

August 2018[View this email in your browser](#)

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

SAHRC visits Bo-Kaap to hear People's Complaints

The South African Human Rights Commission on Wednesday did a site inspection of Bo-Kaap following complaints from residents about gentrification and over-development in the area.

The SAHRC is currently mediating between residents and property developers Blok.



Commissioner Chris Nissen interacting with Bo-kaap residents during a walk-about.
Pic: ANA

The walk-about was led by SAHRC commissioner Dr Chris Nissen, and was essentially a tour of the historic significance of Bo-Kaap and how to preserve it.

It comes after residents in June approached the SAHRC, saying their human rights were being violated by developers. Nissen said this was in particular referring to the construction of a 12-storey building in Lion Street.



SAHRC listening to grievance during the visit. Pic: ANA

Blok has since taken out a court order banning residents from entering the building

The National Dialogue on Protecting the Right to Healthcare during Protest Action

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC or Commission) in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation held a national dialogue on the impact of protest action on the right to access healthcare services in South Africa. The National Dialogue took place on Thursday, 05 July 2018, at the Commission's Head Office at 33 Hoofd Street, Braampark Forum III, Braamfontein, Johannesburg.

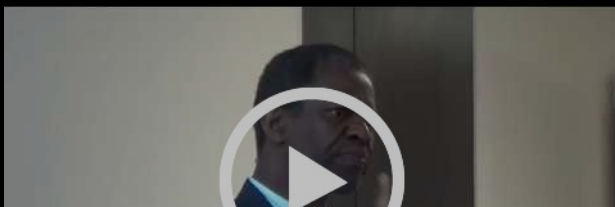
The dialogue stemmed from concern over the growing trend where protest-related actions impact negatively on the right to access healthcare services. Consequently and in line with its constitutional mandate, the Commission seeks to convene a national dialogue to facilitate the exploration of ways to ensure the continued right of the public to have access to healthcare services even during protest action, whilst also giving effect to and promoting the rights of healthcare workers.

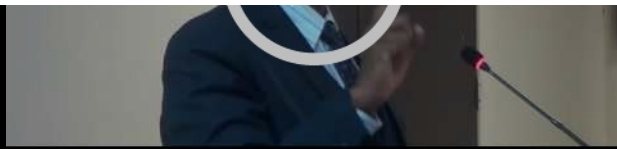
The SAHRC in partnership with the Nelson Mandela Foundation and committed to the following:

- We affirm the right to protest at health care facilities;
- We affirm the right of access to health care;
- We commit to exploring how protest action at healthcare facilities can protect and develop healthcare rights;
- We further commit to a continuing process which will include engagement at the highest and the lowest levels of the public health sector; and
- We support the formalisation of a Minimum Service Level Agreement for the sector.



“SA has seen a trend of preventing healthcare professionals from rendering services during strikes,” Adv Bongani Majola, SAHRC Chairperson.





"Government should not push healthcare workers to a point where they resort to a strike, KZN Health MEC," Sibongiseni Dhlomo.



"Lack of healthcare resources has impacted on services nurses are ought to render Mr Cassim Lekhoathi," DENOSA

SAHRC IN THE MEDIA

Human rights commission backs #TotalShutdown march



From left: Nomathamsanqa Manamela, Gift Kgomosotho, Ncumisa Willie and Sinthemba Memela at the march.

Johannesburg - The SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) said on Friday it stands with scores of women and gender non-conforming people expected to embark on a nationwide march next week against gender-based violence in South Africa. "Gender-based violence violates the fundamental rights enshrined in our Constitution, especially the right to equality, dignity and freedom. The commission urges all South Africans to recognise the constitutionally-entrenched right to protest peacefully, acknowledging how this right is inextricably linked to other rights in our Constitution," the organisation said.



