congratulate Ms Khumalo who has already shown her leadership skills as the COO, and doubt not that she will continue with the good work she is doing at the Human Rights Commission. Ms Khumalo takes over from Kayum Ahmed who unfortunately resigned at the end of February to concentrate on his studies. 

## Notice: Chantal Kissoon appointed acting COO

Gauteng Provincial Manager Chantal Kissoon has been appointed acting Chief Operations Officer following the ascension of Lindiwe Khumalo to CEO. Congratulations Chantal



Meanwhile, Nicola Whittaker will act on behalf of Chantal as Provincial Manager 



# SAHRC condemns xenophobic attacks on foreign nationals

The South African Human Rights Commission expresses strong condemnation at the spate of violence and verbal attacks of foreign nationals across the country.

The Commission cautions that these attacks are incompatible with the values of our Constitution and pose a real threat to our democracy. Lessons drawn from the 2008 xenophobic attacks on foreign nationals, as well as other conflicts within the region, clearly show the potential of such conduct degenerating into other opportunistic attacks on fellow citizens that could weaken and indeed reverse democratic gains, the economy, South Africa's standing internationally most importantly basic respect for human rights that South Africa has achieved so far. It is regrettable that the findings and recommendations by the Commission in its 2009 report on Xenophobic attacks which drew special emphasis on the need for early warning systems, heightened protection of foreign nationals, reintegration, wide education programme, access to justice and reparation based on the events of 2008 has not been responded to by the relevant government departments.

The Commission reminds South Africans that our Constitution protects the human rights of all foreign nationals, with or without resident permits, residing within the borders of the Republic. These rights, particularly the right not to be treated in an inhuman and degrading manner, or to be killed, must be upheld at all times. Violations of any of these rights seriously undermines the values of an equal and



SAHRC staff joined the march against Xenophobia in Johannesburg on 23 April 2015.

just society, based on respect for human rights as provided by the Constitution. In the process, the human rights of non-nationals as set out in international covenants to which the country is bound are also violated.

The South Africa Human Rights Commission is mandated by both the Constitution and the South African Human Rights Commission Act to provide means and recommendations to the state on measures that may be taken towards achieving democracy and foster a culture of human rights and to avoid regression of democracy in the Republic. The Commission has in the past and continues to engage in a number of multi-pronged initiatives to achieve immediate,

medium and long term outcomes to address the violence. These include high level engagements with state and non-state actors aimed at encouraging the public towards renouncement of ongoing violence and call for the cessation of conflict; secondly, high-level engagements with law enforcement agencies to advise and encourage a scaling-up of efforts to achieve law and order, and arrest any further loss of life and damage to property.

While the Commission recognises the role and effort of the police to restore law and order, it strongly condemns activities where some SAPS officials are seen participating

More on page 05

## We must remain conscious that South Africa has in the past benefited from and continues to benefit from African states - SAHRC

in illegal activities. Thirdly, engagements with key policy makers, particularly the Minister of Home Affairs. This is aimed towards broader reforms including a review of current policy and regulatory frameworks relating to migration in respect of the entry, documentation, residence and protection of foreign nationals.

The South African Human Rights Commission reiterates the call on all leaders to understand the impact words can have and to consider carefully the language which is used when communicating on issues relating to the attacks on foreign nationals. The Commission has noted the comments by King Zwelithini disassociating himself

from the actions of people involved in the recent attacks and calls on him to address the public to confirm that these deplorable actions are not being undertaken in his name or by his direction. The Commission is investigating complaints regarding such alleged comments.

These initiatives follow a mission led by the Chairperson Adv. Lawrence Mushwana to hotspots and temporary camps in KwaZulu-Natal on 14 and 15 April 2015 to establish the nature and extent of the human rights challenges associated with these attacks. At the end of the visit, the Chairperson expressed his deep concern over the impact on the vulnerable, in particular women, children and older persons

who have been and continue to be adversely affected by the terrible incidents of the past week. The Commission's delegation visited the camps in Isipingo, Chartsworth and Greenwood in Durban which collectively house more than two thousand migrants from different African countries. The Commission shall continue to monitor incidents wherever they may occur.

The Commission hereby calls upon the media to exercise caution over broadcasts relating to children and to ensure that in the current conditions women and children are not made more vulnerable than they already are.

