

Welcome to Hura

Pfanelo profiles the Human Rights Advocacy Unit



Hura staff: Motshabi Moemise, Joyce Tlou and Lindiwe Dlamini.

Home of Human Rights Education

Objectives and key functions of the unit

The human rights advocacy unit promotes awareness of human rights and contributes to the development of a sustainable human right culture within the Republic.

Overview of past and current projects

The unit has over the years facilitated and encouraged the promotion of respect for and awareness of human rights through education and training; community outreach initiatives; public dialogues; conferences, workshops, seminars and information sessions. The unit works and partners with a diverse range of stakeholders which include government departments, international and regional entities, civil society organizations and the public at large.

As a result of the recent restruc-

turing process, a notable shift in the operational methodology of the unit has meant that the majority of activities are now carried out through the provincial offices, with head office providing a strategic and coordination role. The unit is now focused on being the driver of advocacy activities through strategic interventions that it takes responsibility for and hosts, rather than simply reacting to external requests by other stakeholders. This has also meant a shift from quantitative, to qualitative methods, with emphasis on monitoring and evaluating the design and impact of awareness interventions.

Recent examples of these include:

- The training of community development workers as human rights ambassadors at community level in all nine provinces was carried out in 2011-12. Community development workers were identi-

fied for this project due to the strategic role they play as the interface between the community and government at local level, especially in respect of social unrest and conflict on service delivery issues. The unit places emphasis on developing and strengthening strong coalitions and partnerships with social justice activists and community based advocates who can take up issues in areas where the Commission might not be easily reachable.

- Dialogues, roundtables and seminars are meant to provide a space for participatory stakeholder engagement on topical human rights issues. For 2012, two conferences were held, one in July as a consultative conference on the draft Charter of Childrens Basic Education Rights. The charter was officially launched in January 2013 and it is gratifying to note that the charter is already been quoted as an authoritative document for norms and standards for the education rights sector. This work continues in 2013 through provincial engagements aimed at popularizing

the charter, which have already been held from May to July 2013.

In October 2012, the Commission held a dialogue on Freedom of Expression and Hate Speech in the context of artistic expression as a result of “the spear” painting that depicted the private parts of the President of South Africa. This in turn was a follow up to the previous year’s public dialogues on liberation songs and on the use of social media such as Facebook and twitter in propagating hate speech. For 2013, the Commission intends hosting a commemorative public event on 10 December to mark International Human Rights Day.


- Commemoration of human rights calendar days takes place through public events throughout the year, mostly in partnership with other stakeholders. The intensity and geographical spread is particularly notable during the month of March, which culminates in participation in events to mark Human Rights Day on 21 March each year.

- Following on the momentum of the Commission’s 2012 national campaign on water and sanitation as the theme for that year and as part of community outreach, the Commission, from August- December 2013 hosted nine provincial hearings on the issue. The hearings provided an opportunity for communities to air their grievances and challenges they experience in realizing the right to adequate, clean and safe water and dignified sanitation. Each of the provincial offices identified the respective areas that were most affected by the lack of adequate water and sanitation, which invariably tended to be located within deep rural areas. Public hearings are meant to give a platform and a voice to marginalized communities to raise issues of concern to them but also provide an opportunity by which they can hold government accountable. The hearings culminated in a national conference which brought together all relevant stakeholders to discuss the

findings and recommendations from the provincial hearings and chart a work plan for how government can improve in its mandate to progressively realize the right to water and sanitation. Monitoring of the recommendations is ongoing, with the Commission having hosted follow up subpoena hearings with specific government departments to gauge the progress made in meeting the commitments that government had made the previous year. As the focus for 2013 is on the right to food, the Commission will host provincial stakeholder engagements from October-November. This will also culminate in a national consultative conference as part of human rights month activities in March 2014.

- Development, translation and dissemination of human rights promotional material such as pamphlets and booklets on topical human rights issues is an ongoing exercise. Such material is intended to inform the public on specific human rights issues that impact on the populace. In the past the unit, working together with Research unit has produced pamphlets on disability, non-nationals, HIV/Aids, children, older persons and equality. For 2012 the unit developed and disseminated the water and sanitation pamphlets in all the eleven official languages at each of the provincial hearings that it held. The unit also produced the Traditional Courts Bill Pamphlet, again in all eleven official languages and the Acid Mine Drainage Booklet in English as these were identified as topical issues of concern. In 2013 the Commission will develop, translate and produce a Fact Sheet on the Right to Food, which will be distributed at the various stakeholder engagements that the Commission will host across the country.

In an attempt to keep abreast of technological advancements, the unit previously introduced E-learning as a web-based innovative approach to human rights. This existed as an

online portal for learner courseware to guide the development of curricula, unit standards, competencies and complement other traditional modes of training. This was however discontinued as the IT infrastructure was incompatible with the needs of a technologically demanding system. Thus the unit has reverted to traditional modes aimed at maximizing its outreach. Provincial offices now actively host information sessions, seminars, and roundtable discussions and make presentations, on topical issues as part of strategic stakeholder engagements. The issues are mainly derived from an analysis of the statistics of complaints that each office handles. They also tie in with the Commissioners’ focus areas such as excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies, disability, older persons, xenophobia, rights of lesbians, gay and transgendered persons, rural development, effects of mining on communities, health care and the right to food. These activities form part of an overall thrust to create debate and deepen understanding and awareness of human rights. 

