

## “glittering prize”

prepare populations to actively participate in the ‘global knowledge economy’ (Tikly, 2011).

In contrast to the human capital approach, the human rights approach advocates “rights to education, rights in education and rights through education” (Tikly, 2011:89), with the realisation of human rights as its fundamental objective. The approach includes both negative and positive rights, such as protection from corporal punishment and the use of vernacular languages in the classroom. Teaching approaches are geared at being learner-centred and democratic structures are promoted. While the human capital approach can be criticised for assuming a linear relationship between inputs, processes and outputs of education, presenting a uniform approach to quality that is insensitive to the learning requirements of different learners in diverse learning environments, and that education alone is a solution to solving the problems that exist within society, rights based approaches attempt to address the root causes of those inequalities. However, one of the primary limitations in adopting a rights based approach to development, or the realisation of fundamental rights such as basic education, is that it focuses exclusively on the state as the proponent of change and implementer of rights. In a globalised era, with the role of the state becoming increasingly less significant, while legal and policy frameworks remain important in guaranteeing rights, the state’s ability to enforce rights becomes questionable (Tikly, 2011).

While the South African Constitution has enshrined the right to a basic education, the meaning and purpose of such education remains questionable, as it seems that the driving force behind such access is not to provide learners with the


ability to think critically and carve out a life for themselves on their own terms, thus being able to rationally bear the consequences of their choices both good and bad, but rather to ensure that they are well-prepared worker-bees as necessitated by the market. Although BC’s grounding in race politics may appear to have confined its relevance to the apartheid era, the philosophy continues to bear significance, as class inequalities continue to exclude poor people from accessing rights such as a basic education necessary to attain a life with dignity, particularly when such attainment is dependent on whether one is able to participate in the market. And although European colonialism has long since come to an end in Africa, Achebe’s goal of teaching, through his literature, Africans to think of themselves differently, to think critically and to question discourse becomes even more pertinent as emphasis on the development of a (neo-) liberal free-market economy emulating that of the West is proving to have dire consequences for the continent’s people. While trade liberalization has allowed the continent to benefit from international market booms, such prosperity becomes very limited as the continent does not possess the necessary safety nets to cushion it during market busts, further deepening existing social fissures that hamper Africa’s progressive development.

More importantly, Biko and Achebe were inspired by their socio-political contexts and were motivated by the desire to alter the hegemonic discourse that governed their societies, which had an adverse impact on the growth of their people. In stark contrast to the heroes and legends the African continent has produced, young Africans of the 21<sup>st</sup> century appear to be inspired by the accumulation of wealth as a mark of their success. Understandings of democracy are associated with one’s ability to participate in the market economy as we pursue our goals of acquiring all that sparkles, as defined by the West, rather than the ability to critically

assess the standards we have set for ourselves in defining our success. Sadly, such aspirations appear to have desensitized many African youth to the suffering endured by many of the continent’s peoples, and have in fact contributed to widening the gap between rich and poor. We seem to have forgotten the philosophies of those who have come before us and that Africa’s success is not dependent on the extent to which it models that of the West. Indeed, Africa’s success will be dependent on whether we, its youth, are able to attain the true “glittering prize”, as envisioned by Steve Biko, namely a society founded on the principles of dignity, equality, and social justice for all.

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### References

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# SAHRC contributes towards 67 minutes of Mandela

By Thandeka Ngalo  
Communications Officer

The continent commemorated the 95th birthday of one of the world's most loved men, Nelson Mandela. Birthday wishes and messages came in pouring from all corners of the world. People from all walks of life waved South African flags and sang a happy birthday song for Madiba.

Nelson Mandela made it his life's work to fight for every South African's human right; he dedicated 67 years serving the nation since 1942, hence 67 minutes of volunteering to give back to 'Tata.' As part of celebrating Madiba's birthday, the SAHRC devoted 67 minutes of good deeds in helping others at the Joseph Gerard home in Alexandra. SAHRC Chairperson Advocate Mushwana donated clothes to the home while the staff collectively interacted with the old people, prayed and cleaned all rooms of the foundation immaculately.

The home makes provision for 36 frail old persons with no other abode. This home was established in a ruined and abandoned boarding school situated next to a church. The church had previously owned the school but the building was expropriated by the previous government and was neglected over the years. This building was misused for a brothel and a beer hall. In 1998 the building was renovated for an old aged home. The funds to revamp the building and provide basic furnishing were donated by the church community in Germany and supplemented by local fundraising.



