

REPORT

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How has South Africa protected its children?





Report: The SAHRC Commemorates the 25th Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Roundtable Discussion on the Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the UNCRC

20 November 2014

Astrotech Conference Centre, Killarney, Johannesburg

Introduction

On Thursday, 20 November 2014, the South African Human Rights Commission (hereafter the SAHRC or Commission) commemorated the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (hereafter UNCRC or CRC). The SAHRC held a roundtable discussion on the celebration of this 25th anniversary at the Astrotech Conference Centre in Johannesburg. The discussion was attended by organisations, government departments, and other stakeholders central in promoting the rights of the child, in South Africa and beyond.¹ Some of the stakeholders were also involved in the development of the UNCRC.

The discussion was led by Commissioner Lindiwe Mokate, responsible for child rights and education at the SAHRC, and was facilitated by Judith Cohen, ICC Liaison Officer, at the SAHRC.

The objective of the roundtable was to reflect on South Africa's successes and failures in the context of the UNCRC, as well as review the country's progress with a view to suggesting ways forward to address shortcomings.

Proceedings

Judith Cohen, Programme Director and facilitator, opened the discussion with some reflections on where South Africa was 25 years ago as a way to ground the audience in terms of how far the country has come. These reflections included, by way of example, the assassination of David Webster, the 6th anniversary of the United Democratic Front, political

¹ Speakers: Commissioner Pregs Govender, Mr. Kayum Ahmed, Mr. Patric Solomons, Ms. Brigitte Mabandla, Mr. Herve Ludovic De Lys, Ms. Joyce Siwani, Hon. Mathole Motshekga, Dr. Scholastica Kimaryo, Mr. Thabane Buthelezi, Ms. Judith Cohen, Commissioner Lindiwe Mokate.

marches and protests that were taking place across South Africa, the Delmas Treason trialists, the Tiananmen Square protests, and the fall of the Berlin Wall.



The facilitator then introduced the first speaker, SAHRC Deputy Chairperson Pregs Govender, to welcome all and acknowledge the day's speakers: Patric Solomons; Brigitte Mabandla; Herve Ludovic De Lys; Joyce Siwani; Hon. Mathole Motshekga; Dr. Scholastica Kimaryo; and Mr. Thabane Buthelezi. Special mention was given to Andries Viviers of UNICEF and Bongji Mkhabela of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund.

Welcome

The Deputy Chairperson highlighted that South Africa has the necessary legislative framework and institutional framework in place, together with a strong CSO sector that has worked on the issues of the rights of children long before the CRC itself and who also worked for that Convention. However, despite all this powerful work that has been done, despite the solidarity that led to the CRC, we are still in this situation where 64% of children in South Africa live below the poverty line. Poverty, inequality, violence, and other social ills impact the worst on children, particularly the girl child. How do we address this?



Some notable incidents that were well covered in the media were mentioned.

- The challenge of militarisation across the globe and even in South Africa, in terms of the priorities and police action in addressing socio-economic challenges;
- The case of a young boy who lost his life when he fell into a toilet earlier this year; and the incident where another child sustained injuries when they fell into a pit latrine – that child's dignity was severely impaired; and

The Deputy Chair emphasised that the Minister of Basic Education should have ensured that such a situation would not happen where a child falls into a pit latrine. Currently, there are between 800 and 900 schools across South Africa without toilets.

Purpose of the Roundtable

The SAHRC CEO, Kayum Ahmed, provided a brief synopsis on the purpose of the roundtable discussion. General Comment 2 of the CRC mentions the role of National Human Rights Institutions in furthering the rights contained in the Convention; and importantly, child rights are enshrined in the South African Constitution Act 108 of 1996 in section 28. Since the Bill of Rights forms an intrinsic part of the SAHRC's mandate, it has international and domestic

obligations to ensure that the CRC is implemented. Furthermore, it is important to take time to reflect on achievements and challenges as a country in terms of the CRC.