The Commission commends and acknowledges the interim measures in place to mitigate the hardship of displaced foreign nationals implemented by disaster management officials that includes the Departments of Health, Home Affairs, the SA Police Service, the Durban Municipality, the NGOs, religious leaders and volunteers.

We must remain conscious that South Africa has in the past benefited from and continues to benefit from African states. In particular our common commitment that South Africa belongs to all that live in it, and that the rights of foreign nationals must be observed and respected at all times and within the law must be actively protected by us all.

**Pf**



**SAHRC Chairperson Adv Mushwana interacting with the displaced migrants at a camp set up in Isipingo near Durban**



# SAHRC staff received threats due to Zwelithini investigation

Chairman of Parliament's Portfolio Committee on Justice Mathole Motshekga, on Wednesday moved to shut down comments by South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) chairman Lawrence Mushwana about the Chapter 9 institution's probe into controversial comments made by Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini.

Opening the briefing to the committee, Mushwana confirmed to MPs that threats had been made against SAHRC staff as the commission investigates alleged xenophobic utterances by Zwelithini last month which some have attributed to a wave of attacks on foreign nationals in parts of South Africa this month.

"Following complaints, we have had some key challenges as an institution of some threats which have been flying around our staff. We were receiving threatening calls and there was some posting even on Facebook," Mushwana said. "We are looking at it to see how best we deal with it. The investigation itself is going on so far smoothly."

However, Motshekga, insisting he spoke in his personal capacity, intervened, saying: "You know, if I were you, I will take the view that this matter of the king has actually been exhausted and government has already done a lot to deal with it."

"You are an independent organisation, you have a right to take your decisions, investigate what was said."

Motshekga added that several conflicting interpretations had been given to what the king said at a moral regeneration event at Pongola in KwaZulu-Natal last month.

"I don't know what else you can find in that investigation," Motshekga said.



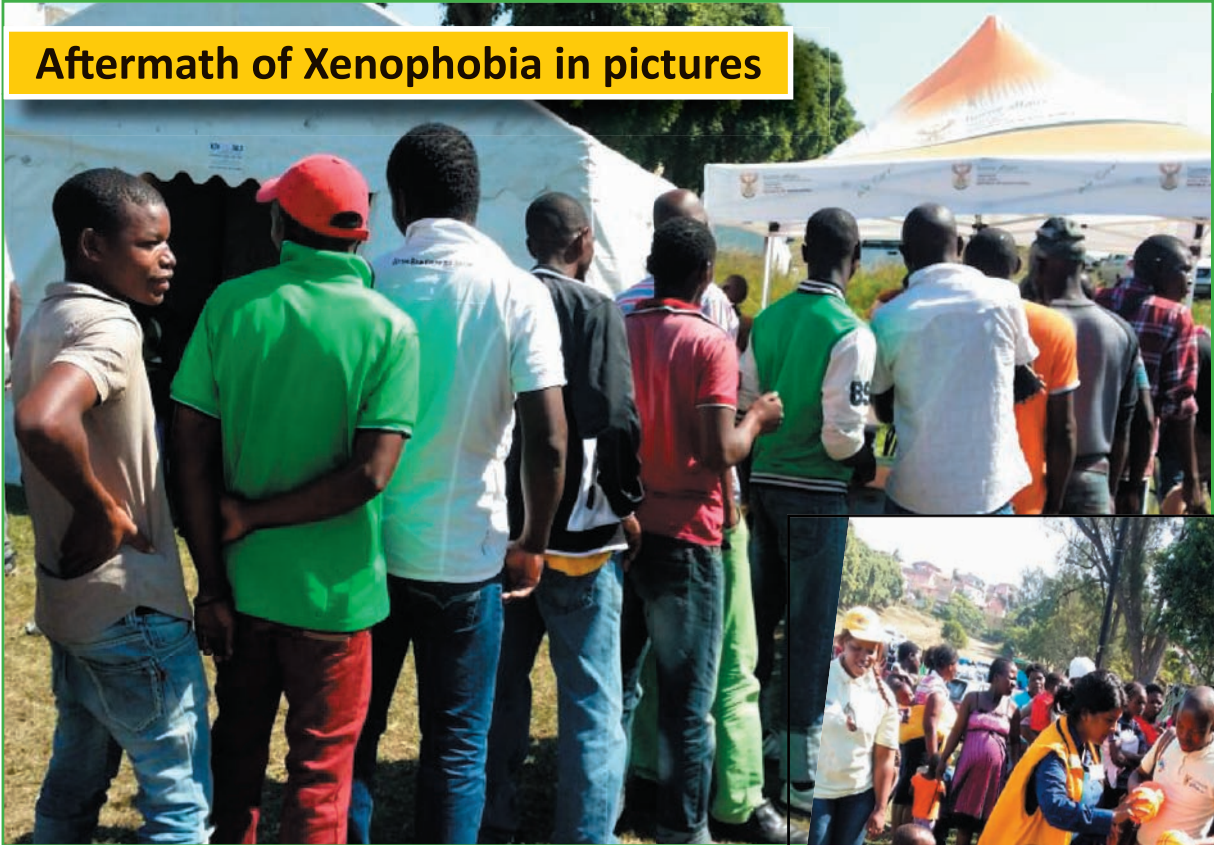
**First hand: Adv Mushwana hearing from the displaced non-nationals**



