

December 2016

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COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Commissioner Ameerma presents on climate change in Morocco

On 6 November 2016, the Acting Chairperson of the South African Human Rights Commission, Commissioner Mohamed Shafie Ameerma presented on the role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) on the climate change agenda. This was a meeting of representatives from NHRIs from across all regions including experts from the United Nations and civil society organisations, to discuss how NHRIs can work to strengthen linkages between the sustainable development, climate change, and human rights.

The meeting was convened as side event on the eve of the 22nd Conference of State Parties under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 22).

Making a contribution during one of the panel discussions, Commissioner Ameerma said that "National Human Rights Institutions are crucial cogs in providing remedies to both individual and systematic human rights violations, particularly human rights

violations resulting from the adverse impacts of climate change”.

The event was co-organised by the National Council for Human Rights of Morocco (CNDH), the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the National Consultative Commission of France, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Association of Francophone Human Rights Commissions, and with the financial support from the European Union.



Acting Chairperson, Commissioner Mohamed Shafie Ameermia presenting on the role of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) on the climate change agenda

HUMAN RIGHTS DAYS

International Human Rights Day, 10 December

Stand up for someone's rights today!

International Human Rights Day is observed yearly on 10 December. It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration came to being directly from the experience of the Second World War and represents the first global expression of what many people believe to be the rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled.

This year, Human Rights Day calls on everyone to stand up for someone's rights!

SAHRC IN THE MEDIA

SAHRC accepts commitment to values of the Constitution after offensive social media posts

In October 2016, the South African Human Rights Commission (the Commission) was alerted through media reports of a social media post from Mr Tlou Molele, a mathematics teacher at Northern Academy in Polokwane in which he stated, amongst others that white people will “die inferior” and are “Genetic errors”.

During a meeting convened by the SAHRC to discuss the racist social media post, Mr Tlou Molele expressed deep remorse for the posts. Noting the high number of posts of this nature, and the need to eradicate the fault lines premised on prejudice in society, the Commission was of the view that penal sanctions were not in themselves an adequate measure for promoting respect for the Constitution. The Commission stressed the values of the Constitution over and above the statutory protections our law offers, and impressed on the need to respect dignity, equality and freedom of people. [Read more](#)



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Human Rights Commission welcomes Tlou Molele's unconditional apology

10 Nov 2016

South African Human Rights Commission accepts commitment to values of the Constitution after offensive social media posts

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SAHRC institutes Equality Court proceedings on behalf of a transgendered learner in Limpopo

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) has instituted proceedings in the Seshego Equality Court (Limpopo) on behalf of a transgendered secondary school learner. The case arises from allegations of humiliation and harassment based on the gender identity of the learner that created a hostile and intimidating environment. The proceedings have been instituted to procure relief for alleged unfair discrimination, harassment, and hurtful speech. [Read more](#)

SAHRC takes school to court over transgender Limpopo pupil's abuse

Article by Mamba Writer | November 16, 2016 | In HEADLINES, Mambagirl News



The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) has taken a Limpopo school to the Seshego Equality Court over its treatment of a transgender learner.

The high school pupil, who has not been identified, allegedly faced unfair discrimination, harassment, and hurtful speech at the school.

Mpumalanga Coffin Incident – Middelburg, Mpumalanga

The South African Human Rights Commission (the Commission) strongly condemns the video recording circulated on social media of a man being put into a coffin by two other men who threaten to set him alight in Middelburg, Mpumalanga.

The Commission has received several queries relating to the incident.

The two alleged perpetrators have been charged and have appeared in the criminal court in Mpumalanga yesterday. The Commission lauds the swift action of the SAPS in this matter. [Read more](#)

Human Rights Commission on Mpumalanga coffin incident (South Africa Government)



SAHRC host stakeholders to discuss budget for advancing Socio-Economic Rights roundtable

On 17 November 2016, the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), in partnership with the Studies in Poverty and Inequality Institute (SPII), hosted a roundtable discussion on budget analysis for advancing socio-economic rights.

The roundtable event was held to assess whether government is progressively realising socio-economic rights within its available resources as required by the Constitution. The event was held at the backdrop of frequent claims that government does not have sufficient resources to meet these obligations. Furthermore to understand how government's budget operates, and how resources are prioritised to challenge these claims to ensure that access to housing, education, health care services and social security, among others, continues to be expanded and inequalities in the enjoyment of these rights are reduced. In addition to the constitutional obligations on the state to realise socio-economic rights, government is also required to do so in terms of the UN International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which South Africa ratified last year.