South Africa has an excellent legislative framework on the rights of the child. However, the country has fallen short in monitoring compliance; this is clear in the statistics – 64% of children continue to live in poverty. The purpose of the roundtable was thus twofold – to celebrate achievements and to acknowledge the existing challenges.



The CEO summed up his short welcome with a philosophical excerpt. In this excerpt, the philosopher Plato suggests that what we require as a society to move from darkness into the light is a sound decision; who amongst us are best suited to lead? Karl Popper has posited that the question is not much about who should lead, but how we prevent competent leaders from doing too much damage. To put this into context, when the current government establishes school feeding programmes, children become ill as result of food

they are being given at school, when the government sets up scholar transport schemes, children do not get to school as transport is grounded. In these cases, the Commission will be there to ask the tough questions and hold our leaders accountable. The roundtable discussion essentially would be about just that.

Reflections

1. Patric Solomons, Director of Molo Songololo



Is there a cause to celebrate? Yes. The world has an international framework and a standard for children – a standard that was hard won. Even before South Africa signed the Convention, the country used it to set out the national committee on the rights of children (NCRC). The instrument and its drafts were used to determine children's wellbeing in South Africa.

In 1980, discussions with children revealed that the CRC was about keeping an eye out for children, promoting children's needs, protecting children's rights as well as accountability for children.

- "The CRC is like a living thing. It helps governments, organisations, parents and children to respect the rights of all children", Kariem Ibrahim, at 14 years old.

The CRC was initiated in 1979 and was the product of a long process. In 1980/81, children (through a consultative process together with UNICEF and other stakeholders) were given the opportunity to articulate what they wanted the new (democratic) South Africa to be like,

and what they wanted the world to be like for children. It is important to look at the effort it took to get governments to address issues of children. The UN General Assembly ultimately adopted the CRC in 1989. In celebrating, it is important to reflect also on those challenges.

In the first years of the CRC, there were other global challenges happening in Africa and in the world - political and social instability, crime and violence in parts of the world. In Africa, poverty, famine, civil conflict, and genocide compromised the survival of millions of children. Many feared that the CRC would become a dormant human rights instrument. In South Africa, the process of dismantling of the apartheid regime began under the leadership of Nelson Mandela and established a new democratic order. In 1995, South Africa ratified the CRC. Africa began to contribute to keeping the CRC alive – several consultative processes and stakeholder engagements were convened in order to do this. Children's inputs were also highlighted in the processes.

Key principles of the CRC:

- Children's best interests be given highest priority;
- Children's right not to be discriminated against;
- Children's right to be given a chance to survive and develop;
- Children's right to participate, express themselves, formulate their own ideas, and to be consulted. This is probably the most misunderstood right – we don't engage with this right on a daily basis. The way in which government officials are addressing the issue of child participation is basically decoration – there is a need to explore that and look at this issue.
- **South Africa and Global Progress**
 - Reform of national legislative framework to give effect to the CRC;
 - Monitoring, reporting, and keeping governments accountable;
 - Child survival – reducing child mortality
 - School enrolment
- **South Africa's achievements** – what the children say:
 - Children's rights are respected and in law – this is a fundamental achievement with regard to the CRC;
 - The Child Support Grant (CSG) helps parents take better care of children;
 - Resources and facilities have improved opportunities for disabled children;
 - School feedings schemes help children stay healthy, learn, and pass their grades;
 - No fees schools – this prevents dropping out
 - Equal treatment and fairness no matter your colour or background; and
 - Clinics and hospitals and shelters for orphaned children.
- **Gaps** – what the children say:
 - Child abuse and sexual violence;
 - Violence and gangsterism;
 - Substance abuse – alcohol and drugs;
 - Peer pressure and bullying;
 - Corporal punishment in schools (not only at home);