**Attack on non-nationals also affected the well-being of children**



**Aftermath of Xenophobia in pictures**





## Forum of Institutions Supporting Democracy in South Africa Unequivocally Condemns attacks on Foreign Nationals

### **Joint Media Statement by The Forum of Institutions Supporting Democracy**

Forum of Institutions Supporting Democracy in South Africa unequivocally condemns attacks on Foreign Nationals

We, the Chairpersons of the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), Financial and Fiscal Commission (FFC), Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL Commission), Office of the Public Service Commission (OPSC), Office of the Public Protector (OPP), Pan South African Language Board (PANSALB), Public Service Commission (PSC), and the Auditor-General (AG) of South Africa, wish to categorically express our utter dismay and condemnation of the widespread violent attacks, including the killing, of foreign nationals currently residing in our country.

The Forum of Institutions Supporting Democracy (FISD) is strongly opposed to any form of violence, whether from organized entities or ordinary members of our communities from any part of the country. The Forum also calls upon the government and all law enforcement bodies, particularly the South African Police, our community leaders, religious leaders, traditional leaders and political leaders at national, provincial and local commu-

nity levels to not only condemn this scourge of xenophobia, but also to mobilize our country's collective moral and other resources to ensure that no one's human rights are violated on South African soil, irrespective of the reasons.

We, on behalf of all the Constitutional Bodies, wish to state unequivocally that South Africa's Constitution was founded on recognition of the sanctity of life and the right of everyone, whether South African or not, to enjoy the basic Human Rights contained in our Constitution.

This is violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) where member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, promotion of the universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Not only is what is happening in violation of the Bill of Rights in South Africa's Constitution it is a violation of pertinent articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Article 3: everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person  
 Article 5: no one shall be subjected to torture, or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 13 (1) everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state

Article 13(2) everyone has the right to leave any country, including his



/her own and to return to his country

We therefore call upon fellow South Africans to respect and uphold these Human Rights at all times. We also call upon South Africans, All spheres of Government, Private Sector and Constitutional Bodies to do and support the following actions:

- Criminal Justice Organs should investigate, and arrest and prosecute all perpetrators
- Need to support and provide information to Judge Pillay Head of the Task Team appointed by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal to investigate the underlying causes of the xenophobic attacks in KZN.
- Call upon all leaders to desist from uttering provocative remarks
- National summit should be convened by the Department of Home Affairs and Department of Arts and Culture to deal with xenophobic attacks and social cohesion and
- Call upon media institutions and use of social media in a responsive manner instead of inciting violence as some of them seem to be doing.



# UNHCR MESSAGE TO REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is deeply concerned about the recent attacks against foreign nationals, including refugees and asylum seekers, in some parts of South Africa. UNHCR condemns the attacks and is committed to supporting the South African Government in its prevention and response efforts.

The Government of South Africa has consistently communicated its position and efforts as follows, and UNHCR support these messages and welcomes the actions taken:

1) The Government is doing everything in its power to contain the attacks, to assist people who have been affected and to protect all foreign nationals.

2) President Jacob Zuma has created an Inter-Ministerial task force to address the spate of attacks against foreigners and directed the Police and Home Affairs officials to work with local officials to stop the attacks and enforce the Law.

3) Over 300 arrests have already been made and special courts will be set up, as during the 2010 World Cup, to administer justice quickly and effectively.

4) The Government will be embarking on a social cohesion campaign over the next two weeks to hold community dialogues in an ef-

fort to prevent further outbreaks of violence.

