




Summary of Biographies

Promoting a Culture of Human Rights and Social Harmony through the Resolution of the National Question Campaign Launch


Day 1: Tuesday, 25 March 2025


Launch

No.	Timing	Biography	Picture
1.	08:00 – 08:30	Registration and Tea	
2.	08:30 – 08:45	Welcome	
3.	08:45 – 09:15	Opening Remarks and Citations of Honour bestowed on Robert Sobukwe, Gareth Prince and Nomarussia Bonase	
4.	09:15 – 09:45	<p><u>Keynote Address</u> by Dr Mmatshilo Motsei <i>Executive Director, Afrika Ikalafe Pluriversity</i></p> <p>Dr Motsei is a South African author, speaker, and integrative healer dedicated to merging indigenous wisdom with contemporary innovations. She commenced her career as a nurse and midwife, later expanding into roles such as social</p>	

	<p>science researcher, rural development facilitator, and gender transformation consultant.</p> <p>In 1992, Dr Motsei founded ADAPT (Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training), an organisation based in Alexandra Township, Johannesburg, that employs holistic methods to address domestic and sexual violence in both urban and rural communities. Her creative outputs include a poetry collection, short stories, and non-fiction work, including "Reweaving the Soul of the Nation: Essays in African Spirituality, Politics, and Feminism" (2020).</p> <p>She has received numerous awards, such as the United Nations Scroll of Honour Award for involving men in addressing violence against women. She has also been honoured with two honorary doctorates: one in Community Psychology from the University of Zululand and another in Social Professions from Nelson Mandela University. She obtained her PhD degree in Sociology from the University of Pretoria.</p> <p>Dr. Motsei serves as the Executive Director of Afrika Ikalafe, an organisation she founded to specialise in personal and societal transformation grounded in African spiritual principles. The organisation's mission is encapsulated in its name, which means "Africa Heal Thyself," aiming to address the continent's traumatic past and promote multigenerational healing.</p>	
--	--	---

5.	09:45 – 10:00	<p><u>First Respondent to Keynote Address</u> by Commissioner Govender</p> <p><i>Commissioner, Commission for the Promotion of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities</i></p> <p>Dr Govender is a Social Anthropologist having received a Ford Foundation International Fellowship for his PhD Research on Ancestor Worship and Death Rituals in the Zulu and Hindu community, as well as a post-doctoral Fellowship at Columbia University where he developed a leadership programme for 10 African countries. Dr Govender recently completed research on the promotion and protection of traditional knowledge and IKS in India.</p> <p>Dr Govender is a Former Director in the Kwa-Zulu Natal Department of Arts and Culture where he spent close to forty years as a public servant. Dr Govender is a board member of the Pan South African Language Board; a government-appointed Social Cohesion Advocate; and a Section 11 Committee member of the South African Human Rights Commission responsible for diversity and sensitivity training.</p> <p>In January 2025, Dr Govender was appointed by the President of the Republic of South Africa as a Commissioner of the Commission for the Promotion of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities.</p>	
----	---------------	--	---

6.	10:00 – 10:15	<p><u>Second Respondent to Keynote Address</u> by Prof Rozena Maart <i>SARChI Chair on The National Question</i></p> <p>Professor Maart was born in District Six, the former slave quarter of Cape Town. In 1973, the apartheid state forcibly removed her family along with thousands of others. In 1987, at the age of 24, she was nominated for the "Woman of the Year" award in South Africa for her work in the area of gender-based violence and for starting, with four women, the first Black feminist organisation in South Africa: Women Against Repression [W.A.R.]. Prof Maart has won numerous awards since.</p> <p>Prof Maart took her Master's degree at the University of York in the UK, and her PhD at the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies at the University of Birmingham, UK. Her work examines the intersections between and among Political Philosophy, Black Consciousness, Derridean deconstruction, and psychoanalysis, addressing questions of race, gender, sexuality, coloniality, and identity. Prof Maart's most recent book, expected to be published in May 2025, is on the history of food, colonialism, and memory.</p> <p>In January 2019, she was appointed Research Ambassador to the University of Bremen in Germany. In 2022, she was appointed a Mercator Fellow to the Contradiction Studies Programme at the same university. She is based at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in Durban, South Africa, where she is the SARChI Chair on The National Question.</p>	
----	---------------	---	---

