

August 2017

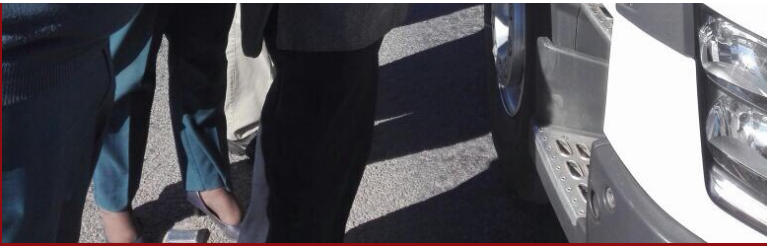
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COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

Chairperson Bongani Majola, Commissioner Chris Nissen and the Western Cape Provincial Office dedicated their Nelson Mandela day by engaging on an advocacy drive in Beaufort West and Knysna.





Pic: SAHRC Chairperson Bongani Majola engaging motorists on their rights outside Beaufort West as part of [#67MinutesForMandela](#)



Pic: SAHRC Chair Bongani Majola and Commissioner Chris Nissen during a meeting with church leaders in George.

Deputy Chairperson Priscilla Jana on Provincial visit to KwaZulu-Natal

Deputy Chairperson Priscilla Jana teamed up with the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Office to strengthen working relationships with key stakeholders during her visit to the province. Furthermore, the visit provided an opportunity to assess human rights compliance. Below are the highlights of key stakeholders engaged.





Pic: Deputy Chairperson of Committees – Honourable Happy Blose, Advisor to the Speaker – Bheki Sibiya, Chairperson of Committees – Honourable Sipho Gcabashe, SAHRC Deputy Chairperson – Commissioner Priscila Jana, Speaker of the KZN Legislature – Honourable L. Johnson, SAHRC Provincial Manager – Tanuja Munnoo, Deputy Chief Whip – Honourable Dumiseni Ntuli, KZN Legislature Exec. Secretary – Nomumelelo Magwaza.



Pic: Founder of Embrace Dignity – Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, SAHRC Provincial Manager – Tanuja Munnoo, Advisor to the KZN Premier – Linda Zama, SAHRC Research Advisor – Gift Kgomosotho, SAHRC Deputy Chairperson – Commissioner Priscila Jana.



SAHRCCommission @SAHRCCommission · Jul 7

Commissioner Bokankatla Malatji met with Limp. HOD of Education Beauty Mutheiwana discussing progress on complaints



Op-Ed: The state of civil and political rights in South Africa

The South African Human Rights Commission launched its first Civil and Political Rights Report, on 28 June 2017, which provides a snapshot of key developments around civil and political rights in South Africa during 2016/2017.

The South African Human Rights Commission launched its first Civil and Political Rights Report, on 28 June 2017, which provides a snapshot of key developments around civil and political rights in South Africa during 2016/2017. The launch of the report coincided with the intimidation of journalists by the Black First Land First (BFL) group and threats by BFL to protest at the homes and places of worship of members of the media. These actions which were widely denounced brings focus to bear on important civil and political rights. By KATE TISSINGTON and FOLA ADELEKE.

Civil and political rights are generally understood as those relating to the protection of individual (and collective) choices and freedoms and recent events in the public discourse further highlight the importance of the protection of these rights including the right to equality, life, human dignity, freedom and security of the person, freedom of association, protest, privacy, freedom of expression, just administrative action and access to information. The category of civil and political rights also include press freedom, the right of access to courts, political rights, among several others. [Read more](#)



Broken CT scanner at Ngwelezana endangers patients' lives

'One of the patients had a fit a week ago and should have had a CT scan done on the same day. A BROKEN CT scanner at Ngwelezana Hospital is endangering the lives of critically ill patients. This according to a reliable source who told the Zululand Observer that at least two patients are unable to receive urgent treatment until CT scans can be conducted to determine what is wrong with them.