Over the past few weeks, refugees and asylum seekers have frequently asked questions related to possible return to their countries of origin, security and reintegration into communities in South Africa, and resettlement to third countries. UNHCR has responded consistently to these questions and wishes to reiterate its positions as follows:

\* Voluntary Repatriation: UNHCR will assist all refugees who would like to return to their countries of origin provided that such return can take place in conditions of safety. The decision must be voluntary. UNHCR and its Partners are prepared to share information with candidates for repatriation to assist them to make an informed decision. UNHCR will not facilitate return to places it considers unsafe.

\* Resettlement: Resettlement will not be considered during situations of displacement.

The priority for UNHCR and Partners is to support the Government with responses to the immediate needs of the affected persons, including safety and material well-being. Therefore, UNHCR will not conduct any resettlement activities during the time of displacement.


\* Security and Reintegration:

Some of the affected persons have already been reintegrated back to host communities under conditions of safety and dignity with the help of the Police.

Police presence has also been reinforced in those areas. UNHCR continues to monitor the situation closely and receives information through the UNHCR Hotline and/or through Partners.

This information is subsequently shared with the Police for response to any incidents that are taking place. Affected persons are also reminded to call the Police on the emergency number, 10111, if they need assistance.

UNHCR will continue to work with its Partners, other UN agencies and the South African authorities in their efforts to address the consequences of violent attacks against foreign nationals and, in particular, the displacement of refugees and asylum seekers.

UNHCR wishes to remind refugees and asylum seekers to strictly respect the laws and regulations of South Africa and to cooperate with the authorities. 

# Statement by President Jacob Zuma to the National Assembly on violence at foreign nationals

16 APRIL 2015

During the past week we have witnessed shocking and unacceptable incidents of violence directed at foreign nationals in some parts of KwaZulu-Natal, which has now spread to some parts of Gauteng. Similar incidents had taken place in Soweto in January.

No amount of frustration or anger can ever justify the attacks on foreign nationals and the looting of their shops.

We condemn the violence in the strongest possible terms. The attacks violate all the values that South Africa embodies, especially the respect for human life, human rights, human dignity and Ubuntu.

Our country stands firmly against all intolerances such as racism, xenophobia, homophobia and sexism.

We extend our condolences to the families of all who have lost their lives and wish the injured a speedy recovery.

We appeal for calm, an end to the violence and restraint. Criminal elements should not be allowed to take advantage of the concerns of citizens to sow mayhem and destruction.

Any problems or issues of concern to South African citizens must be resolved peacefully and through dialogue.

The police have been directed to work round the clock to protect both foreign nationals and citizens and to arrest looters and those committing acts of violence.



**President Zuma addressing Parliament following attacks on non-nationals**

We urge communities to assist the police by providing information on the incidents that have taken place in Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal so that the perpetrators can be brought to justice.

We thank religious leaders, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders who are providing humanitarian assistance to the displaced people.

While we strongly condemn the attacks, we are aware of, and are sympathetic to some of the issues that have been raised by affected South African citizens.

We reiterate our view that South Africans are generally not xenophobic. If they were, we would not have such a high number of foreign nationals who have been successfully integrated into communities all over our country, in towns, cities and villages.

There are socio-economic issues that have been raised which are being attended to.

These include complaints about illegal and undocumented immi-

grants in the country, the increase in the number of shops or small businesses that have been taken over by foreign nationals and also perceptions that foreign nationals commit or perpetrate crime.

We wish to emphasise that while some foreign nationals have been arrested for various crimes, it is misleading and wrong to label or regard all foreign nationals as being involved in crime in the country.

In addition, not all foreign nationals who reside in our country are here illegally.

I have therefore assigned the entire Justice Crime Prevention and Security Cluster to work on this issue intensively, joined by the Ministers of Social Development, Trade and Industry and Small Business Development.

The security cluster and economic departments had already begun working on this matter, following the Soweto incidents in January.



# SAHRC recommendations following attacks on Non-nationals in 2008

## The SAHRC recommended that:

- The Gauteng Disaster Management Committee (DMC) take the position of the Western Cape in proactively planning to holistically reduce the risk of violence against non-nationals rather than plan only to address it when it occurs.

- The National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) ensures that all provinces have in place similar action plans in case of outbreaks of xenophobia or other social conflict that might induce displacement.

- The Social Cohesion Working Group, convened by the Department of Social Development, deliberate on and nominate a lead department to develop provincial conflict resolution capacity for the purpose of developing, restoring and maintaining social cohesion in areas affected by social conflict.

