



Volume 36

# Phanelo

Transforming Society. Securing Rights. Restoring Dignity  
The South African Human Rights Commission Newsletter



01 - 31 August 2015

## SAHRC joins the world to celebrate Mandela day



**SAHRC concerned at  
the re-appointment  
of Free State teacher  
implicated in racism**

**Micro-lending judgment  
gives hope  
to the poor**



**Northern Cape schools  
ignore SAHRC letters on  
corporal punishment**

## The 1956 Women's March, Pretoria, 9 August

'Strijdom, you have tampered with the women, You have struck a rock.' So runs the song composed to mark this historic occasion

9th August Union Buildings © Baileys Archives



By the middle of 1956 plans had been laid for the Pretoria march and the FSAW had written to request that JG Strijdom, the current prime minister, meet with their leaders so they could present their point of view. The request was refused.

The ANC then sent Helen Joseph and Bertha Mashaba on a tour of the main urban areas, accompanied by Robert Resha of the ANC and Norman Levy of the Congress of Democrats (COD). The plan was to consult with local leaders who would then make arrangements to send delegates to the mass gathering in August.

The Women's March was a spectacular success. Women from all parts of the country arrived in Pretoria, some from as far afield as Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. They then flocked to the Union Buildings in a determined yet orderly manner. Estimates of the number of women delegates ranged from 10 000 to 20 000, with FSAW claiming that it was the biggest demonstration yet held. **Source: SAhistory.org**

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• **Nokwanda Molefe, PAIA Compliance Officer**

## SAHRC launches disability toolkit

The South African Human Rights Commission recently launched a Disability Toolkit at its Headquarters in Braamfontein. The toolkit was launched under the theme: Promoting the rights to work of persons with disabilities, a toolkit for the Private Sector.

The toolkit forms part of a broader equality agenda to have the rights of persons with disabilities recognised in the labour market. It is a resource that can be used by all businesses, in the different sectors. The guidelines provided in the toolkit are intentionally general so they can be easily adapted by employers to their specific business culture, working environment and Human Resource Procedures and will be particularly relevant to designated employers in terms of the Employment Equity Act and Human Resources Personnel, Disabled People's Organizations (DPOs) and all organizations pursuing greater employment opportunities for persons with disabilities.

Commissioner Bokankatla Malatji as the driver of this campaign, indicated during the launch that "the toolkit is intended to raise awareness for the rights of persons with disabilities to work in the Private Sector and to further support and encourage employers in the Private Sector to recruit, retain and upskill persons with disabilities".

"It will also help employers in the private sector to understand their obligations through outlining the employer's legal responsibilities under national and international legislations, along with national development in policy relevant to advancing the right to employment



Participants at the launch of disability toolkit

for persons with disabilities" said Malatji.

He further indicated that at the same time the toolkit will provide practical guidance to employers based on international best practices on how and where to begin implementing these rights in the workplace, promote equal opportunities and fair treatment of persons with disabilities in practice".

"Persons with disabilities in South Africa experience high levels of unemployment, and often remain in low status jobs and earn lower than average remuneration. Multiple barriers hinder the capacity of persons with disabilities in obtain employment and enjoy full and effective participation in the labour market on an equal basis with others. These factors which have been widely documented include barriers to education, lack of reasonable accommodation, lack of

accessibility to infrastructures and to information, limitations relating to legal capacity, as well as attitudinal barriers in society. In addition, many persons with disabilities are declared inactive as disability is often equated with as inability to work," Malatji added.

In his concluding remarks Commissioner Malatji said that as high as eight in ten persons with disabilities are unemployed, making discrimination in terms of denial of employment opportunities one of the most daunting challenges faced by persons living with disabilities in South Africa. Whilst it is true that in present-day South Africa, unemployment remains a fundamental problem across the board, unemployment disproportionately affects the majority of persons with disabilities. Disability should not diminish the rights of individuals to belong and contribute to the open labour market."



## High Court judgment gives hope to the poor, marginalised and vulnerable members of our society

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) welcomes the judgment handed down on 8 July 2015 by the Western Cape High Court in a matter relating to the lack of judicial oversight in the granting of emolument attachment orders (“EAOs”). The SAHRC intervened in the matter as *amicus curiae*, to champion the human rights of people who are poor and vulnerable. In handing down his judgment, Judge Desai placed on record the court’s ‘indebtedness to the *amicus curiae* and their counsel.’ This case raised important questions about the protection of human rights of people who are poor, marginalised and vulnerable. The case was instituted by against the Minister of Justice, the Minister of Trade and Industry, the National Credit Regulator, 13 micro-lenders and a firm of attorneys. The applicants were a group of low income earners living in Stellenbosch, who support themselves and their families on salaries of between R1200.00 and R8000.00 per month. They were represented by the University of Stellenbosch Law Clinic.

Prior to this judgement, EAOs were issued in the magistrate courts to compel employers to deduct moneys (instalments in terms of judgment debt) owing to creditors, from the wages of employees. This continued until the full amount of the debt was paid off. Such orders, were issued by a clerk of court. The clerk was not obliged to evaluate the implications of the order on the livelihood of the debtor. This meant that there was no judicial oversight in the entire process. The orders could also be issued in courts where the debtor did not live or work.