**Treats: Chair Adv Mushwana led SAHRC delegation to 67 Minutes of Mandela. In addition to doing community work the Commission also shared cake with the elderly**



**Hands on: 67 minutes of staff cleaning the home**

The SAHRC's mandate is to ensure that the rights of all South Africans, including older persons are protected; the commission further stretched a giving hand by donating furniture to the Itlokomeleg Association for the aged in Alexandra. The home caters for old aged and persons with disabilities. Itlokomeleg, meaning help yourself, was conceived in 1978 by a group of concerned women in Alexandra community.

To the majority of the people, Mandela

rent state of health but on the responsibilities to lend a helping hand.

The SAHRC would like to wish our elderly statesman a speedy recovery. Many happy returns Tata and may you see many more years to come.

"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead." >>>- 90th birthday celebration of Walter Sisulu, Walter Sisulu Hall, Johannesburg, 18 May 2002

# 67 minutes of Mandela in pictures

*Staff members also took 67 minutes of doing good to another level, by interacting with the elderly*



# Mandela Day Provincial Highlights

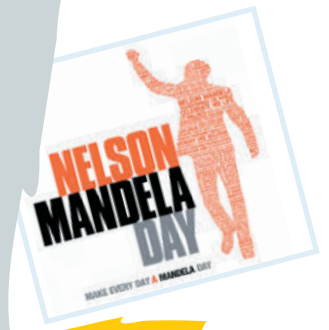
## Gauteng Office

The Gauteng Provincial Office and Deputy Chair Pregs Govender spent Nelson Mandela Day with a group of enterprising senior women in Drieziek, South of Johannesburg.



## KwaZulu - Natal

The KZN team paid a visit to a children's home at the Natal Settlers Memorial Home in Durban. The team handed out party packs and toys to the kids



## Western Cape

The Western Cape office visited a Creche in Barcelona, Gugulethu.



## Mpumalanga

The Mpumalanga Provincial Office commemorated its Nelson Mandela Day at the Thembelihle Centre for Children with Cerebral Palsy. This NPO is situated in Barberton, just outside of Nelspruit. Staff donated non-perishable items such as clothing, toys etc.



## Limpopo

Limpopo staff visited Madipuane Secondary School at Ga-Kgoshi Mothapo, and teamed up with pupils to clean the school.



## 9th August is celebrated as women's day



### Visiting student, Kebothale Motseothata pays tribute

Women are bearers of life. I cannot think of a time where I did not long to possess all my mother's heavenly powers. Powers of divine understanding, unconditional love and unbreakable strength. It is through my constant marvel of this divinity, that I have grown to understand the significance of being more than just a female. I have grown to fathom the cosmic beauty of the nature of a woman. No other hands can shake the ground and still walk on the quakes firmly without falling like that of a woman. Hands that shake the ground but still heal with the screeching pain of endless cracks on their palms. Feet that walk on quakes after standing on hot coal for hours. Women speak and their words turn into bricks that build characters of strong warriors. They carve mountains into monuments and mould history into celestial novels of self knowledge.

On 9 August 1956, brave heroines stood together as one and fought for change. They turned their voices into melodies of hope and marched their enraged yet kind souls to the union buildings. They stood firm like hard rocks and remained unshaken by the rise of the strongest tides. They stood gently, lovingly and passionately as they opposed a system that threatened their worth. They spoke in a voice that inspired the whole country to listen, and left

their eternal footprints on the sacred land of fate controllers. Their presence silenced all, despised all violence, all abuse, all hunger, all anger, as they sternly warned their oppressors: 'You strike a woman, you strike a rock'. Those powerful words echoed through generations and formed the strong South African woman we have today. The woman who stands in the rain to cover her tears and laughs like she's not in pain. The woman who ef-

en Joseph's voice and I reflect Bertha Mashaba's courage. I sing songs of freedom like Mariam Makeba and Letta Mbulu. I show emotion like Abigail Kubeka and I express myself freely like Brenda Fassie. I am as fierce as Yaa Asantewa and as fashionable as Margaret Ekpo. I stand the ground that Rosa Parks stood on and I am the touch-



**Women marching to the Union Buildings in 1956 to protest against Pass Laws. Pic courtesy of SABC**

fortlessly epitomises self love by loving selflessly. The one who wakes up in the morning with nothing in her purse but still manages to feed her family. The one who fearlessly plays the role of both mother and father to her children. The one who scolds strictly, yet loves unconditionally. The one who carries the whole world on her back and still manages to walk as light as a feather while giving light to those in darkness. The one who stands amongst men and speaks words that strengthen her femininity while soothing their masculinity. The one whose mind is utopia for those seeking eternal liberation.