- Through reviews of existing reports and the successes and failures of prior reintegration or mediation activities, the NDMC begins to develop best practice guidelines on reintegration.

- The Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs should ensure that the new NDMC head has easy access to the reports arising from the 2008 violence, and that there is further reflection on planning around future social conflict and displacement in its annual report. As far as the SAHRC is aware, the 2008-09 annual report, which was still being drafted during the investigation period, does not mention the 2008 violence. This is a lost opportunity to raise awareness of the work that the Western

Cape and Gauteng PDMCs have done to address the possibility of future attacks.

- The Western Cape PDMC should ensure that the Ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs is apprised of its progress in planning for the possibility of future attacks, as the Ministry provided records only of Gauteng activities to the SAHRC.

- A national task team of police compile a documentary record of institutional learning during and after the May 2008 attacks in consultation with affected stations and provincial offices. This should form the basis of relevant training or guidelines, which should be rolled out to all affected stations, prioritising those stations which have experienced violence against non-nationals on more than one occasion.

- The SANDF compile a documentary record of institutional learning during and after the May 2008 attacks in consultation with deployed members. This, together with the SAPS evaluation recommended above, should form the basis of an engagement between SAPS and the SANDF on guidelines for future cooperation in the case of a social conflict disaster.

- The SAHRC carry out a rights education programme aimed specifically at police working with displaced non-nationals, including their motivation for being in South Africa, the effect of immigration policing on access to police protection, the obstacles to justice should displaced persons leave the country, and related issues. Such training should aim to facilitate an introspective process by station-level police, capacitating them to think reflectively about measures to promote justice for non-nationals and the rule of law for communities. It should be rolled out to all stations in previously affected areas.

- The DoJCD develop specific, carefully-conceived legislation addressing prejudice-related crime. This would assist in the identification of genuine xenophobic crimes and help secure appropriate sentencing for such crimes.

- SAPS be trained in matters pertaining to hate crimes once such legislation is put in place.

- The National Planning Committee take account of the recommendations made in this report in its monitoring of government's execution of its mandate.

## Report on the SAHRC Investigation into Issues of Rule of Law, Justice and Impunity arising out of the 2008 Public Violence against Non-Nationals





# March against Xenophobia in pictures





# We are all Africans



Sources: EWN, Demolix, Abe



## Don't vilify protector, urges Adv Mushwana



**Adv Mushwana calling for the protection of Chapter 9 institutions**

Attacks on Chapter 9 institutions in South Africa, including that of the Public Protector, undermine our hard fought for democracy.

This according to SA Human Rights Commission chairperson and previous Public Protector Lawrence Mashwana. He has spoken out on the recent attacks on Advocate Thuli Madonsela's office.

I was there when these laws were made in parliament. We were all passionate, we wanted that institution, and there are processes that must be followed

"I was there when these laws were made in Parliament. We were all passionate, we wanted that institution, and there are processes that must be followed," he said.

"Government cannot establish us, and when we do our work come in and vilify us." He said society should see the Public Protector as "the defender of their rights".

"But when they [society] see that we [the institutions] are being vilified, they don't see us as a champion. What do they do? They go and continue with their service delivery protests that unfortunately, at times, turn out violent," he said.

"So yes, it [attacks on our institutions] undermines democracy, it undermines the independence of Chapter 9 institutions, because I see us as those bodies, not adversaries of government."

Madonsela has faced a number of allegations during her tenure as public protector – from being a DA agent to being a spy in the employ of the CIA.

Just last year, the ANC said it was "concerned" over Madonsela and her "behaviour".

"We don't want to remove the public protector, we want the public

protector to do her work correctly and behave correctly," ANC secretary general Gwede Mantashe said at the time.

"We have no interest in removing her. She must finish her term but she must not abuse that term."

A blog, Africa Intelligence Leaks, had alleged that Madonsela, former DA parliamentary leader Lindiwe Mazibuko and Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union head Joseph Mathunjwa were CIA spies trying to undermine the government.

State Security Minister David Mahlobo has since promised the matter would be investigated. "Government has noted with great concern the allegations of espionage against the head of the office of the public protector and certain political leaders in our country," he said.

He went on: "The State Security Agency looked at the matter with great concern, as these allegations will impact negatively on our hard-won democracy."