Yesterday’s judgment declares the granting of such EAOs unlawful and therefore unconstitutional. The SAHRC welcomes the fact that



**Justice: Celebrations outside the Western cape High Court following the landmark judgment on Microlending.**

the Department of Justice, as one of the respondent’s in the case, has undertaken to abide by the Court’s decision. The judgment must result in timely legislative reform to correct this situation.

In its submission to court, the SAHRC advanced various arguments on business accountability for human rights to the court. The SAHRC drew the court’s attention to domestic and foreign law which relate to judicial oversight in terms of attaching property and salary for debts. In advancing its argument, the SAHRC highlighted practise in the USA, Australia, Germany and Rwanda, where EAOs are capped and recommended the same should be done in SA. The SAHRC recommended that red flags should be raised where an EAO exceeded 30% of the debtor’s salary.

The court noted its concern that money lenders ‘forum shop for courts which entertain the applications for judgment and the issuing of EAOs,’ in addition it expressed concern that that the respondents indicated they

have 150 000 active cases. On this basis it assumed that thousands, if not tens of thousands... [of cases] involving ordinary working people in debt, are having significant portions of their salaries or wages deducted based on unlawfully obtained EAOs.’

The court called on the respondents not to ‘pursue EAOs obtained against debtors in the wrong jurisdiction’ and that the South African Human Rights Commission, along with the Law Society, to ‘endeavour to ensure that appropriate measures are in place to monitor the situation.’

In support of the SAHRC’s representations in this case, the judgement notes that ‘the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights place a duty upon the state to take measures to prevent the abuse of human rights in their territory by business enterprises. States are obliged to reduce legal and practical barriers that may deny individuals remedy.’

The SAHRC views this judgment as

# SAHRC concerned at the re-appointment of Free State teacher implicated in racism

The South African Human Rights Commission expresses its concern arising from media reports that the former Wilgehof Primary School teacher who was found guilty of racism has again been employed by the Department of Education, two-years after he was found guilty of serious misconduct by the Department.

Following on a complaint about Mr Mac Kay, the SAHRC found in 2013 that the conduct of the Free State teacher, amounted to racism and hate speech as defined in the Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act (PEPUDA).

It was alleged that Mr Mac Kay had displayed a full sized South African apartheid era flag in front of his classroom since May 2012, and that he had a poster in the class depicting black people as having monkey-like noses and primate brains who could only make confusing noises. He also referred to black children using the racially offensive 'K'-epithet in class.

Mr Mac Kay was also accused of walking around the class room with a mirror which he would place in front of a black child's face and would ask the child "what do you see?" When the black child reportedly said, "I do not know, sir," the teacher would respond by saying "a baboon... you see a baboon!"

The SAHRC found, that Mr Mac Kay's comments amounted to hate speech and constituted a clear violation of both the right to equality and the right to human dignity of the learners. In addition the Com-

mission found that his conduct, which included the administration of corporal punishment, the display of racist material created a learning environment that was harmful, and constituted a violation of both the right to education and the rights of the child.

The Commission notes that, despite its findings and recommendations to the Department and to the South African Council of Educators, Mr Mac Kay has been permitted to continue teaching children pending the determination of his appeal.

## In its recommendations the Commission had called on:


- The Free State Department of Basic Education to address the need for a disciplinary process to be followed in terms of Employment of Educators Act 76 of 1998. Further, that the Department approach the court to declare Mr Mac Kay in terms of Part B of the National Child Protection Register (NCPR) as a person unsuitable to work with children, in terms of the Children's

Act, 38 of 2005 (as amended) or alternatively undergo intensive race sensitization; tolerance and anger management rehabilitation.

- In addition the Department was requested to probe the conduct of the School Principal and review his competence to lead the school and other allegations of impropriety and misappropriation of school funds


- Finally the Department was requested to provide reports to the Commission about the measures it would put in place to combat racism in all public schools in the province.

It is unfortunate that not all of the recommendations by the Commission have been addressed by the Department. In particular, the Commission awaits progress reports from the Department about measures it has implemented to combat racism across all public schools in the Free State.

The Commission plans to meet with the School Governing Body of the school and the Department to secure a full response to its recommendations. 

## Micro lending judgment: victory for the poor

a victory for people who are poor, vulnerable and marginalised and do not always have the means to challenge decisions which affect their lives. The judgment is an affirmation of the vision of our constitutional democracy, which is to improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each

person. The SAHRC will continue to engage on the topic of business and human rights, particularly within the micro lending sector to address the egregious impact of unethical business practices which deny people who are poor access to constitutional rights and remedies. 

# Backyarders: Cosatu takes city to court

July 8 2015

Cape Town - Cosatu has asked the South African Human Rights Commission to investigate the City of Cape Town's provision of basic services for backyard dwellers.