7.	10:15 – 10:20	Introducing the panel discussions	
Tea Break			
8.	10:30 – 11:30 Moderator: Commissioner Tshepo Madlingozi	<p>Panel I: ‘One Nation, One Constitution’?: The Constitution and the (im)possibility of Constituting a truly post-apartheid nation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p><u>Adv Lloyd Lotz</u> <u>Chief Director: Constitutional Implementation,</u> <u>Department of Justice and Constitutional</u> <u>Development</u></p> <p>Adv Lotz is currently the Chief Director responsible for Constitutional Implementation at the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development. He has also served as Provincial Manager for the SAHRC in both the Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Additionally, he has worked in academia and conducted research in the fields of human rights, constitutional law, democracy, HIV/AIDS human rights, and intellectual property law.</p> <p><u>GOAK'XOAB Danub, Zheven Heitsi Ebib</u> <u>NEC Chairperson, Khwe/xam Insiba</u></p> <p>GOAK'XOAB Danub, Zheven Heitsi Ebib is a prince of the Khwe/xam Insiba people. As a dedicated Khwe/xam servant, the Prince has devoted his life to addressing historical trauma and social injustices faced by communities across South Africa with extensive knowledge on khwe/xam human rights and that of indigenous communities.</p> 	


The Prince is a passionate advocate for traditional affairs, art, human rights, grass roots culture, restorative justice, IKS, reconciliation, and oral history. The Prince is deeply involved in restorative justice and youth programs across Namibia and Botswana.

As an activist, the Prince has served on the NEC of the FINSA, NAGC and for the Khwe/xam Insiba. He also serves on the board of /narihaeb khoena institute.

- Dr Sanele Sibanda
Senior Lecturer, Department of Jurisprudence,
University of Pretoria

Dr Sibanda is a Senior Lecturer at the Faculty of Law at the University of the Pretoria where he teaches in the Department of Jurisprudence. He is a critical scholar who has taught, researched and published on questions related to constitutional law, constitutionalism, jurisprudence, liberation theory, administrative law, and law and culture. Dr Sibanda is also a contributing author to leading South African constitutional law texts, *Constitutional Law of South Africa* and *South African Constitutional Law in Context*. He is the editor of a recently published book entitled *Separation of Powers, the Judiciary and the Politics of Constitutional Adjudication* (2023). He is currently working on a co-authored book on the rule of law in South Africa.



9.	11:30 – 12:30 Moderator: Commissioner Sandra Makoasha	<p>Panel II: ‘It is the economy, stupid’: Nation-Building, Human Rights, and the Political Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Dr Azar Jammie</u> Director and Chief Economist, Econometrix <p>Dr Jammie is a prominent South African economist and the Director and Chief Economist at Econometrix (Pty) Ltd, one of the country’s leading independent economic research and forecasting firms. He holds a PhD in Economics from the London School of Economics, as well as degrees in Mathematical Statistics and Economics from the University of the Witwatersrand and Oxford University. With a career spanning over four decades, Dr Jammie is widely recognised for his deep insight into macroeconomic trends, policy analysis, and their impacts on both the South African and global economies.</p> <p>Dr Jammie has played a critical role in shaping economic discourse in South Africa, particularly</p>	

during times of political and economic transition. His expertise spans a wide range of areas including fiscal and monetary policy, industrial development, labour markets, and infrastructure investment. In addition to his advisory work for business and government, Dr Jamine is committed to public education and frequently delivers lectures and keynote addresses to academic, corporate, and civil society audiences such as this one.

- Alexandria Hotz
South African Lead Coordinator, WoMin African Alliance

Alex is the South African Lead Coordinator for WoMin African Alliance, a feminist organization advocating for women's rights in the context of extractive industries and environmental justice. Born and raised in Cape Town, Alex grew up in a politically active household with a strong socialist background.

Alex pursued her undergraduate studies at the University of Cape Town (UCT), majoring in Politics and Film. During her time at UCT, she emerged as a prominent student activist and was a leading organiser in the #RhodesMustFall movement, which sought to decolonize education and address institutional racism. Her activism extended to the #FeesMustFall movement, advocating for accessible higher education in South Africa. In her current role at WoMin, Alex continues her advocacy by working with



allies to challenge the abuses of multinationals and promote environmental and gender justice across the African continent.

- Duma Gqubule

Columnist and independent Economist

Duma has spent more than two decades as a financial journalist, analyst, researcher, and advisor on issues of economic development and transformation. He was educated at Waterford Kamhlaba School in Eswatini and Aberdeen University in Scotland where he studied economics.