- Poverty, unemployment (older brothers and sisters unable to find jobs), and lack of decent housing;
 - Children do not always feel safe in their homes and communities; and
 - Children are forced to look after themselves.
- **South Africa lags behind** – what NGOs say:
 - Promoting and strengthen children’s rights;
 - Reducing inequality;
 - Achieving free equal and quality education;
 - Basic service delivery in poor and rural areas;
 - National coordinator and integrated programmes and intervention;
 - National plan of action for children;
 - Recent dismantling of the Department for Women, Children, and Persons with Disabilities (DWCPD) and moving children and persons with disabuse to the Department for Social Development (DSD) remains a concern – does the latter have the capacity to deal with child rights issues effectively?
 - Monitoring and reporting on government progress and accountability issues.
- **Ombudsperson for children**
 - Many countries have created ombudspersons or commissions of children or protectors of children because of the CRC as well as recommendations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (over 70 countries have this in place).
- What the kids say re an ombudsperson for children:
 - A person who will listen to our views and make sure they are treated fairly, that they are educated, and that they enjoy their rights.
- **SA obligations and response**
 - SAHRC ensuring accountability of the government;
 - Report on progress made to implement the CRC;
 - Paris principles highlighted;
 - UN General Assembly.
- **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child recommendations:**
 - General comment in 2002 that every state needs an independent human rights institution responsible for promoting and protection of children’s rights;
 - This should be an independent and autonomous body;
 - Established by legislation and parliament;
 - Statutory mandate;
 - Independent from government;
 - Should be able to hold the government accountable;
 - Children’s participation and involve children’s views;
 - Should have a strong monitoring and investigating arm;
 - Recent discussion on whether the SAHRC fulfils such role and obligation.

- **Opportunity to recommit**

- There is a need for political will at the highest level to fulfil CRC;
- Children must be a national priority;
- South Africa has begun to erode a number of gains and there needs to be a discussion around that;
- National plan of action for children there is a need to look at that and how it equates to the national development plan 2030 – this needs to be rolled out;
- Address gaps and challenges effectively;
- Effective resource allocation;
- Policy guidelines – **child participation** in public decision making and progress – chapter 9 institutions can do a lot around developing policy on this for government departments
- Revive earlier proposals on ombudsperson for children, and have constructive dialogue on that
- Finally, we need to agree on how we move forward.

Children’s remarks on the SAHRC roundtable discussion on the 25th commemoration of the UNCRC: Children celebrated Commissioner Mokate for keeping the flag high for children’s rights, and for celebrating children’s rights through this event; and wanted to know why they were not invited; and what can the Commissioner do to further the proposal for ombudsperson based on the conversations they have had and presented to the Commissioner?

Reflections

1. **Brigitte Mabandla, Former Minister of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and has also had several years of being active in the child rights sector.**



General thrust of presentation: Reflecting on the progression of child policy in South Africa:

- This is an opportunity to really thank many people less mentioned who have contributed profoundly to the advancement of policy and legislation around children;
- History re children repression: ANC and PAC struggles were recognised by the UN and thus hard observer status at the UN and could attend treaty conferences and other UN proceedings; that is how some of the people here got exposed to those issues; what is also not known by many, OR Tambo was the president of the ANC and was one who believed in human rights; and, in fact, the ANC in the area of rules of war (?) are signatories to the Geneva Convention – this is an indication of commitment;
- Ms. Mabandla praise the chapter 9 institutions and highlighted that they have done exceptionally well and have expanded and come to understand and organically develop their own policies in the work they do;
- Particularly moved by the work done at the SAHRC by the Deputy Chair re water and sanitation – this work exposed gaps, and has helped the country to understand the situation of poor people in South Africa;
- Pioneering instruments for children to be heard and taken seriously;
- Children's voices say something about where we come from;
- Traditionally, children are to be seen and not heard – but the world, and indeed South Africa, is now moving the boundaries and expanding the rights in section 28 of the Constitution;
- Further, there is a need to correct the misunderstanding about where the ANC stands in relation to human rights – this is important to note: when there was deep repression in the 80s, a children's conference was called in Harare, Zimbabwe, which for the ANC was the beginning of developing the concept of children in a democratic dispensation. This Harare conference came shortly after the Kabwe ANC conference, the ANC was beginning to recognise the need to prepare for talks. Ms. Mabandla acknowledged the good work that was done by Black Sash, by many anti-apartheid internal NGOs working with children (including the media) for bringing to the fore, the situation of children under the repression of the 80s. The importance of networking was emphasised;
- There was nothing exceptional of those in the liberation movement who participated in bringing about change. It was a duty, in which they found themselves and had to do it. They believed in a better future for children. It was a policy position of the ANC org at the time. What was exceptional however was the manner in which, across party lines, across racial boundaries, they managed to work together for the common good. The national children's committee was formed. Here is the beauty of networking. Also the importance of the role some persons employed by UN – for example, Scholastica and Grant. The liberation movement was recognised by the UN, but South Africa was isolated at the time. They approached UNICEF directly (1990) and formally by Thabo Mbeki to ask the UN to lift the ban on just UNICEF so that the children's agency could assist South Africa to work on the dire situation of children in the country. The situation of children in communities was dire. There was a project at UWC for the advancement of the rights of the child that was set up, with the support of Scholastica and her technical skills – together with the help of strong,

capable people they worked and made sure that in the Bill of Rights, we expressly and unambiguously stated what the rights of the child are, no matter how expansive the definitions. The strength of communality and of working together made it a success;

- Reflection on engagement with Nelson Mandela shortly after his release - invitation to speak at the UWC on the very dire situation of children.
- Ms. Mabandla concluded with noting that it is not easy to work in the formal executive government structures – there are protocols and processes to be followed – however, to the best of their ability, they continued to work on and push for children's legislation. She reiterated her support to the work and once again praised all role players for advancing the work on child policy in South Africa, and making the country a leader in terms of children's rights frameworks.

Messages of Support

1. Mr. Herve Ludovic De Lys, UNICEF Country Representative and Acting Resident Coordinator

Mr. Herve Ludovic De Lys opened by emphasising a few issues:

1. Notion of accountability – this is at the heart of everything UNICEF does and aims for. In South Africa, clearly from a legal standpoint/framework, the country has done extremely well. All the right policies, laws, and systems are in place. The question then is how do we make sure that this system is owned by the people so that they make the best use of it?
2. The second aspect of accountability, South Africa is very different to other African countries such as Niger, Somalia, or the Ivory Coast. South Africa has financial, political, intellectual, and technical resources – so why is it that the government cannot, and struggles to, provide basic services to children? With the resources at its disposal, the country can easily address some of these issues relating to basic services – poor sanitation, malnutrition etc. Accountability for service provision is a key element needs to be looked at to ensure the country moves forward.
3. Another aspect relates to the achievements of South Africa over the last 20 years e.g. Child Support Grant (CSG). This is a great instrument to lift children out of poverty but at same time, 64% of children are trapped in poverty. Are we ready to look at the quality of expenditures - are we spending enough money in the right direction? The CSG is useful, but are we spending the money in the best and most effective way? We need to be able to address these issues together. One challenge, around which UNICEF pledges its complete support, is on the issue of violence against children. How can UNICEF help turn this violent situation around? UNICEF is at your disposal.
4. Refocusing the UNICEF country office around 3 issues: 1) ending violence against children; 2) adolescent girls; 3) promotion of Early Childhood Development.

Mr. Herve Ludovic De Lys concluded with stressing the need to identify what the value systems we need to put together are in order to make sure that the most vulnerable groups are protected.