'One of the patients had a fit a week ago and should have had a CT scan done on the same day. (Source: Zululand Observer) [Read more](#)





Minority Front slams Malema for 'attack on Indian community'

The Minority Front says it will approach the SA Human Rights Commission as well as the High Commission of India in South Africa - over comments made by EFF leader - Julius Malema at the weekend. During his address at the EFF's birthday rally at Curries Fountain in Durban - Malema accused Indians business people of in KZN of exploiting African workers and monopolising business in the province. (Source: East Coast Radio)

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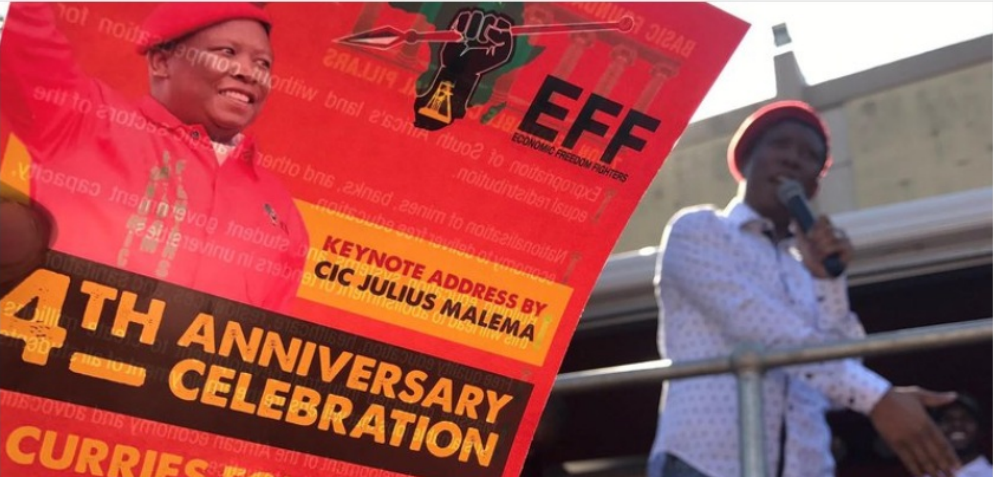
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Community

Updated July 31, 2017, 1:42 p.m. | By Steve Bhengu

The Minority Front says it will approach the SA Human Rights Commission as well as the High Commission of India in South Africa - over comments made by EFF leader - Julius Malema at the weekend.



Another FS school's hair policy under investigation

KATLEHO MORAPELA

11:12 (GMT+2) Fri, 28 Jul 2017



The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) is yet again investigating a hair policy at one of the schools in the Free State.

This comes amidst the controversy and social media outrage over pupils' hairstyles at one of the Kempton Park schools in Gauteng. Acting Provincial Manager in the Free State, Shirley Mlombo, says the commission is adamant that all school rules and codes of conduct should be subject to the Constitution. The investigation into the school whose name is withheld pending investigations comes after a few months since the St Michael's School for Girls in Bloemfontein was told to amend their hair policy.

She says while the Commission acknowledges the need for

SAHRC To Investigate President Zuma's Son: 7 Times Edward Lashed His Father's Critics

The SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) has announced that it will investigate President Jacob Zuma's son for lashing out at former finance minister Pravin Gordhan and former Tourism minister Derek Hanekom in a vitriolic open letter. The Commission said it found Edward's letter is offensive, disturbing and that it particularly promotes hatred on the basis of race and is a clear violation of the right to freedom of expression as articulated in section 16 of the Constitution. (Source: Buzz South Africa) [Read more](#)



#CagedGirls: Family to sue Ministry of Police

The mother said the three girls were traumatised all over again after a rape case ordeal from a year ago.

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) has supplied the family whose three daughters were locked in a cage-like room at the Roodepoort Police Station with the forms needed to lay an official complaint with the commission, Roodepoort Record reports. However, there is no certainty that the family has submitted the forms or if the commission's decision on the validity of

the complaint is known as yet. (Source: The Citizen) [Read more](#)

#CagedGirls: family to sue ministry of police

Riaan van Zyl



A 10-point plan to accelerate orderly land reform in South Africa

A more than 365-year history of colonialism and apartheid have indelibly affected land, heritage and human rights in South Africa.