Duma worked as a financial journalist for most of the country's leading publications and then later worked for the Black Economic Empowerment Commission, chaired by President Cyril Ramaphosa. He was co-author of the Commission's landmark report in 2002, which paved the way for the current Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) laws and policies.

He has worked for numerous organisations in the public and private sectors, including the NEPAD secretariat, where he was one of the experts who drafted the indicators for the African Peer Review Mechanism. He has done research on the transformation of the mining sector and international best practices on the governance of the sector. He served as a member of the Congress of South African




Trade Unions Panel of Progressive Economists, and as a board member of Naledi, the COSATU think-tank. As part of Naledi he has advised public sector unions during their wage negotiations.

A heterodox economist, he is part of campaigns for Universal Basic Income (UBI), the job guarantee and universal public services which are pillars of Vision 2036: A Plan to achieve Full Employment in South Africa, which he hopes will unite political parties and civil society against the government's failed neoliberal policies. He is a Business Day columnist, regular contributor to Sunday Times, public speaker and commentator on issues related to economic development and transformation.

- Mark Heywood
Founder, Justice Activism Hub

Mark is a health, social justice and human rights activist and writer. He co-founded the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and SECTION27 and has been active on these issues for 30 years. He's also a senior researcher at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance at UCT. He recently founded the Justice and Activism Hub (JAH) and co-founded the Union Against Hunger.




Lunch Break			
10.	13:15 – 14:15 Moderator: Commissioner Nomahlubi Khwinana	<p>Panel III: ‘...not actually a slave, but a pariah in the land of their birth.’: Human Rights, Nation-Building, and Belongingness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Ntuthuzo Ndzomo</u> <u>Advocacy Officer, Iranti</u> Ntuthuzo Ndzomo is an advocacy officer at Iranti. Born and raised in Khayelitsha in the Western Cape, Ntuthuzo became politically conscious at a young age, recognising deep systemic inequalities in his community. His activism began in primary school and gained momentum in high school when he joined Equal Education, a movement that ignited his passion for social justice. He later pursued tertiary studies at the University of Cape Town and spent a decade involved in advocacy work across South Africa, focusing on education, housing, and the recognition of traditional healers within the LGBTI+ community. At Iranti, Ntuthuzo leads advocacy programmes that champion the rights of LGBTI+ persons, aiming to secure legal and policy reforms across the African continent. He is particularly passionate about eliminating intersex genital mutilation and ensuring that transgender and non-binary persons can access appropriate identification documents. <u>Patrick Mahlakoane</u> <u>Chairperson, Disabled People South Africa</u> 	

Patrick is the National Chairperson of Disabled People South Africa (DPSA) and has been a pioneering advocate for disability rights throughout his career. Born with club feet, Patrick's activism began early, as he faced barriers to accessing local education, as schools nearby would not enroll him, and had to wait for placement in a special school more than 300km away from his home. This experience fuelled his commitment to inclusion and equal rights.

Starting his career in democratic South Africa's first provincial government Office on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, Patrick held leadership roles in public administration, focusing on governance, criminal justice, and disability mainstreaming. His work has empowered many through skills training, inclusive education, and community-based rehabilitation – especially in rural areas where he grew up.

As one of the first activists to mobilize South Africa's rural disability rights movement, Patrick remains deeply committed to gender equality and empowering young women with disabilities. His vision, guided by "*Nothing About Us Without Us*," centres on a society that respects and includes people with disabilities as equal contributors. Patrick champions the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Africa Disability Protocol, advocating for accelerated implementation across all sectors to