Everything is place in South Africa – resources, systems, laws, a brilliant Constitution – but the country is still not achieving the desired results for children and women. Maybe it requires a different kind of resource; maybe it requires looking at where this violence is coming from, is it time to stop the violence, and how do you stop it? Is it only a social issue or also socio-political issue? That is the kind of discourse UNICEF would love to be associated with. KPMG pointed out that violence against women is costing the South African economy 2-3% GDF every year. UNICEF reiterates its full support to the SAHRC and all stakeholders engaged in children issues.

2. Ms. Joyce Siwani: Stakeholder Relations Officer at National Children's Rights Committee



Reflecting on children's rights as a social development practitioner:

- Canvas of thoughts is around four concentric circle contexts: family, school, community, society – these are the areas of social development for children as they grow;
- Family and its extensions – this is very important in the African context. The family is the centre stage of the creation of one's identity; then comes the school (and other institutions of learning) together with community and society. This is the single most important responsibility of parenting and socialisation which embeds a child's identity and cements a child's place in the universe. Children learn to conduct themselves as human beings, learn about family and societal values, including respect for life. This frame of reference is critical and lays the foundation for the next frame of reference which is the school – where they reinforce what they have learned at home. Communities and societies underscore the work of family and schools and produce a citizen of the country and a citizen of the world;
- Another important development activity is work. Work beyond school is also important – whether self-generated or in the employ of someone or organisation;
- All four of these contexts are natural habitats to nurture and engender human rights;
- Each community has its own repertoire of written and unwritten morals that govern the conduct of people – societies also have a myriad of institutions that give the laws expression;
- In South Africa, we have the Bill of Rights with emphasis on section 28, the UNCRC, the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child, and the children's rights. It

is commonly held that the rights of children have improved over the last 20 years. And some of the evidence include the Child Support Grant; free access to health for children until age 7; more children living in electrified homes or dwellings; school feedings schemes etc.;

- There still remain some challenges: one big task crying for attention is the subject of human rights education from the bottom. There is a need to take human rights education to churches and *stokvels*, to sports and cultural clubs. Some of these social gatherings do not always make the link between human rights and how they influence their homes. The sum total of connecting these dots is equal to the substantial percentage of their human dignity;
- Difficult to admit that we live in a violent society – violence is a phenomenon that demeans the fabric of society. At the heart of this spiral is the emptiness of the collective vessel of human dignity. The walls of public buildings are plastered with *Batho Pele* principles, but we have all been short changed in public service delivery chain - babies are dying in public health facilities because of negligence, our infant mortality rate is higher than it was some years ago, discrimination of children in terms of the schools they attend, the services they receive in their neighbourhoods...relations are progressively dying down and communities have fewer opportunities for support;
- Is there hope for the future?
- Man cannot live by faith and hope alone – action is needed; 15 years ago, the Minister for Social Development committed to ensure the training of 1,000 child care workers – the programme is underway, we hope that the 1,000 child care workers will be spread across South Africa, particularly in rural areas;
- There is a need for similar fabric of political will, education, and commitment that taps into children's potential and lets them dream, regardless of where they live – to give all children equal opportunity;
- There is a need to mobilise a class action on one issue – the way workers organise a strike. That cannot happen easily as parents do not have a sense of the power they have... the only way to get to this point is if parents were educated on human rights and the upholding of their human dignity. Such parents would be persuasive on the powers that be to ensure a better Quality of Life for their children;
- Reflection on time being a wayfarer in Orlando East – learned that there are bigger things and taught me to give what I have and this has made me who I am – taught to be wayfarers before anything else;
- Example of the book the *Power of One* and the parable of mustard seed – plant it and takes forever to bear fruit, but will there be fruit for the future if you do not sow the seed now?
- Early Childhood Education in the remotest villages, clean potable water and adequate sanitation and, above all, the opportunity to play – this is what children need;
- In *The Prophet*, there is a section that speaks about children - children should be allowed to be themselves, they are not our property.