[Read more](#)



Yasmin Sooka, Foundation for Human Rights Executive Director, Isobel Frye, SPII Director, Daniel McLaren, SPII Senior Researcher and Thandiwe Matthews, SAHRC Senior Legal Officer.

Political Parties Lodge New Hate Speech Complaint Against Malema

Some political parties and individuals have lodged a fresh hate speech complaint with the SAHRC against EFF leader Julius Malema. This move was taken after the EFF leader publicly stuck his neck out and said whites should not be slaughtered “for now”.

Juju made this statement on Monday, November 7, shortly after he left the Newcastle Magistrate's Court. The complainants of the new hate speech include the former national spokesperson for the Congress of the People Youth Movement (Cope YM), Elias Muller, the Democratic Alliance and AfriForum, along with others from different provinces.

In their separate complaints, they expressed fear that Malema might be a threat to the white race in the near future. Muller described Malema's comments as reckless, irresponsible and shocking, considering the fact that he is a leader of a political party. "...I request the SAHRC to investigate Mr. Malema's statement of 'not calling for the slaughter of white people, at least not for now' because this suggests that there will be a time when Mr. Malema might call for the slaughtering of white people," Muller said in his complaint.

Confirming the development, SAHRC communications coordinator Gushwell Brooks admitted the organization has received fresh complaints from individuals and some political parties. "...The commission has received complaints from different provincial offices, these complaints are currently being assessed," said Brooks.

[Read more](#)

Politics

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Political Parties Lodge New Hate Speech Complaint Against Malema

Post by  Osondu Queen November 15, 2016

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MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

SAHRC Limpopo Provincial Office hosted a stakeholder engagement on racism in Modimolle.



Stakeholders signing pledge against racism.

KZN hosts a stakeholder meeting with eDumbe Municipal Council and various community stakeholders to raise awareness on human rights.



Ayanda Nene @Ayanda_Nene28 · Nov 24

@SAHRCcommission host community engagement @ Bilanyoni @ edumbe municipality #raisingrightsawareness



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**Limpopo Office represents a complainant at the Thabazimbi
Equality Court**



Dr Eileen Carter, Senior Legal Officer briefing a complainant before Equality Court proceedings.



ARASA @_ARASAcotts · Nov 22

Dr Martin Nsibirwa of the @SAHRCCommission welcomed #NHRIs from across Africa to the #AfricanNHRIconvening focusing on #keypopulation #rights



SAHRC commemorates Albinism day

The South African Human Rights Commission held an Awareness event on Albinism under the theme “Persons with disabilities – Equal Participants in Shaping a sustainable future”



Acting Chairperson, Adv Mohamed Ameerma and Acting Chief Executive Officer, Peter Makaneta with learners from Sibonile Primary School for learners with Special Educational needs during Albinism day.

The Commission reconvenes the National Investigative Hearing on the Underlying Socio-Economic Challenges affecting Mining Communities in SA



Birthdays

The following colleagues are celebrating their birthdays in December.

Thandeka Magwenyane (KZN) & Dineo Phushuli (HO) - 1st

Pamella Pango (HO) - 3rd

Sonto Mndebele (HO) & Ntombentsha Lubelwana (HO) - 5th

Thabang Kheswa (EC) - 7th

Penny Carelse (WC) - 12th

Charmaine Leso (NW) - 20th

Nokuthula Ntantiso (GP) - 21st

Hlamalani Ngobeni (HO) - 23rd

Ayanda Nene (KZN) 25th

Joyce Tlou (HO) & Nomvuyiseko Mapasa (WC) - 26th

Bahia Sterris (WC) - 27th



Top row: Pamella Pango, Nokuthula Ntantiso and Hlamalani Ngobeni

Middle row: Ntombentsha Lubelwana, Dineo Phushuli and Joyce Tlou

Bottom row: Penny Carelse and Bahia Sterris

Mannequin Challenge

These are some members of the Legal Services (LS) at the South African Human Rights Commission. During a brief coffee break, during an intense meeting, the LS team decided to do a #MannequinChallenge.

The Legal Services Unit (LS) is responsible for providing quality legal services for the protection of human rights in South Africa. The LS endeavours to discharge the protection mandate of the Commission through the efficient and effective investigation of complaints of human rights violations, the provision of quality legal advice and assistance, as well as seeking redress through the courts for victims of human rights violations. The LS seeks to foster an understanding and respect for human rights by addressing human rights violations or threats of a violation, which includes making appropriate findings and recommendations to stakeholders.



TALK TO US...



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