

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

## COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

### SA marks International Day of Universal Access to Information



As the world marks International Day of Universal Access to Information, South Africa remains with challenges in this regard. South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) CEO, Advocate Tseliso Thipanyane says access to information is important for democracies. He says this access to information can be an effective tool of holding government to account.



Stakeholders at the International Day of Universal Access to Information day

SAHRC together with the Information Regulator of South Africa are meeting on Friday morning in celebration of this day, to celebrate efforts in bringing access to information for all.

morning in celebration of this day, to celebrate efforts in bringing access to information for all South African citizens.

Thipanyane says the country has made major strides in recent years, but more needs to be done to promote this human right, adding that the establishment of the Information Regulator of South Africa is one such stride. [Read more](#)

Source: SABC

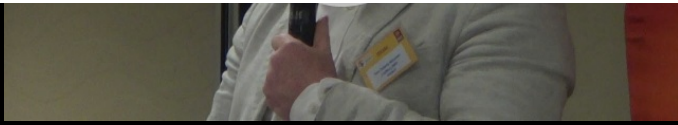


**Without knowledge society cannot develop, Adv Bongani Majola, SAHRC Chairperson.**



**What do we mean by universal access to information when the children learn under trees, Mathatha Tsedu.**





**On average a journalist is killed around the world every five days, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Deputy Minister, John Jeffery.**



**Information Regulator will have similar powers as the high court in investigating complaints, Adv Tlakula, Information Regulator Chair.**



**Right to information includes access to internet, Gabriella Razzano, Open Democracy Advice Centre.**



**SAHRC interventions on the Promotion of Access to Information Act, Adv Vulani**

## **Barloworld named Gender Mainstreaming Champion 2018.**

The 30% Club is pleased to announce this year's recipients of the premier Gender Mainstreaming Awards in association with Business Engage, PwC, Maserati, Brand South

Africa and the South African Human Rights Commission. These awards give public recognition to corporates who have championed gender mainstreaming within their organisations and communities.



Nompumelelo Sobekwa, Gift Kgomoosotho, Rembu Mulaudzi, Naomi Webster, Allan Tumbo and Deborah Tumbo at the Gender Mainstreaming awards.

## **SAHRC IN THE MEDIA**

### **SAHRC calls for an investigation into police actions during an anti-crime protest in Bonteheuwel**



Protesters during an anti-crime march in Bonteheuwel Pic: EWN

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) has called for an investigation to be launched into the actions of police during an anti-crime protest in Bonteheuwel, Cape Town. Western Cape SAHRC commissioner Chris Nissen, elaborates. [Click here for the audio.](#)

Source: Thobela FM



## SAHRC inspects Vaal river



Image: SABC News

The Department of Water Affairs & Sanitation has set aside R20 Million to restore the Vaal Rivers water treatment plants. Both pollution sewage spillages into the river has created a nightmare for communities and businesses in the Emfuleni District and the Human Rights Commission also stepped in following this outcry. SAHRC Gauteng Provincial Manager, Buang Jones elaborates on the matter. [Click here for the audio.](#)

Source: Kaya FM

## Day 2 of inquiry into Vaal River pollution, contamination underway

The SAHRC, the Emfuleni Mayor & the Department of Water and Sanitation are expected to weigh in on allegations that vast amounts of raw sewage have been pumped into the river.

JOHANNESBURG - The inquiry into the health of the Vaal River is sitting for the second day in Stonehaven.

The South African Human Rights Commission, the Emfuleni Mayor, and the Department of Water and Sanitation are expected to weigh in on allegations that vast amounts of raw sewage have been pumped into the river. Vaal residents have described the contamination as a crisis. The Emfuleni Municipality has told the inquiry it is experiencing the historical challenge of poor maintenance of infrastructure. [Read more](#)

Source: EWN

## Corporate SA urged to introduce learnerships to upskill disabled job seekers



*The employment equity and work opportunity targets for people with disabilities should increase to at least 7 percent by 2030. File Photo: IOL*

CAPE TOWN - The employment equity and work opportunity targets for people with disabilities should increase to at least 7 percent by 2030 according to the Department of Social Development's White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Yet, a report by the South African Human Rights Commission titled: Research brief on

disability and equality in South Africa suggests that figure might be unattainable. The 2017 report states that in 2005, the public sector set its employment target for people with disabilities at two per cent for that year, more than 10 years later this target has still not been met. [Read more](#)