Unit contact details

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“The unit works and partners with a diverse range of stakeholders which include government departments, international and regional entities, civil society organizations and the public at large.”

The re-launch of Employee Wellness Programme provided much needed information to staff

By Barbara Moloji
Human Resources Assistant, Training and Development

Since its inception in 2006, the Employee Wellness Programme (EWP) has become an integral part of the support services provided to the employees and dependants of the SAHRC.


The 12 July 2013 marked the re-launch of an EWP, whereby staff were reminded about different services offered by the Independent Counselling and Advisory Service (ICAS), thereby encouraging and fostering an environment of employee wellness.

The event was well attended with staff interacting with ICAS regarding their wellbeing issues.

ICAS provides a number of counselling and advisory services.

These include:

- 24 hours a day telephonic counselling to all employees
- Access to Life Management Services that include legal, financial telephonic guidance and family care information
- Access to short-term personal counselling with a psychologist
- Optimise online EWP Service

Human Resources would like to thank all staff for their participation. 



Staff came in their numbers to participate at the Employee Wellness Programme



Judy Hollenbach, Motshabi Moemise and Mamosadi Moletsane received hampers for interactive discussions.



Proud moments as Commissioner Malatji comes second in navigating race



Commissioner shares with Pfanelo the importance of the rally

Pfanelo congratulates Commissioner Malatji for coming second in the blind navigators rally.



Blind Navigators Rally Club hosted a rally which took place in Alberton on Sunday 14 July 2013 and our very own Commissioner, Adv Bokankatla Malatji, participated in it, and took home second prize.

The competition started from Alberton to Vereeniging, and back to Alberton. The rally was about the partially blind competing amongst themselves. Each partially blind person has to have a navigator (driver), a schedule which contains the speed to drive at different points and the times/directions to follow.

To win the competition it is highly important for the driver to know how to read Braille articulately. Competitors were expected to drive along with their navigators 50km to win the completion.

The aim of the rally was to learn how to have communicate between the sighted people and short sighted people, to dispel wrong impressions about partially blind people and to have precise sense of direction.

Pfanelo conversed with Commissioner Malatji, as follows:

Q - How do you feel about the prize?

A- Ecstatic

Q- How did you prepare for this rally?

A- I basically went to the rally unprepared because the

whole idea was that you are not allowed to prepare before hand.

Q- What is your take around myths that people with disabilities people are unable?

A- I think it is my duty to dispel that myth, I think that people must take it upon themselves to learn more about people with disabilities.

Q- Are you going to take part more on such of activities?

A- Yes and of course encourage others to take part on such Rallies

Q- What is next on your agenda?

A- I am going to popularize rally activities and ensure that a majority of people are aware of them.

Pfanelo would like to take this opportunity in congratulating our victorious Commissioner Malatji for winning the rally.

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"I basically went to the rally unprepared because the whole idea was that you are not allowed to prepare before hand."

Happy Birthdays

Ruth Diane – 08 August (HO)

Hamilton Garishe – 17 August (HO)

Lindiwe Dlamini – 29 August (KZN)

Tanuja Munnoo – 06 August (KZN)

Michael Lefakane – 31 August (HO)

Nkosana Kwaza – 15 August (HO)

Fadlah Adams – 16 August (WC)

Chantaal Kissoon - 31 August (GP)

Naomi Webster - 15 August (HO)

Lindiwe Nonjaduka - 04 August (HO)


Rachel Ward – 9 August (WC)

Pfanelo babies

Pfanelo congratulates Alucia Sekgathume, Thembi Madalane and Alinah Khompeli for the birth of their bundle of joys. Welcome to motherhood.




Ikenna CJ Onkarabile Isiah lyke
 Born: 13 July 2013
 Time: 13:20
 Weight: 2.6 KG
 Gender: Male
 Parklane Clinic
 Mother: Alucia Sekgathume
 Father: Prince Chigodzie lyke



Kadija princess Adams
 Born: 20 July 2013
 Weight: 2.9 kg
 Gender: Female
 Pelonomi Netcare
 Mother - Alinah Khompeli
 Father - Adams Adams



Pebetse Ofentse Leshilo
 Born: 19 July 2013
 Weight: 3.5 kg
 Gender: Female
 Mother: Thembi Madalane
 Father: Ezekiel Leshilo



Proposed Internal Seminars Schedule

- * 29 August 2013, Roelf Meyer: Negotiation of Chapter 9 of the Constitution
 - * 25 October 2013, Fola Adeleke: PAIA
 - * 29 November 2013, Dr Karam Singh: Research
- * 6 December 2013, Chairperson, Adv Mushwana: HIV and AIDS and Human Rights
- * 31 January 2014, Eastern Cape: Staff awareness on the provincial work (Complaints and education, etc.)
 - * 28 February 2014, Pandelis Gregorious: Legal cases
 - * 28 March 2014, Joyce Tlou: Advocacy Strategy of the Commission

Human Rights Calendar Days

- 06 August - Hiroshima Day (Remembrance)
- 07 August - Transgender International Rights and Education Day
- 12 August - International Youth Day
- 23 August - International Day for Remembrance of the Slave & its Abolition (UNESCO)

A warm welcome to our new employees

Thandeka Ngalo, Communications Officer (Temp) - Head Office
Cornelia Toerien Van Wyk - Research Associate (CEO/COO)