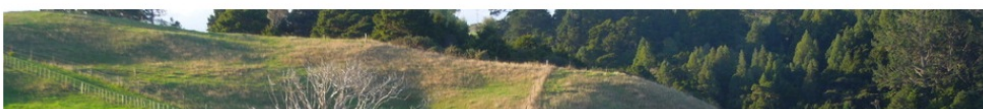
By Professor Quinton Jones

Among the vast array of discriminatory laws was the Land Act of 1913 that spatially segregated people through land dispossession. It amplified the vast canyon of inequality, further shattered the social fabric of communities and radically compromised economic development of the black majority.

It was only after the 1994 democratic elections that the vast majority of citizens could hope for constitutional restitution of their land. Significant socio-economic advances have been made since 1994, but several challenges need to be overcome as indicated by recent trends. Much more needs to be done. This is particularly true when it comes to land distribution and restitution. (Source: Bizz Community) [Read more](#)

A 10-point plan to accelerate orderly land reform in South Africa

July 25, 2017 5:14pm SAST





Growing up in a community faced with abject poverty inspired Buang Jones to help engineer social change

At the age of 32, Jones is the youngest attorney to manage a provincial office for the Human Rights Commission – something he doesn't take lightly.

While growing up in poverty-stricken community might be limiting for some, Jones refused to allow his environment to hold him down. Instead, his environment inspired him to want more for himself and his community.

"I used to stay in a shack and used a bucket toilet and all of that has contributed to shaping who I am today, because it has made me to be content with the little that I had," he says. Although his mother did not have that much money, she still wanted the best for him and knew that sending him to a school, where he would receive good quality education, was the only way out of poverty. "I was able to attend a former Model C school, which enabled me to be where I am today," he says. Read more

K-word lands man in hot water

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) is encouraged that the Thabazimbi Equality Court has reconfirmed that the use of the k-word as a racial epithet, is unlawful and that those who continue to use it will be held to account. The commission released a statement on Tuesday highlighting the outcomes of a case heard in the Equality Court last year where an African man was called the 'k-word'.

The matter refers to an incident in May last year when the complainant in the case, Nelson Motlane, in the company of his employer, identified only as Mr Grobler, went to the farm of the respondent,

Ben Pretorius, where Motlane was doing building work. Pretorius then referred to Motlane using the k-word. (Source: Observer) [Read more](#)

Pastor ordered to attend sensitivity training after using k-word

Cape Town - The Western Cape Equality Court has ruled that a pastor should attend four "sensitivity training sessions" after calling an individual the k-word, the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) said on Wednesday.

The court ruled on Friday that Trevor Kordom issue an apology and pay damages.

His licence as a lay preacher was suspended for a minimum of three months.

The SAHRC said in a statement that it welcomed the ruling.

Given increased reports of racially-fuelled confrontations between South Africans, such an order was essential in fostering the society envisioned by the Preamble of the Constitution, it said.

Source: News 24

South Africa: Human Rights Commission Condemns Utterances of Xenophobic Statement By Leaders

The South African Human Rights Commission (Commission or SAHRC) strongly condemns the irresponsible utterances by the Deputy Minister of Police, Bongani Mkongi. On Friday the 14th July 2017, the Deputy Minister, while addressing concerns around crime and hijacked buildings in Johannesburg, Hillbrow in particular, was quoted by media as saying that: "How can a city in South Africa be 80% foreign national? That is dangerous. South Africans have surrendered their own city to the foreigners." (Source: Xinhua Net) [Read more](#)

South African Human Rights Commission condemns deputy police minister's remarks on foreigners

Source: Xinhua | 2017-07-18 01:06:08 | Editor: yan

SAHRC reaches out to prison community in Brandfort

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) concluded their weeklong road show in the Lejweleputswa District Municipality by visiting the Brandfort Correctional Centre as well as the Joe Slovo Informal Settlement in Brandfort on Thursday.