He warned in the statement the independence and credibility of South Africa's democratic institutions could be undermined. **Source: The Citizen**



## SA consumers burdened with debt: SAHRC

Over half of South Africa's credit active consumers are over-indebted, and micro-lending negatively affected many in poorer communities, the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) said. Commissioner Mohammed Ameerma, SAHRC Commissioner responsible for Access to Justice and Housing.

"Of 19 million credit-active consumers in South Africa, 50 percent had impaired credit records, three months plus in arrears," Western Cape provincial manager Karam Singh said in Johannesburg. "Fifteen percent are described as debt stressed, one to two months in arrears."

As a result, more than 11 million of South Africa's credit active consumers were described as over-indebted. This high level of indebtedness was compounded by South Africa's low level of savings.

He was addressing a SAHRC discussion on business, human rights and the implications of micro-lending on access to justice at the SA Human Rights Commission, Johannesburg on 11 March 2015. Historically in South Africa, the poor had been unable to get loans since they had no assets as security.

"For persons living in poverty, loans were not available as a means of lifting oneself out of the confines of poverty," Singh said. Micro-lending had since enabled the poor to access cash.

"What we are seeing in South Africa and other parts of the world, even in the US and UK, is that these [micro] loans are being used for con-



Delegates at the SAHRC's event on business, human rights and the implications of micro-lending on access to justice.

sumption," Singh said. "From 2007 to 2012, in South Africa we saw outstanding unsecured credit increase from R41 billion to R159bn, a growth of 60 percent." With a faltering economy, cash-strapped consumers were struggling to pay back loans, and getting trapped in a poverty cycle and debt trap.

"In 2009, studies show that 40 percent of the money from micro finance was used to buy food and many borrowers were taking new loans to pay [old] ones," he said.

Unsecured lending and micro-loan schemes were identified as major problems that plagued Marikana during the labour unrest in August 2012. Source: The Citizen



Commissioner Ameerma and other delegates following successful engagement on micro-lending

# In the Seat



with Benjamin Ntombela  
Legal Officer, KZN



## *Tell us about your self*

I am an optimist. I always strive for a favourable outcome. I insist on holding a hopeful view even in trying times. I love life, I do almost everything that makes life exciting and worth living. I can also crack a joke or two now and again.

## *Where were you born and how was it for you growing up*

I was born in Durban on the 17th April 1982 and am the younger of the two children at home. My parents are originally from Zululand in Ulundi and came to Durban to seek employment. At the age of 5(five) I was sent to Zululand (Ulundi) to pursue both my primary and secondary education. Growing up was not really a hassle because my mother who is not a professional did almost everything to provide

*My role in the Commission permits me to further explore my activism in a safeguarded setting and with the backing and protection of the legislative prescripts, the privilege that other activists don't have.*

for me and my brother under the circumstances. It is only now that one begins to appreciate how difficult it might have been for her, I don't know how she pulled it off but I am grateful she did.

## *Education background*

I attended my primary schooling at Mahlabathini Combined primary School in Ulundi and matriculated at Mahlabathini High School also in Ulundi ( KwaZulu Natal). I then progressed to the former University of Durban Westville where I obtained a Bcom degree and went on complete an LLB Degree at the University of KwaZulu Natal. I am currently an LLM candidate with the University of KwaZulu Natal School of law.

## *Describe your position at the commission and explain what it means to you*

I work as a legal officer. I see my role beyond the professional title attached to it. I was introduced in the field of human rights at an early stage in my career. I did my internship with the Commission in 2005, went on to pursue my articles of clerkship with the Legal Resource Centre and later joined Public Protector South Africa. It was at this stage that I realise that one was not merely interested in human rights law or public interest law per se but that I was and I am actually an activist for human rights. My role in the Commission permits me to further explore my activism in a safeguarded setting and with the backing and protection of the legislative prescripts, the privilege that other activists don't have. Activism is merely about selflessness and creating positive change and that is what I endeavour to achieve in my role with the commission.

## *Day outside the office*

I am a bachelor and quite comfortable with this setup for now. Besides doing what most bachelors do I usually start off my day with a hectic training session at the gym





and then from there I make time for my studies and the rest take care of its self.

### *What motivates and inspire you*

I draw a lot of motivation and inspiration from people who craft positive change in other people's life without really expecting much in returns

### *Favourite activities*

Among many activities I enjoy is singing I am a tenor with one of the biggest choral outfits in the country the *South African Singers*.