I am a woman. I walk on Lilian Ngoyi's footsteps. I speak in Hel-

ing voice of my people like Nina Simone. I lead like Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and I am as beautiful as Oshun. I am as caring as Mother Teresa and I heal like Florence Nightingale. I am you, the strong woman, the loving woman and the nurturing woman. I am the mother of the soil and stars. I am life, I am love.

**Pf**

### Women's day

Celebrations on this day highlight the role of women in society and opportunities available for future generations to contribute meaningfully to South African society.

# SAHRC women Celebrate Women's Day

9 August 1956 marks a day where more than 20 000 women protested against the proposed amendments of Pass Laws to the Union Building in Pretoria. Women from all parts of the country arrived in Pretoria, some from as far as Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. The march was initiated by the Federation of South African Women (FSAW) This organisation was a non-racial organisation that mobilised women in protest against apartheid. Lilian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Albertina Sisulu, and Sophia Williams-De Bruyn spearheaded the march. On this day women left bundles of petitions containing more than 100,000 signatures at the Prime Minister J.G Strijdom's office.

*Pfanelo* spoke to women in the Commission and here is how they will celebrate Women's Day:

## Sebongile Mutlwane (Intake Officer GP)



This day reminds me of our mothers who fought for their rights to be recognized as women in 1956. We have entered into democracy and women can enjoy freedom of movement and freedom of speech. I will be celebrating this day with my family in Klerksdorp at the Kraal lodge

## Sekganeng Pelesa (Payroll Practitioner)



It's a special day for me because the women who fought on this day paved a way for women of today to stand for their rights. Women are generally strong people, because they are able to bring warmth not only in households but also in people's lives. The world would be a boring place without a woman. I intended spending my day with other women at the Union Building.

## Tawana Malapane (Assistant Librarian)



Women's Day to me signifies the gift of life that we are being favored and chosen. It's a day that enables us as women to be the best that we can be, content with who we are and celebrate one of God's best creations. I embrace all the people in my life who acknowledge women as human beings. I will be travelling either to Turfloop or Herschel to bond with family and friends as part of my celebrations.

## Pamela Phango (IT Help Desk)



I am honoured to be a woman in South Africa; people fought for us to be where we are today. Women are generally strong people and can go through tough times and still manage to stand strong for themselves. I will be spoiling myself with my granddaughter, Cwenga, and may be join the celebrations that will be taking place around the country.

## Tshegofatso Makete (Research Associate)



I think women should be viewed as nation builders all around the world. We should be held in high regard due to the role we play in our society. Women possess the power of being pillars of strength, as they play a fundamental role in households, business, church and leadership.

I will be celebrating the day with my peers. We will be acknowledging the historical background that the 1956 women fought for. **Pf**

# In the seat with

*Penny Carelse, Admin Officer: Western Cape Office*



## Tell us about Penny in a nutshell?

My full name is Penelope but everyone calls me Penny. I'm happily married with 2 beautiful children aged 21 and 19. My daughter Aimee is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year at UCT studying Film and Media Production with a focus on Media Studies : Print Journalism Production and my son Michael is in his first year at Cape Audio College studying Sound and Audio engineering.

## Where were you born and how was it for you growing up?

I was born in Durban and then my family moved to Swaziland when I was 6 years old. It was a wonderful year of just fishing, farming and running free. At the age of 7 my family moved to Johannesburg and settled there. I met my husband in Johannesburg and moved to Cape Town in 1994. I come from a very large family, my father is one of 20 siblings (2

marriages!) and my mom is one of 6 siblings. So I have many aunts, uncles and cousins scattered all over the globe. It was exciting growing up in this large family as it was a lesson in sharing, caring, learning and basic Ubuntu principles which we all strive to practice today. My mom and dad were faced with many adversities growing up but always taught us to strive for what we want and never lose hope. They are a constant inspiration to our family.

## Educational Background

I completed matric in Durban after which I returned to Johannesburg. I managed to put myself through Business Secretarial College, followed by a stream of short courses – too many to mention. I studied through UNISA with a National Diploma in Office Management and Technology.