Source: Business Report Online

### City of Cape Town misses deadline on Masiphumelele land

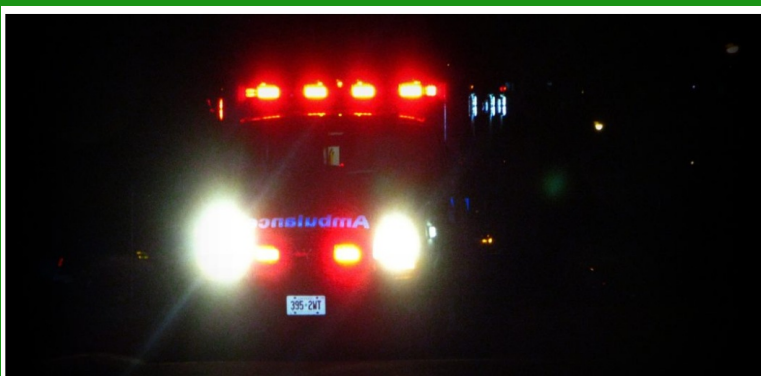


Community leader Tshepo Moletsane addresses the community at a pop-up mayoral meeting with outgoing Mayor Patricia de Lille on July 25, 2018. (Thembela Ntongana, GroundUp)

The future of the Masiphumelele Wetlands informal settlement has been a bone of contention between the City of Cape Town and the community for over 15 years. Almost a year ago, the City undertook to present a development plan for the area at the end of June 2018. Three months later, the community is still in the dark, GroundUp reports. In December 2017, community leaders together with outgoing Mayor Patricia de Lille signed a settlement agreement supervised by the office of the Public Protector. A task team, consisting of representatives from the City, local councillors, Masiphumelele community leaders, and the South African Human Rights Commission, was elected to oversee the implementation of the settlement agreement. [Read more](#)

Source: News24

### Ambulance shortage hits home



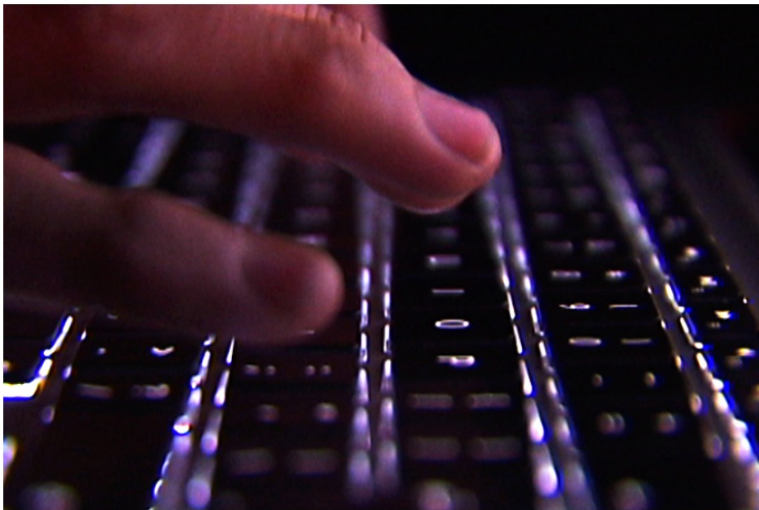
Makana

should have at least eight operational ambulances. There is no public information available about the Department of Health's local emergency medical services, but it seems little has changed since a shocking 2015 report by the Human Rights Commission. Kathryn Cleary reports.

Two weeks ago Grocott's Mail reported on the heartbreak of two Makana families as they waited in vain for ambulances. The Department of Health has declined to provide official confirmation about emergency medical services in Makana but estimates are that there are at most three serving this municipality's approximate population of 80 391 over an area of 4 376 square kilometres. [Read more](#)

Source: Grocotts

## SAHRC, UJ host dialogue on Cyberbullying



File: Students across the country have been calling on Universities to overhaul policies to tackle the scourge of sexual offences, harassment or assault.

eNCA

JOHANNESBURG - The South African Human Rights Commission and the University of Johannesburg have hosted a dialogue on Cyberbullying and rape culture at tertiary institutions.

Students across the country have been calling on Universities to overhaul policies to tackle the scourge of sexual offences, harassment or assault.

Lebogang Mawelela a Community Engagement Specialist from the University of Johannesburg spoke to eNCA. [Read more](#)

Source: ENCA

## Racial spats increase a concern for SAHRC

*The South African Human Rights Commission says it views the apparent increase in racial utterances on social media in a serious light.*





The South African Human Rights Commission says it views the apparent increase in racial utterances on social media in a serious light.

The commission has been commenting after Durban man, Kessie Nair, posted a video on social media in which he called President Cyril Ramaphosa the k-word on several occasions. He also called for Ramaphosa to be charged with fraud and treason.

Nair's name trended on Twitter this week - with many people labelling him a racist. He was arrested by the Hawks on Wednesday and made a brief appearance in court this week. The commission's Gushwell Brooks says they strongly condemn the incident. [Read more](#)

Source: East Coast Radio

## 52 babies stay in neonatal unit where six died after Klebsiella outbreak



The Human Rights Commission's Buang Jones described the conditions at the hospital as "disastrous".