The Commission's Acting Provincial Manager in the Free State, Shirley Mlombo, told OFM News the road shows served as a platform to promote awareness on issues relating to access to justice and access to information. She says they also registered complaints from detainees during their visit. (Source: OFM) [Read more](#)



OFM News

14 July at 11:30 · 🌐

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Bushes for toilets and 76 pupils in one classroom

Parents of pupils at Mapani Primary School in Makushu village expressed displeasure in the way the Limpopo Department of Education had ignored their pleas for the department to build new toilets and classrooms for the school.

At least 400 pupils still have to relieve themselves in the bushes, which are in the school yard. During the paper's recent visit to the school, Limpopo Mirror found that there's no privacy between boys and girls while responding to the call of nature in the short bushes. Passers-by also watch them from outside the school yard. The yard reeks of faeces and this very odour also wafts into classrooms.

The school governing body's chairperson, Ms Eunice Masuwa, said that they had since submitted numerous letters and memorandums to the department with no effect. "As you can see with your naked eyes, pupils are relieving themselves in the open spaces between the bushes," she said. "Is this how it should be? What is education after all?" (Source: Zoutnet) [Read more](#)

Equality Court orders labour department to pay UIF to asylum seeker

The Equality Court has ordered the Department of Labour to pay an asylum seeker his Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) benefits.

The South African Human Rights Commission said on Friday it welcomed the judgment handed down on Tuesday by the court at the Vereeniging Magistrate's Court, particularly as the Constitution prohibits discrimination based on country of origin.

The Department of Labour said its computer system cannot process payments to asylum seekers because it only accepts the 13 digit identity number of South Africans citizens.

The court ordered the department to correct its computer system so that asylum seekers would get their UIF contributions. (Source: Times Live) [Read more](#)

SAHRC takes issue with government over ICC ruling

Commission says South Africa has a legal duty to ensure crimes against humanity do not play out in other countries.

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) on Friday said government had a moral and legal duty to ensure it joins legal efforts to help stamp out crimes against humanity across the world and on the continent.

The commission was referring to a ruling by the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Thursday which found South Africa had violated the Rome Statute by failing to heed a request by the Hague to arrest and surrender Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for trial for crimes against humanity. (Source: African News Agency) [Read more](#)

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SAHRC takes issue with govt on failure to comply with ICC obligations

Friday 7 July 2017 21:04

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Cosatu leader found guilty of hate speech, ordered to apologise to Jewish community

JOBURG – Court orders Cosatu and Bongani Masuku to tender an unconditional apology to the Jewish community, adding that the apology must receive the same publicity as the offending statements.

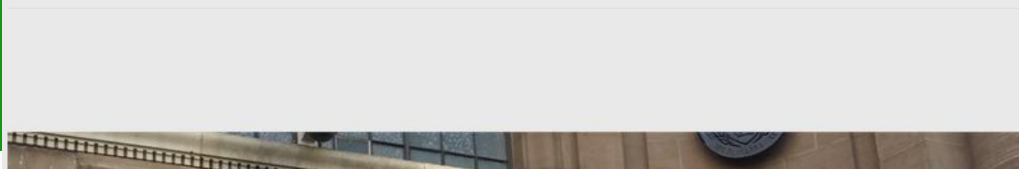
Cosatu's International Relations spokesperson, Bongani Masuku was found guilty of hate speech by the Equality Court sitting at the High Court in Johannesburg.

Delivering the judgement on 29 June, Judge Seun Moshidi said the impugned statements that Masuku made were hurtful, harmful, incited harm and propagated hatred towards the Jewish community. Source: (Sandton Cronicle) [Read more](#)

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July 5, 2017



SAHRC calls on BLF to cease intimidation, harassment of journalists

Pretoria - The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) has called on Andile Mngxitama and his organisation Black First Land First (BLF) to immediately cease intimidating and harassing journalists.