## Describe your position at the Commission and explain what it means to you holding that position.

I started working at the Commission in September 1997 as Admin Secretary/Officer. Prior to that I was part of the Secretariat of the Constitutional Assembly for the full duration of the constitution making process, which took 2 years. Part of that time I worked within one of the sub theme committees which focused on

“specialised structures of government” along with Mr Leon Wesels. The SAHRC was one of these specialised structures. Many late nights were spent drafting documents, receiving submissions and presenting at Parliament. Here I am, 15 years later still working at the SAHRC! I walk past Constitution House every morning on my way to work as it's right next door to the Commission.

That experience proved invaluable when I started at the Commission. The Western Cape office was the first provincial office to be set up. It was a learning curve for everyone in the beginning as new systems were being implemented and we had to adapt quickly and continuously to the many changes that were taking place. So as Admin Officer I have become a jack of all trades as I had to attend to almost everything back then like sorting out computer problems, security, telephones, building maintenance, lease agreements etc. Setting up office was tough as we had to find our own way so to speak and I implemented various admin systems for my own use and for the office. These include the organisational referral list which has grown extensively, an electronic library where I file all important cases, documents, opinions, policies etc., as well as administrative checking lists and my own back-up systems which I still use today. I also designed templates for the legal case files and set up an Excel database



## with Penny Carelse

as well as a network database for complaints which is also still being used in our office. I don't regard this position as merely secretarial but encompasses many more responsibilities which is key in ensuring that the office operates optimally.

### In a summary can you take us through your day at the Commission?

Every day is different depending on what needs to be done and you have to be flexible to be able to deliver on specific daily and monthly tasks. However, I like to structure my day and try and stick to it as much as possible.

Firstly I scan through emails as this will inform me of any matters that might need urgent attention. Other duties include scheduling appointments for the PM, letter writing, editing documents, logistical arrangements for workshops, catering, venues and travel. I also have to ensure that all equipment is in working order, especially our photocopier which is quite temperamental, asset management, fleet management, library, telephone systems, payments of accounts, petty-cash, filing, minute taking, OHS matters and writing reports. Basically I ensure that the office runs smoothly. I haven't had any complaints so far!

### Day outside office?

Spending time with family and friends is top of my list. I have a wide circle of friends, 10 families altogether and the ladies meet once a month socially and also as a motivation to save groceries and plan any other projects that we embark on. We also meet

whenever there is a birthday or other celebration within our group (5 of the teenagers turn 21 this year, 4 of the parents turn 50 and 6 matriculated last year). We also support each other with school functions, fund raisers, soccer tournaments, cricket matches, music concerts, dance shows as well as any other social engagements. So I am always on the go.

I also belong to a caravan club which means lots of outdoor activities and exploring new campsites at least once a month or as often as we get the chance.

### What motivates you and what inspires you?

My motto is "treat others as you would like to be treated". It is simple, really, but encompasses qualities such as love, respect, acknowledgement, compassion and honesty. We are all the same regardless of rank, colour or money. Just be yourself – I don't like pretentious people. If you can make a small change in a person's life you have enriched theirs and yours.

### You have been with the Commission for more than 10 years, what keeps you going?

Working so long in the Western Cape office has become like a second home to me. I like the people that I work with and it makes all the difference. I am also committed to the work that we do. It's heartwarming to know that we can make meaningful change to people's lives. Someone once asked me if I am loyal to the Commission. Loyalty is embedded in the compassion of the work that one does. If there is no compassion for what you do then loyalty will be lacking. You might as well be packing potatoes!

### Favourite activities?

Too many. I love gardening and just recently started a small herb garden.

It's relaxing and a wonderful way to get back to nature. I love to see things grow. I'm passionate about animals and have 2 dogs, a German Shepherd and a Maltese poodle. I also love music and enjoy everything from heavy fusion jazz to classical. Both my brothers play music and my mom's family comes from a long line of musicians.

I also enjoy the theatre, movies, stand-up comedy and inspirational books like A New Earth by Eckhart Tolle.

### Any interesting thing that people don't know about you?

I do oil painting in my spare time and I am a magazine junkie!

At the end of each year our ladies social group donates to a charity of their choice which could be anything from groceries, toiletries, blankets, clothes, toys, stationery and small appliances depending on the needs of the charity. This year we hope to visit an old age home and provide a Christmas dinner, gifts and entertainment.

### Tell us more.....

I belong to Retina SA and have assisted with small fund raisers for the organisation. 

### Did you know that Penny:

- \* Started working at the Commission in September 1997 as Admin Secretary/Officer?
- \* Was born in Durban and then moved to Swaziland when she was 6 years old?
- \* Her motto is "treat others as you would like to be treated"?
- \* Does oil painting in her spare time and is a magazine junkie?