*Image: 123RF/sam74100*

The South African Human Rights Commission was shocked to discover that 52 babies are still in the neonatal unit of a hospital where an outbreak of Klebsiella has killed six infants.

Health minister Aaron Motsoaledi said on Sunday that babies would be relocated to provide an "opportunity to scrub down and decontaminate the environment" in the neonatal unit at Thelle Mogoerane Hospital in Vosloorus, east of Johannesburg. The babies were supposed to be moved to the Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital and Charlotte Maxeke Academic Hospital in Johannesburg. [Read more](#)

Source: Sowetan Live

**#KessieNair: Kathrada Foundation speaks out on racist rant**





Ahmed Kathrada with President Cyril Ramaphosa. The Ahmed Kathrada Foundation has expressed its concerns at a racist social media rant that went viral on Wednesday.

Durban - As Kessie Nair appeared in the Verulam Magistrate's Court on Thursday for allegedly calling president Cyril Ramaphosa the K-word, the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation expressed its concern at Nair's video that went viral on Wednesday. Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi, the national spokesperson for the Hawks said Nair was arrested late on Wednesday following the video clip that contained derogatory and provocative utterances against the president of South Africa. He confirmed a case of crimen injuria and inciting public violence was opened. [Read more](#)

Source: The Independent on Saturday

## MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

### SAHRC ON TWITTER @SAHRCommission



**SAHRCommission** @SAHRCommission · Sep 28

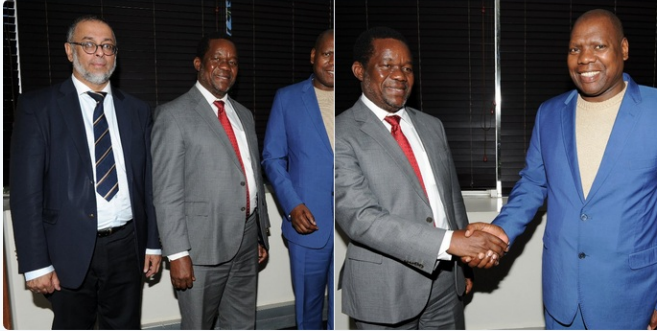
North West Office attended an Anti-Racism campaign at Hartebeespoort dam.





**SAHRCCommission** @SAHRCCommission · Sep 14

COGTA Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize and Deputy Minister Andries Nel met with the South African Human Rights Commission Chairperson Adv Bongani Majola and Commissioner Mohamed Ameerma in Pretoria today 14 September 2018



You Retweeted



**Somali South Africa** @SCOBSA · Sep 12

Attending the @SAHRCCommission inquiry on the sale of fake goods and the human rights implications where we did a presentation on behalf of the migrants in business ie Somalis, Ethiopian and Bangladesh.

VENUE: TRAINING ROOM, 2 <sup>ND</sup> FLOOR FORUM 3 BRAAMPARK	
12 September 2018 (Day One)	
10:00 – 10:15	INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND MR MATTHEW DU PLESSIS ACTING PROVINCIAL MANAGER, GAUTENG SAHRC
10:15 – 10:30	City of Ekurhuleni: Mr Jerry Chaka
10:30 – 11:00	Somali Community Board: Mr Amir Sheik
11:00 – 11:30	BREAK
11:30 – 11:45	Massmart: Mr Brian Leroni
11:45 – 12:00	Rand West City Local Municipality: Mr Kenny Mampondi
12:00 – 12:15	City of Johannesburg: Mr Peter Manganye
12:15 – 12:20	Closure: Mr Matthew Du Plessis



**SAHRCCommission** @SAHRCCommission · Sep 12

Somali Community Board Member Mr Amir Sheik says our members irrespective to their illegality have the right to be educated on their rights to trade within the country #GPExpiredGoodsInquiry



You Retweeted



**African Court** @court\_afchpr · Sep 10

South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and African Court have expressed willingness to work together on human rights and related issues. Left is SAHRC Chairperson Hon Bongani Majola during a courtesy call on the African Court President Hon Sylvain Oré (r) in Arusha today.



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**SAHRCCommission** @SAHRCCommission · Sep 6

SAHRC Chair Bongani Majola with Commissioner Jamesina King of the African Commission in Zanzibar at the regional conference on the implementation of the decisions of the African Commission at national level.







The SAHRC held its Annual Wellness day on 07 September as part of Human Resources initiative to promote health and wellness in the workplace.







## BIRTHDAYS

Karabo Kgasago (HO) - 05th

Lawrence Makgabo (HO) - 03rd

Commissioner Angie Makwetla (HO) - 15th

Eileen Carter (LMP) - 17th

Thandiwe Matthews (HO) - 20th

Shafieka Morris (WC) - 22nd

Poppy Mochadibane (NW) - 30th

## TALK TO US...



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**Forum 3 Braampark Offices,**  
**33 Hoofd Street,**  
**Braamfontein, 2017**

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