"The commission calls on the government to implement its obligation under section 7(2) of the Constitution to particularly vindicate women's rights to life, dignity, equality, bodily integrity, freedom of movement and freedom from violence. (source: African News Agency) [Read more](#)

Kwazulu-Natal #TotalShutdown march





From left: Thandeka Magwenyane, Pavershree Padayachee, Kathleen Boyce, Andrea Pillay, Smangele Ndadane and Lindiwe Dlamini at the KZN total shutdown march.

Childhood violence leads to reduced salaries, inequality – researcher

South Africa is regarded as the most unequal country in the world, according to a report released by the South African Human Rights Commission at the start of July.

The Gini coefficient for wealth inequality, which measures the distribution of wealth in South Africa, has reached 0.95 – just 0.5 short of perfect inequality.

CHILDHOOD VIOLENCE LEADS TO REDUCED SALARIES, INEQUALITY – RESEARCHER



📅 26 Jul 2018

By Isabelle Coetzee

South Africa is regarded as the most unequal country in the world, according to a [report](#) released by the South African Human Rights Commission at the start of July.

The Gini coefficient for wealth inequality, which measures the distribution of wealth in South Africa, has reached 0.95 – just 0.5 short of perfect inequality.

The report explained that black females, children under 17, and those living in rural areas – specifically in the Eastern Cape and Limpopo – are most affected by poverty.

But besides the historic inequality inherited from Apartheid, what continues to prevent South Africa from an equal share in wealth?

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But besides the historic inequality inherited from Apartheid, what continues to prevent South Africa from an equal share in wealth? **Source: (Just Money)** [Read more](#)

Makhura visits Hammanskraal after protests over water quality

The SAHRC investigation and findings followed several protests by the community about the state of water in Hammanskraal.

Gauteng Premier David Makhura will visit the Hammanskraal community in Tshwane on Wednesday.

Makhura and the provincial leadership will visit the area's purification plant after the South African Human Rights Commission found the city council to have violated rights of the Temba community.

The SAHRC investigation and findings followed several protests by the community about the state of water in the area. The council was however insisting that the supplied pipe water was safe for drinking.

The visit by the premier forms part of Gauteng government's Ntirhisano community outreach programme. (Source: Afro Worldview Report) [Read more](#)

Residents at KZN old age home depend on food donations, bathe in cold water

Johannesburg - The Democratic Alliance said on Wednesday conditions at the Elonwabeni Old Age Home in KwaZulu-Natal are so dire that it had reported the matter to the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC).

"Residents, one of whom is 100 years old, also have to bath in cold water when the home doesn't buy electricity," DA spokeswoman Sharon Hoosen said after the party visited the home on Tuesday.

Residents at KZN old age home depend on food donations, bathe in cold water

KWAZULU-NATAL / 25 JULY 2018, 1:47PM / THEMBELIHLE MKHONZA



Appalling conditions found at KZN Elonwabeni Old Age Home. Picture: Supplied

"It was found that the facility's 67 elderly residents were currently reliant on local farmers and businesses for food donations. Their last meal supplied by the home was breakfast on Friday last week. Since then they have been completely reliant on the kindness of others." (Source: African News Agency) [Read more](#)

Mpumalanga Department Of Health Latest In List Of Troubled Provincial Departments

The health department is the latest to run into serious financial trouble.

The health department in Mpumalanga is the latest provincial health department to be hit with a massive financial crisis, impacting on its ability to fill vacant posts and causing it millions of rands worth of negligence claims, according to City Press.



LARRY WASHBURN VIA GETTY IMAGES

The department joins a growing list of provincial health departments on the verge of collapse. With just 17 percent of the population on private medical aid, millions of people rely on public healthcare. But several of the country's provincial health departments are in crisis.