This comes after BLF started targeting journalists at their homes and places of worship.

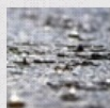
"A free press is a cornerstone of our constitutional democracy. Any attempt to threaten or intimidate the media is an attack on our democracy and is a violation of our Constitution," SAHRC spokesperson Gail Smith said in a statement.

"Further, section 15 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, belief and opinion. As such, threats by BLF to protest at places of worship of members of the media, is an infringement of this right. (Source: News 24) [Read more](#)

news24

Breaking News. First

LAST UPDATED: 2017-08-04, 11:28



Weather Update: Heavy rainfall, flooding expected in parts of SA's South Coast

SA Weather Service warns that heavy rainfall may lead to localised flooding in places along the South Coast on Friday,

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SAHRC calls on BLF to cease intimidation.

harassment of journalists

2017-07-05 17:18

Alex Mitchley, News24



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MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

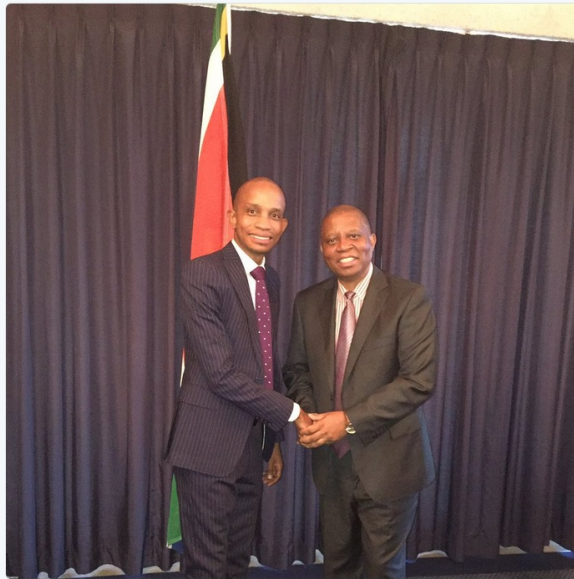
Further, section 19 of the Constitution guarantees

SAHRC ON TWITTER @SAHRCommission





Buang Jones @IamBuangJones · Jul 5
@SAHRCCommission Gauteng office Provincial Manager with
@CityofJoburgZA Executive Mayor @HermanMashaba #humanrights



SAHRCCommission @SAHRCCommission · Jul 18
Today the SAHRC in Limpopo is in the Equality Court in Mahwelereng on the
matter of van voegt v saps



Ayanda Maseko @Ayanda_Maseko · Jul 24



Commissioner Andre Gaum on ANN7 following media reports of a group of learners being expelled on Monday, allegedly due to their hairstyles.



HUMAN RIGHTS DAYS

National Women's Day, 09 August

On 9 August 1956, more than 20 000 South African women of all races staged a march on the Union Buildings in protest against the proposed amendments to the Urban Areas Act of 1950, commonly referred to as the "pass laws". The march was led by Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophia Williams. The women left bundles of petitions containing more than 100 000 signatures at the office doors of prime minister J.G. Strijdom. The women stood silently for 30 minutes and then started singing a protest song that was composed in honour of the occasion: Wathint'Abafazi Wathint'imbokodo! (Now you have touched the women, you have struck a rock.). In the years since, the phrase (or its latest incarnation: "you strike a woman, you strike a rock") has come to represent the struggle for women's rights in South Africa.

BIRTHDAYS

Patrick Maluleke & Tsoane Khoarai - 01st

Tanuja Munnoo - 06th

Ruth Diane, Makutla Mojapelo & Dirk Swart - 08th

Commissioner Jonas Ben Sibanyoni & Gushwell Brooks - 14th

Nkosana Kwaza & Naomi Webster - 15th

Fadlah Adams - 16th

Hamilton Garishe - 17th

Martin Nsibirwa - 22nd

Lindiwe Dlamini - 29th

Chantal Kisoon - 31st

TALK TO US...



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