### *Any interesting thing that people don't know about you*

Just over a year ago I embarked on a journey to change my lifestyle especially the eating part of it. Since then I have joined and won two weight loss challenges and shed over 30 kilograms. If I can do it so can you.

### *Favourite quotation*

"First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out because I was not a Socialist. Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out because I was not a Trade Unionist. Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak for me" by Martin Niemöller

### *My favourite book*

Conversations with my Sons and Daughters by Mamphela Ramphele.

"Transforming Society, Securing Rights, Restoring Dignity"



## Did you know?

Benjamin ran 10 KM at Durban Marathon in March 2015  
Recently he participated at the Deloitte challenge in may  
where completed 21 Kms

Benjamin is a Chiefs fan

## SNIPPETS

### CGE says women are still faced with challenges

Wednesday 9 April 2014 10:53  
Thabile Maphanga

The Commission for Gender Equality (CGE) says as the country celebrates 20 years of democracy, women are still faced with a number of challenges.

One of the challenges that women face is being discriminated against because of their gender.

Commission chairperson Mfanozelwe Shoji has been speaking at the start of the three day national gender summit in Benoni in Ekurhuleni on Gauteng's East Rand.

The summit is aimed at reflecting on the 20 years of democracy as well as celebrating gains and looking at challenges preventing gender equality.

CGE is an independent and statutory body created in terms of the South African Constitution: Source - SABC

### CRL guidance is needed – our country is under pressure

The Zulu King said that criminals must go home and he has a good

reason for saying what he said, leading a great nation  
April 22, 2015  
Editor

South Africa finds itself in a strong position of decision-making. Who can we blame? Who are the fingers pointing at? As a Commissioner, a religious leader and a recognised Khoi-San Chief, I feel that our ministries let us down. The Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs departments, both could have controlled this situation before it got to this level.

The Zulu King said that criminals must go home and he has a good reason for saying what he said, leading a great nation, considering the culture, religion and language of his nation.

Where is the problem now? It is not with the President or the Zulu King but these departments that were appointed for that kind of work to be carried out.

I don't know how they did their research; this is needed so that the police could have the law to act on. Now innocent foreign nationals had to face this strong attack because someone did not do his/her job and the community of South Africa is now wrong. This would not have happened if these two departments had done their part.

The foreign nationals were not wrong either. They came to work for their families, others can't worship God in their countries, and others ran away because of wars

and cannot go back because of the state there. I think our government must be strong with these departments. Look at the damage caused by their lacking.

The whole world is now looking at us. Regulation is needed, proper documentation and border controls. Let foreign nationals come and work but let them be regulated. We got rid of the old government but some of their methods were very good and they worked, so now we need those methods or else we will be in trouble.

Africa needs us, we need Africa but our working together must not be at the risk of the citizens. I make a humble call to all South Africans to put aside foreign national attacks and allow the Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs departments to do their work and the police must deal with criminals. We, as the Fraternal in Estcourt and the CRL Commissioner will be praying and also engage in meetings to assist with a way forward.

If you would like to get involved, please contact us.

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076 681 3575  
Commissioner  
Rev Nduli  
076 335 7353



SAHRC's report following attacks on non-nationals is available on [www.sahrc.org.za](http://www.sahrc.org.za)



# Pfanelo Baby



Lehumo Mahlatsi Obohlale Manamela

Gender: Boy

Weight: 3.85 kg

Father: Aubrey Manamela

Mother: Thami Manamela

## New Appointments

*Pfanelo* would like to congratulate the following colleagues on their appointments

Lethlogonolo Jakkals - Legal Consultant (NW)

Debra Dikwe - Admin Assistant (LMP)

Nditsheni Mulaudzi - Cleaner (LMP)

## Happy Birthday

The following colleagues are celebrating their birthdays in March. Please join us in wishing them well.

Robert Tyrell (HO), 02 May

Katleen Boyce, 04 May

Judy Hollenbach (HO) & Gcobani Gantsho (HO), Abraham Mojapelo (NC), 05 May

Anthony Wyngaard (NC), 06 May

Jackson Mzila (MP), 08 May

Amanda Shivamba (GP), Yuri Ramkissoo (HO) & Karam Singh (WC) 12 May

Kebalepile Modise (GP) 13 May

Danzel van Zyl (GP) 16 May

Commissioner Titus 19 May

Wisani Baloyi (HO) & Shafeeqah Salie (WC) 25 May

Tammy Carter (WC) 26 May