According to City Press, Mpumalanga's health department can't afford to pay for medicine or fill vacant posts, and its debt has ballooned to R1-billion. The provincial health MEC, Refilwe Mtshweni, was reportedly removed last week in a cabinet reshuffle and moved to the department of public works. (Source: Huffington Post)

[Read more](#)

SAHRC releases equality report VAT increase unjustifiable, says SAHRC

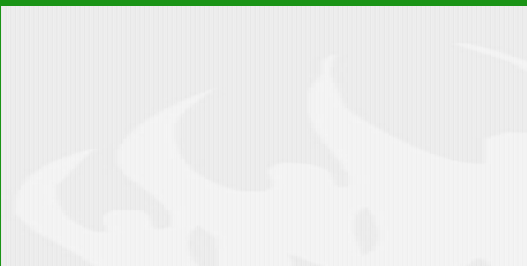


Pic: Stakeholders at the launch of Equality Report

South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) says the increase in value-added tax (VAT) is a threat to the human rights of the poor and cannot be constitutionally justified.

In February, the government announced that VAT would increase by 1% from 14% to 15% from April 1. This was the first VAT increase since 1993.

[Click here to access the report](#)



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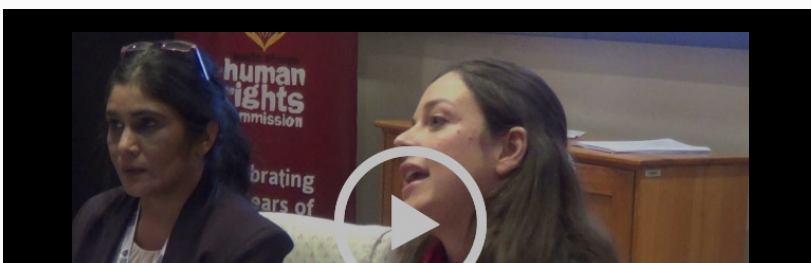
The commission says South Africa remains one of the most unequal countries in the World.

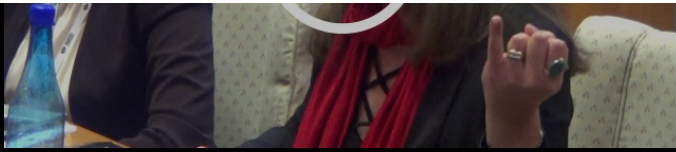
According the 2017-2018 Equality Report, released on Thursday, poverty has increased in recent years and inequality within population groups has also grown.



Dr Shanelle Van Der Berg (Senior Researcher) and COO, Chantal Kisoona launching the Equality Report.

Researcher Shanelle van der Berg says the commission understands government had a R50 billion shortfall in its budget and difficult fiscal decisions had to be made. (Source: Jacaranda FM) [Read more](#)





"The increase in VAT threatens human rights especially of the poor," Dr Shanelle Van Der Berg, SAHRC Senior Researcher for Equality.



"If we do not achieve substantive land redistribution and restitution, we will not achieve substantive economic equality in SA," Dr Shanelle Van Der Berg, SAHRC Senior Researcher for Equality.

Credit Ombud says garnishee order abuse continues despite ConCourt ruling

Personal Finance reports that the Credit Ombud, Nicky Lala-Mohan, says there is still widespread abuse of the garnishee order system to deduct debt repayments from employees.

This is despite a far-reaching Constitutional Court (ConCourt) ruling in September 2016 that confirmed a High Court ruling that aspects of the enforcement of emolument attachment orders (EAOs, commonly referred to as garnishee orders) were unconstitutional. An EAO is a court order that forces an employer to deduct an amount from an employee's wages to pay a third party, such as a creditor. EAOs can now be granted only by a judge or a magistrate and must be granted in the court with jurisdiction in the area where the debtor resides or works.

The debtor and the debtor's employer must be given notice of the creditor's intention to have the EAO issued, and the consumer has 10 days to oppose the order. Also, subsequent legislation has placed a cap on the employee's gross earnings that can be attached of 25%. Lala-Mohan, who often receives complaints relating to EAOs, recently met with the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and the National Credit Regulator (NCR) to discuss measures to address undesirable practices, which "appear to thrive despite the latest legislation". (Source: SA labour News) [Read more](#)

SAHRC staff goes extra mile for Nelson Mandela Day

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) joined the rest of the world by dedicating a day of service as part of celebrating Nelson Mandela Day. The SAHRC visited Tshimollo Home for Children with Disabilities in Kaalfontein, Midrand where-in staff interacted with the children, painted window frames and doors, planted flowers.