3. Hon. Mathole Motshekga MP, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services

Hon. Motshekga expressed the Portfolio Committee's pleasure to be part of the symposium on the 25th anniversary on the UNCRC. The Portfolio Committee highly values the work of the Commission to hold Government accountable for the protection and promotion of children's rights. Hon. Motshekga further assured the Commission and other children's rights organisations and institutions that they have the full support of the Parliament in holding government accountable.

The policies of the ruling party have put children first – the limitations of government in protecting children's rights stems from the huge legacy of apartheid and limited resources, and not the non-recognition of those rights.

Hon. Motshekga recognised Dr. Zola Skweyiya and Brigitte Mabandla. In 1986, Hon. Motshekga was called to Lusaka and the current president Jacob Zuma introduced him to the ANC department of legal and constitutional affairs. There he met Brigitte and from that day was asked to work under Zola Skweyiya and Brigitte in the department. He also recognised Johnny Makhatini whom he met in 1987 in Tanzania, and who briefed him on how lawyers under National Association of Democratic Lawyers (NADAL) to spearhead the establishment of a Human Rights Commission; which was ultimately established a few years later.



In 1987, Hon. Motshekga had the opportunity to attend a children's rights conference in Harare led by O.R. Tambo and Trevor Huddleson. It is at this point that Hon. Motshekga became a convert to children's rights – upon return to South Africa, he worked with Albertina Sisulu and others, supported by Mabandla and Skweyiya and guided by important individuals such as Schola Kimaryo.

Beyond theory and academics, there was a need for something practical. This brought about the establishment of the national institute for public interest law and research, and a community law centre – the ANC mobilised funding to promote children's work. Under the guidance of Schola, a situational analysis was undertaken in KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng on the plight of women and children under apartheid was furthered – a book was also produced of the same name.

Hon. Motshekga again welcomed the symposium as a reminder of the importance of the UNCRC. As South Africans, he emphasised that we must be proud of the fact that although assisted by an official of the UNICEF/UN structure, the country has managed to develop a concept on human and children's rights and has established structures to implement that concept before the UNCRC was adopted. The country can therefore claim that it influenced the creation of that Convention, but also we must be proud as South Africans to say that we developed the concept of children's rights before the African Charter on the rights of the child and wellbeing was adopted. Before these two conventions, Schola helped us to develop and internalise: the protection, survival, and development of children – this became a weapon of struggle of that time.

When the UNCRC was adopted, African people's participation was limited. Therefore, they realised that it is necessary to come up with a treaty that would address African-specific issues. This is what led to the adoption of this African Charter; that initiative was an attempt to say we accept the international framework – but we need to not only domesticate the instrument, but also indigenise aspects of child justice. In particular it was felt that the UN system did not address the social, cultural, and economic realities of Africa. The OAU strengthened the UN document. The SAHRC and other child rights organisations should also make sure they take the Charter on board so that our people aspirations in this area of law can be taken forward.

In conclusion, as the Government of South Africa, we have the Constitution, we have children's rights enshrined in the Constitution, the Child Justice Act, the Sexual Offences Amendment Act, all the legislative instruments necessary to deal with these issues. There are also more specific issues to do with children's rights – violence, poverty, high infant mortality, child malnutrition etc. the Portfolio Committee will be advertising the public hearings on the Child Maintenance Act and invites participation and inputs from this group. He indicated that interested parties should get in touch with his office and ensure that they are a part of that process.

Hon. Motshekga recognised the efforts of the late former President Nelson Mandela who realised that nothing can be done alone – there is a need for partnering and collaboration between civil society and government.

Hon. Motshekga stressed the need to empower paralegals, community law centres, and advice centres - this will be done through the introduction of a law to ensure Government puts money into those structures; because the majority of those people need to be assisted where they are, in communities (not in court).

The work of the SAHRC and other Chapter 9 institutions needs to be supplemented by community-based structures. There is a need to move together and develop a system that addresses plight of women and children where they live, and where they are suffering.