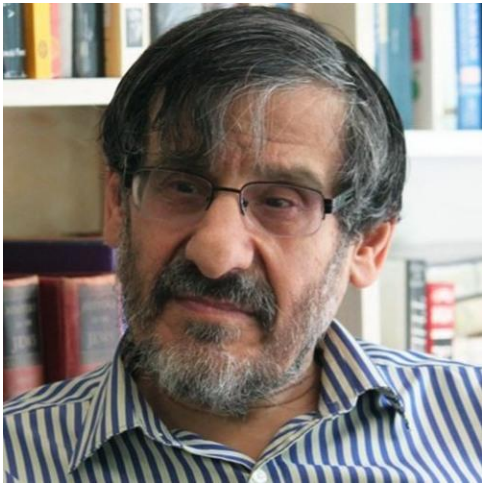
		<p>achieve disability-inclusive development at national and international levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Adv. Gareth Prince</u> <u>Spokesperson, Rastafari Nation Council</u> Gareth is the spokesperson for the Rastafari Nation Council in South Africa. He is a legal professional and long-time advocate for the rights of the Rastafari community. Gareth gained prominence through his legal battles challenging the prohibition of cannabis, which is integral to Rastafari religious practices. His efforts contributed to the Constitutional Court's 2018 ruling decriminalising the private use of cannabis in South Africa. Gareth continues to advocate for the cultural and religious rights of the Rastafari and broader cannabis legalisation. 	
11.	14:15 – 15:15 Moderator: Commissioner Aseza Gungubele	<p>Panel IV: 'Poets [artists] are the unacknowledged legislators of the World': The Role of the Creative Arts and Literature in forging a Human Rights Culture and Nation-Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Prof Pitika Ntuli</u> <u>Sculptor, Poet, Writer, and Scholar</u> Prof Ntuli is a highly esteemed South African sculptor, poet, academic, and cultural activist. Born in Witbank (eMalahleni), Prof Ntuli's early years were shaped by life in a squatter camp, an experience that deeply influenced his later creative and political consciousness. As a committed activist in the anti-apartheid movement, Prof Ntuli was imprisoned in Swaziland where he spent a year on death row before 	

being released into exile in 1978 following international pressure. He spent 32 years in exile, during which he became an influential figure in the cultural and academic landscapes of the UK, teaching at institutions such as Camberwell College of Arts and Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London.

Prof Ntuli's artistic work is deeply embedded in African spirituality, indigenous knowledge systems, and social justice themes. He is renowned for his sculpture work using natural materials such as bone, wood, stone, and metal – each piece a meditation on ancestral memory, healing, and transformation. His 2020 virtual exhibition, *Azibuyele Emasisweni* (Return to the Source), was the first in South Africa to consist entirely of bone sculptures. Beyond his art, Prof Ntuli is a widely published poet and cultural commentator, contributing to literary and political discourse across Africa and the diaspora. Upon his return to South Africa after 1994, he continued teaching, mentoring, and inspiring new generations of artists and activists. His home has long served as a creative hub for artists, intellectuals, and change-makers, both in exile and in democratic South Africa.

- Lebogang Marishane
Strategic Support Manager, Constitution Hill
Lebogang is a museum practitioner, promoting social justice, culture, and peacebuilding. She is committed



		<p>to promoting dialogue, reconnecting people with their histories, and imagining a more just future. Lebogang is a passionate champion of socially responsible and participatory museums. She drives engagement-focused museum development through collaborative planning, advocacy, and training programmes. As a researcher and writer, she contributes to global museum and heritage publications. She is also the coordinator of Constitution Hill's well known annual Human Rights Festival.</p>	
Tea Break			
12.	<p>16:00 – 17:00</p> <p>Moderator: ACOO Eric Mokonyama</p>	<p>Panel V: - 'The media is the most powerful entity on earth.' The Role of Social and Mainstream Media in Nation-Building and Human Rights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p><u>Prof Steven Friedman</u> <u>Director, Centre for the Study of Democracy, University of Johannesburg</u></p> <p>Prof Friedman is a Research Professor in the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Johannesburg. He has published several studies of South Africa's transition to democracy and his current work focuses on the theory and practice of democracy. He is the author of several books, numerous book chapters, and journal articles. His most recent book, <i>Good Jew, Bad Jew, Racism, Anti-Semitism, and the Assault on Meaning</i>, discusses the use of ostensibly anti-racist language to justify racism. He is also a media commentator on the development of South African</p> 	

democracy and the author of a weekly column for subscribers, *Against the Tide*.

- Dianne Hawker

Gauteng Regional Convener, SANEF

Dianne is a journalist with over 20 years of experience. She has worked as a specialist legal and multimedia reporter for the majority of her career. She is a published author, having completed her book *How to Steal a Gold Mine* in 2022. The book is a detailed look at one of South Africa's most significant private-sector fraud scandals. She has been the Head of News at POWER 98.7, a Johannesburg-based radio station, and led the team which launched Newzroom Afrika. She is a regular contributor to the Daily Maverick and works as the Southern Africa correspondent for Deutsche Welle. She is a multimedia journalist and prides herself on creating compelling video content for an international audience. Dianne is also the Gauteng convenor for the SA National Editor's Forum.