SAHRC staff joined hands to make Mandela Day a memorable one for Tshimollo Home for Children with Disabilities in Kaalfontein, Midrand

The Nelson Mandela International Day (or Mandela Day) is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on the 18th July, Mr. Mandela's birthday. The day was officially declared by the United Nations (UN) in November 2009 with the first Mandela Day - recognised by the UN - held on the 18th July 2010.



Pamella Pango cleaning windows

Mandela Day is not commemorated and celebrated as a public holiday, but is instead observed as a day to honour the legacy of Nelson Mandela and his values, through volunteering and community service.



Karabo Kgasago and Delia Malahlela painting the window frames.

The day pays tribute to Mr. Mandela's commitment to the service of others, best expressed by Mr. Mandela on the 18th May 2002, whilst speaking at the 90th

birthday celebration of Walter Sisulu, at Walter Sisulu Hall in Johannesburg: "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." He expressed similar sentiments in his 1994 autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom: "For to be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."



The cooking team. Mabel Kodibona, Nompumelelo Sobekwa, Phillip Molekoa, Nomathamsanqa Manamela, Nthabiseng Kwaza, Ntombentsha Lubelwana, Nokuthula Ntnantiso and Naomi Webster.



SAHRC staff holds a prayer session with children at Tshimollo Home for Children with Disabilities.



SAHRC staff painting windows as part of Mandela Day.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS



SAHRCommission @SAHRCommission · Jul 24

Limpopo Provincial Manager, Victor Mavhidula motivates learners of Tshivhidzo Masiagwala Secondary School at Vhembe District.

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Allan Tumbo @allan_tumbo · Jul 24

The delegation representing their respective South African organisations during the Global Disability Summit happening today in London #DisabilitySummit

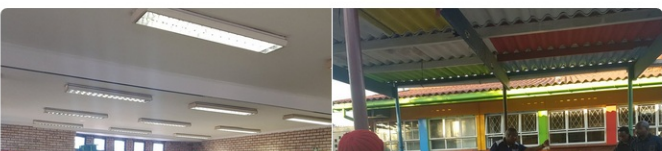


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Ayanda Nene @Ayanda_Nene28 · Jul 20

The @SAHRCommission KZN conducted information session's at Clermont Centre for the Aged and at St Thomas Children's Home on the 19 July 2018.





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Gando wentshaba!! @yoliwe2 · Jul 19

The Western Cape SAHRC provincial office in Grabouw with IPID , Right to Care, @CGE and @PansSALB for a community information session



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Eileen S @EileenZette · Jul 18

For Tata's bday I am addressing kids on what it is to have human rights. It shouldn't be abstract: don't be ugly to each other on social media (dignity), reconsider the use of a straw with ur milkshake (environment) etc. Making the Constitution a living document! @SAHRCCommission



SAHRC ON YOUTUBE: SAHRC1

BIRTHDAYS

Patrick Maluleke (HO) - 01st

Tanuja Munnoo (KZN) - 06th

Dirk Swart (HO) & Ruth Diane (HO) - 08th

Gushwell Brooks (HO) & Commissioner Jonas Ben Sibanyoni (MP) - 14th

Naomi Webster (HO) & Nkosana Kwaza (HO) - 15th

Fadlah Adams (WC) - 16th

Hamilton Garishe (HO) - 17th

Martin Nsibirwa (HO) & Thabang Mabule (NW) 22nd

Lindiwe Dlamini (KZN) - 29th

Chantal Kisoona (HO) - 31st

TALK TO US...



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Braamfontein, 2017

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