KEY NOTE ADDRESS

Dr. Scholastica Kimaryo (Schola), Former UNDP Deputy Regional Director for East and Southern Africa, Founder and CEO – Maadili Conscious Leadership and Healthy Lifestyles Coaching Services (MAADILI)

Schola narrated a memory of one of her early interactions with former president of Tanzania, Julius Nyerere. Nyerere's anecdote was that of cooperation – in the example of your neighbour's thatched house catching fire, you need to go and help to put that fire out. This should not be seen as a favour to your neighbour, but as a favour to yourself i.e. when your neighbour's house is burning, yours will be next. So the involvement of Tanzania chairing SADC, was not because Tanzania is in the region, but for political economy reasons. African leaders at that time were talking about the United States of Africa.



Tanzania's involvement in the anti-apartheid struggle was not as a favour to South Africa, but was a realisation that without freedom for the whole continent, we were not free. Schola felt very privileged in those days to be involved in the struggle against apartheid as a youth league person. When South Africa got freedom, Nyerere visited the country. He was the first person in terms of the universe who made Schola aware and involved in the process and the struggle of apartheid.

The second person who Schola gave special mention to is James Grant. Grant joined UNICEF as the Executive Director in 1981. The first thing he said was that UNICEF will be non-partisan; children should not suffer because of the sins of their fathers. He said that the only shots to be fired are vaccination shots. James Grant was extremely sick when South Africa got freedom. He visited the country came here on 16 June 1994 and went to the Hector Petersen memorial as well as the homes of freedom fighters to pay homage. He also asked for a meeting with Mandela and De Klerk to cart out UNICEF's ambitious commitment to support South Africa's children.

Schola emphasised that people are very important in making change. The children of the country have paid too high a price for freedom – it is now time to come forward and support the previous and current generation of children – no child should ever have suffer for their basic needs.

HOW TO PUT CHILDREN FIRST

A Systems Thinking Approach to Optimisation of ACCESS to basic services at Community Level

1. A systems thinking approach to optimisation of access to services
2. Process of inclusive stakeholder engagement
3. Building consensus for change
4. Prioritising performance drivers
5. Integrating service delivery
6. Process

A systems thinking approach to optimisation of access to services

- Requires inclusive stakeholder engagement including children
- 4 stage iterative process designed to facilitate capacity transformation for effective service delivery at household and local governance levels through CODESURE:
 - **C**onsensus building
 - **D**esign of intervention
 - **S**upport to implementation
 - **R**eview of intervention
- Purpose: to guide a systematic process of engagement facilitating transformation of the capacity for service delivery, in order to achieve:
 - Explore ways for inclusive stakeholder engagement in the attainment of the goal of putting children first
 - Significantly contribute to acceleration of implementation of SA's NDP

- Nobody should be going into the street to toyi-toyi except to protect chapter 9 institutions when they are being prevented from doing their work

CODESURE

- Must prioritise children's needs within context of NDP
- Has to look at capacity delivery needs
- Stakeholder participation needs
- Governance and admin needs
- **BUILD CONSENSUS AROUND THESE ISSUES**
- Next step is to **DESIGN THE INTERVENTION**
- **SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION**
- One of SA's challenges – how to strike a balance between big business and the ordinary man and woman;
- Need to revisit the issue of how the ordinary South African can be given land; whatever amount; if they build it, fine... if not then that is still fine; there is no bigger disenfranchisement than thinking on behalf of people;
- Developmental projects make people beggars;
- Next step: **REVIEW OF INTERVENTION**
- **CYCLE CONTINUES**
- Every time you do this, have to challenge your assumptions, paradigms, worldviews, and mind-sets

Strategic Conversations: Building Consensus for Change

- Inclusive stakeholder/children engagement in:
 - Prioritising areas of focus
 - Articulating shared vision
 - Setting time-bound, achievable goals
 - Defining drivers of performance
 - Set performance measures and parameters
 - Set stakeholder accountability measures

Children's situation NOW is dire: In the apartheid era, there was a common goal. But now, there is no common goal.

