

November 2016

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COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

The Portfolio Committee on Justice and Correctional Services today recommended the names of seven candidates to fill vacancies on the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC)

The recommended names are: Prof Bongani Christopher Majola, Ms Matlhodi Angelina Makwetla, Ms Devikarani Priscilla Sewpal Jana, Adv Andre Hurtle Gaum, Adv Jonas Ben Sibanyoni, Rev Andrew Christoffel Nissen and Adv Bokankatla Joseph Malatji. The Committee has recommended that Rev Nissen and Adv Sibanyoni serve as part-time members of the Commission and the remainder of the candidates as full-time Commissioners. The Committee further unanimously agreed to recommend Prof Majola as Chairperson of the Commission and Ms Jana as the Deputy Chairperson.

The National Assembly has adopted the list of Commissioners and the names have been forwarded to the president for approval.

SA: Justice and Correctional Services committee recommends candidates for SAHRC

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HUMAN RIGHTS DAYS

Universal Children's Day, 20 November 2016

In 1954 the United Nations General Assembly recommended that all countries institute a Universal Children's Day, to be observed as a day of worldwide fraternity and understanding between children. It recommended that the Day was to be observed also as a day of activity devoted to promoting the ideals and objectives of the Charter and the welfare of the children of the world. The Assembly suggested to governments that the Day

be observed on the date and in the way which each considers appropriate. The date 20 November marks the day on which the Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, in 1959, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in 1989.



Wellness activity for men

Movember

Movember (a diminutive word for moustache, "mo", and "November") is an annual event involving the growing of moustaches during the month of November to raise awareness of various cancers, such as prostate cancer. The goal of Movember is to "change the face of men's health by encouraging men to get involved. Movember aims to increase early cancer detection, diagnosis and effective treatments, and ultimately reduce the number of preventable deaths. Besides annual check-ups, men need to be aware of family history of cancer and to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

Human Resources will provide more details regarding Movember event.

MOVEMBER



SAHRC IN THE MEDIA

South African Human Rights Commission expresses concern at South Africa's withdrawal from the International Criminal Court

The South African Human Rights Commission (the Commission) notes with concern the South African government's decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The withdrawal notice has been submitted on the 19th October 2016, to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with Article 127(1) of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The Commission is a state institution established in terms of Chapter 9 of the Constitution of South Africa to support constitutional democracy and is mandated in

terms of section 184 (1) (a-c) of the Constitution to “promote respect, monitor, and assess the observance of human rights in South Africa”.

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SUNDAY TIMES NEWS BY TMG DIGITAL, 2019-10-22
Human rights commission concerned with SA's withdrawal from ICC



SAHRC calls for calm and for a commitment by all stakeholders to resolve the current crisis on South African campuses

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC, the Commission) notes with concern the growing intensity of student protests and related action at various universities across the country.

Whilst the protests point to underlying and systemic factors that require urgent resolution, the Commission urges all stakeholders to commit to and undertake these efforts in an environment where the best possible outcomes are more likely. Without detracting from or diminishing in anyway the powerful significance of peaceful protest in our country, the Commission condemns protest related action which is destructive and which impacts adversely on others inside and outside universities. The right to protest should not be exercised with disregard for other rights, such the right to dignity

(Section 10), the right to life (Section 11), the right to property (Section 25) and the right to security of the person (Section 12) within the framework of the respect for the rule of law.

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Human Rights Commission receives complaints against UP, Afriforum

On 13 October, a complaint was lodged with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) detailing several issues surrounding racism and inequality at

UP. The complaint was lodged against UP, as well as “certain actions” of civil rights organisation group Afriforum, by Quraysha Ismail Sooliman, a PhD candidate at UP’s Faculty of Law. SAHRC’s spokesperson Gail Smith confirmed that it had received a complaint against UP, although no further details had been given. “The matter is at the assessment stage and we are unable to comment further at this time,” added Smith.

[Read more](#)

SAHRC investigates Mangaung Metro Municipality eviction order

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) has launched an investigation into the eviction of Mangaung residents near phase seven. According to the SAHRC’s legal officer, Kelly-Anne Cleophas, this comes after the Mangaung Metro Municipality obtained an eviction order to evict residents.

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Police brutality irks SAHRC

BLOEMFONTEIN – The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) aims to promote the culture of human rights in the Free State province and the country in general. The SAHRC provincial manager, Buang Jones, revealed this in a presentation at a media networking session at the provincial offices in Bloemfontein on Wednesday 19 October.

Jones highlighted that the most prevalent forms of human rights violations are police brutality cases in the Free State and in South Africa in general such as the killing of Adries Tatane in Ficksburg in 2011, the Marikana shootings in 2012 as well as several cases of students falling victim during the #FeesMustFall movement from 2015 to date.

[Read more](#)

SAHRC intensify advocacy for the LGBTI human rights

The South African Human Rights commission has undertaken to intensify relations with gender based organisations. Speaking about the state of human rights in the Free State, the Provincial Manager, Buang Jones, says victimisation of gays, lesbians, bisexual , and transgender people has come to their attention and the commission will soon be working with various government departments and NGO to promote the rights of the LGBTI community.

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Matric fears final exam lock-out over dreads

A MATRIC pupil at Melkbosstrand High School has allegedly been banned from writing his final exams at school because he braided dreadlocks into his hair.

In addition, the principal allegedly tried to prevent Jaden Erasmus, who lives in Atlantis, from attending his matric ball at the end of last term. He was also told he could no longer act as master of ceremonies at the school's talent show. School principal Daneil Ross was not available when Weekend Argus visited the premises this week and a secretary said: "they're all in meetings until next week."

The provincial education department has meanwhile said Erasmus will not be banned from writing his exams.

[Read more](#)

SAHRC to probe police claims

The SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) will probe allegations that North West police are colluding with the Bapo-Ba-Mogale Tribal Authority to stifle Bapong villagers

opposed to Lonmin's R664-million equity deal.

The commission will investigate more than 20 cases opened by a group of community members who are against the controversial 2014 deal signed between the company and tribal authority.

[Read more](#)

SAHRC participates in the Reporting Race Conference

Gushwell Brooks, Communications Co-ordinator for the SAHRC, participated in the Reporting Race Conference on the 18th October 2016, hosted by Institute for the Advancement of Journalism (IAJ), Kathrada Foundation and The High Commission of Canada.

The conference dealt with wide ranging issues including freedom of expression as well as the portrayal of gender and race through the media. "It was an opportunity for the SAHRC to meet with media practitioners and understand how they present information whilst the Commission was able to provide information around the importance of human rights," said Gushwell Brooks.

Former President Kgalema Motlanthe, opened this auspicious event as the keynote speaker, delving into how issues of race and racism are reported in the media.

Birthdays

The following colleagues are celebrating their birthdays in November.

Nomvuyiseko Mbala (HO) - 01st

Kwanele Pakati (HO) & Eric Mokonyama (MP) - 02nd

Mthetho Maqutyana (HO) – 07th

Buang Jones (FS) - 09th

Pandelis Gregoriou (HO) - 11th

Lesego Matlaopane (HO) - 13th

Abram Ramanyoga (HO) - 19th

Alice Price (HO) - 23rd

Thenjiswa Jonas (HO) - 30th





Clockwise: Nomvuyiseko Mbala, Alice Price and Pandelis Gregoriou

If you want your picture to be featured during your birthday month kindly forward to Wisani.

TALK TO US...



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