- Dr Eileen Carter

National Coordinator, Human Rights & Developing Technologies, South African Human Rights Commission

Dr. Eileen Carter is a human rights expert with over 20 years of experience in advocacy, policy, and now digital rights. She is the Provincial Manager for the Eastern Cape province at the South African Human





		<p>Rights Commission (SAHRC) and National Coordinator for Human Rights and Developing Technologies.</p> <p>Dr Carter holds a Masters degree and Doctorate in Law, with a focus on children’s rights and access to justice. She is also an admitted attorney and accredited mediator, and has spearheaded litigation on social media and digital rights, setting legal precedents on platform accountability and online harm.</p> <p>Dr Carter conceptualized the 2024 Digital Rights Alliance Statement on behalf of 31 national human rights institutions, which addressed the threat of developing technologies in elections.</p> <p>Dr Carter has also drafted key inputs into South Africa’s AI policy framework, led submissions to the Meta Oversight Board on online hate speech and historical symbols, and regularly speaks at global social media and tech fora. As a member of the Centre for AI and Digital Policy Research Group’s Spring 2025 cohort, Dr Carter is committed to shaping ethical social media and AI governance and digital human rights protections.</p>	
13.	17:00 – 18:00 Moderator: Commissioner	Panel VI: ‘The past is in the present’: Reparation, Reconciliation, Redress and Nation-Building	

**Tshepo
Madlingozi**

- Shirley Gunn
Chairperson, South Africa Coalition for Transitional Justice
Shirley graduated with a B Soc Sci SW at UCT in 1981. In the following, year Shirley was recruited into the political underground while actively involved in the mass democratic struggle. In 1985 she was recruited into MK. She received military training inside the country and in Cuba and Angola in 1986/1987. She returned to co-command the Ashley Kriel Detachment. Shirley testified before the TRC in August 1997 and was found to be a victim of gross human rights violations. She has worked closely with survivors through her work with the Human Rights Media Centre and also through the Khulumani support group – both of which are the founder organisations of the South African Coalition for Transitional Justice (SACTJ). Currently Shirley serves as the executive director of the Human Rights Media Centre and the South African Coalition for Transitional Justice. In March 2024, Shirley was awarded an honorary doctorate in Social Science by UCT for her life's work.
- Konehali Gugushe
Daughter of Mapetla Mohapi
Konehali is the youngest daughter of Mapetla Mohapi who was killed in police detention at Kei Road on 5 August 1976. A mere 7 months old when her father died, she grew up being profoundly impacted by the



crimes of apartheid, but has shown great resilience and triumph through it all.


Konehali is a Chartered Accountant (SA) with more than 20 years working experience, spanning over the financial services sector and development finance. She has worked at various banks and financial services companies, including Standard Corporate and Merchant Bank, JP Morgan and Nedbank. Konehali also served as the Land Bank's Chief Risk Officer, as CEO of the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, and is now the Head of Social Investment at the FirstRand Group where she is responsible for the management of the Foundations.

- Phiwinhlanhla Madida
Deputy Director: Social Cohesion & Nation-Building for Department of Sports, Arts and Culture

Phiwinhlanhla has worked in the development and sustainable livelihoods space, focusing on grassroots community upliftment. Phiwinhlanhla was instrumental in promoting Human Rights when she was the Public Relations Officer for the World University Project and instrumental in rolling out Civic Education and Rights awareness.

Phiwinhlanhla is currently the Deputy Director of Social Cohesion at DSAC. She is a Stakeholder Manager in issues of Unity, Inclusiveness, Equality and Cohesiveness. She is a Community Engagement



		<p>Facilitator and a Champion for Conflict Resolution and Peace in Social Cohesion and Nation-Building. She actively advocates for Women's Rights and strongly promotes women's issues. Phiwinhlanhla conceptualized and coordinated a first-of-its-kind 2012 National Social Cohesion Summit in South Africa, and also spearheaded the introduction of Community Conversations in government in 2009 that influenced the 2013 National Social Cohesion Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Nomarussia Bonase</u> <u>Coordinator, Khulumani Galela Campaign</u> Nomarussia is a dedicated human rights activist and gender justice advocate. She works with the Khulumani Support Group and Khulumani Galela Campaign, where she advocated tirelessly for the rights of apartheid-era survivors, especially women affected by political violence. Nomarussia has been a vocal advocate against gender-based violence and played a pivotal role in empowering women through storytelling and community activism, ensuring that historical injustices are neither forgotten nor repeated. 	
14.	18:00 – 18:05	Closing remarks and way forward	