Putting children first should become the common goal; you cannot prioritise the fight against violence without prioritising children.

What is the desired reality that we want? FUTURE

We need to agree on where we want to go, put a time frame in...and also look at current capacity.

For the next census, we need to recommend that a skills census is conducted as well, not just a people counting exercise - community members have a lot of skills. Then the next step would be to look at how you can enhance that capacity.

The most underutilised people in South Africa are ordinary South Africans; they just need to be involved in the process of transformation.

Continuously identify and challenge, assumptions, worldviews, mind-sets.

The democratic system is not a panacea - it is also a challenge; a very complex process; so are civil servants.

The CODESURE Process of Engagement...

4 pillars: consensus-building and diagnosis (prioritise areas of focus, agree on vision and goals, identify and examine challenges, determine enablers and inputs; set key service outputs, assess service delivery – identify gaps and opportunities, determine sector/areas performance; select performance scenario; determine drivers of performance; identify high level impact drivers; prioritise areas for intervention)→; design of intervention (select/adapt response mechanisms, possible interventions...); support to implementation; and review of intervention

Prioritising performance drivers for intervention

Prioritised performance drivers → interventions (3 criteria)

INPUT	CONVERSION	OUTPUT	OUTCOME
Human Capability Strategy and mission Culture Financial resources Infrastructure	Processes	Efficient and effective access to basic services	Achieving child survival – Justice and Constitutional Development

Process Mapping

- Can reduce errors, increase productivity, enhance capacity...

A prosperous Africa at peace with itself

- Africa has the youngest population in the world: investment in their first rate education would pay huge dividends;
- Women are more than 50% of Africa's population make a formidable political, social, and economic force (women should be made part of the solution);
- Households and communities are a strategic resource for peace and development;
- Africa's people are its greatest asset and resource

Need for Africa to chart out its own human development path

- There is enough knowledge, financial and human resources to meet all the basic human development needs

- Greatest impediment: all countries are prevailed upon by the owners of capital, to design and implement the country's national development plans on the precepts of the modernisation theory and practice

Political activism through strategic development partnerships

- CSOs need to transform mind-sets from political activism to social, economic activism...



Message from the Department of Social Development: Mr. Thabane Buthelezi (Chief Director, DSD)

- The DSD extended a happy quarter of a century commemoration to the CRC;
- Mr. Buthelezi reiterated the DSD's support to continue working to produce policies that would address the situation of children in South Africa;
- Committed to working and producing policies that put children at the centre
- Positive impacts of CS Grants;
- Have realised through some evidence that the CSG cannot be a single bullet that will solve all the poverty issues, hence Outcome 13 provides the country with an opportunity to develop other interventions;
- The DSD is now developing a draft on ECD policy – also giving more emphasis on the first thousand days of children;
- Other programmes that are being pushed – the child protection register for example;
- Thanked the SAHRC for the invitation to provide a message of support and further commitment to work around children's rights.

DISCUSSION: REMOVED FROM PROGRAMME

Strong themes that came out of the roundtable discussion: public participation – the need to go to communities and get them involved in decision making; the issue of violence, particularly sexual violence.

Vote of Thanks: Commissioner Mokate



Commissioner Mokate thanked fellow Commissioners and the CEO, and all the excellent speakers for the day. It was rewarding to sit and reflect on 25 years of the CRC. Special thanks also to UNICEF. UNICEF has supported the Commission's work for many years and has been there from the beginning. What stands out is that people from the UNICEF country office have always continued – people have taken over from where others left, with vigour, and have always displayed a readiness to meet and discuss programmes. Thank you also to the people who were at the NCRC, and the key note speaker – Schola. Commissioner Mokate finally urged the participants to use the children as the Trojan horse for development – if we can do right by our children, there will be development in South Africa.