In a letter addressed to the Western Cape provincial manager, Karam Singh, Cosatu's provincial secretary Tony Ehrenreich said: "The failure to provide basic services to backyard dwellers is in breach of the City of Cape Town's promises and a disregard of the Cape Flats communities."

He said instead of spending the city's budget on essential services for informal settlements, the city was incurring "wasteful and frivolous expenditure" in less urgent areas. This included the allocation of R50 million for advertising, R30m on soccer matches and R40m for the World Design Capital "gimmick", said Ehrenreich, who is also an ANC councillor in the City of Cape Town.

The commission's spokesman, Isaac Mangena, confirmed that it had heard about Cosatu's letter, but it still had to follow up with the trade union to confirm that it was legitimate and not related to a previous complaint. He added that if the complaint dealt with service delivery, the commission would look into it.

But mayor Patricia de Lille slammed the trade union's complaint to the commission as a "waste of time and money". She referred to Cosatu's previous case against the city, lodged with the Equality Court, about the skewed rollout of the



**Cosatu in the Western Cape has written to the Commission to investigate the City Of Cape Town's provision of basic services**

MyCiTi service which the union claimed favoured the more affluent areas.

The case was withdrawn shortly before it was to be heard.

"This ill-informed, misguided, lazy councillor who, after four years, still doesn't understand how government works needs to stop wasting time and money. Unfortunately, we had to spend approximately R371 000 of ratepayers' money on what was nothing more than Cosatu wasting the court's time."

In its complaint, Cosatu said the city

had only set aside R20m for services in backyard communities over the next three years.

"The city knows that more funds are required to fairly and equitably roll out the services to desperate communities, yet it continues to spend the public funds on less urgent areas," said Ehrenreich.

But De Lille said Cape Town was the only metro in the country that provided basic services to backyard residents on council-owned properties.

Source: Cape Argus

Pf

**If the complaint dealt with service delivery, the commission would look into it.**



# Northern Cape schools ignore SAHRC letters on corporal punishment

2015-07-09 14:01

Bloemfontein - The SA Human Rights Commission in the Northern Cape hasn't received a response to letters written to two schools in the province informing them that allegations of corporal punishment had been made against them.

Chantelle Williams, Northern Cape provincial manager of the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), told News24 recently they had received two complaints from parents in different regions of the province about corporal punishment in schools.

One complaint came from the ZFM

district (in the Upington area) and the other from the Pixley Ka Seme district (in the De Aar area). The schools were given 21 days to respond to the letters, but failed to do so.

"We will now send out follow-up letters. They will have seven days to respond to these. If they fail, we will look at other options, possibly an investigation into the complaints, followed by a report with findings and recommendations," Williams said.

She did not want to give further information on the cases so as to

protect the identities of the children involved.

"Corporal punishment is illegal in schools. It violates people's right not to be subjected to humiliating punishment. It is a human rights violation. Apart from that, there are children involved and corporal punishment does not have the interests of these children at heart.

"I find it worrying that there seems to be no consequences for the teachers who dish out this form of punishment. I get the impression that parents are expected to simply accept it," she said. Source: News24

## What is the Expropriation Bill B4-2015?

**Government has started with the public hearings and submissions for Expropriation Bill. The hearings are scheduled for 28 – 30 July 2015.**

- The reason for the Expropriation Bill (EB) is to provide a way for the government to purchase property needed for the public purpose or in the public interest and provide guidelines on how to properly do so.
- "Property" is not limited only to land, and "public purpose or interest" includes land reform and restitution programmes and projects like mining and infrastructure development such as building

dams, roads, and developing townships.

- The Expropriating Authority (EA) can be a national minister, a provincial minister or a municipality.
- It is very necessary to have an expropriation act that complies

with the Bill of Rights and the Constitution because land reform and housing for poor people must not be delayed by slow and ineffective expropriation procedures; BUT expropriation must not harm communities whose land rights on communal land are not properly recognized and recorded.



## Expropriation Bill: Issues

- The main problems with the EB include:

1. Communal land does not get the special treatment that it deserves, as communal land is a special category that requires recognition of fundamental individual and family rights under customary law.

2. Land reform processes, which already require investigation of rights and notice of expropriation are not taken into account, and the duplication of processes will result in further delays. Wealthy land owners whose properties are to be redistributed under land reform acts should not be allowed to restart the expropriation process from the beginning under the EB.

3. Compensation for the expropriated land is not based solely on the property value of the land. This means that the EA can pay less for the value of the land by using other criteria like the “current use of the property” or “the history of acquisition and use of the property”. This may endanger communal land because the EA may not understand the nature of the current use of the communal land. However, it may support speedy land reform because it may mean that current owners who received state subsidies can be expropriated at less than market value.

4. Under the EB, the Minister’s powers to expropriate land for mining purposes are not limited and this is troublesome because communities on communal land are not protected under the current EB.

5. Under the current EB, there is no provision for alternative land or accommodation to be provided to the owner by the EA. This



Image courtesy of [kpmgafrica.com](http://kpmgafrica.com)


will mean that some people that sell their lands may not find equally good land to buy in the area that they like.

6. Currently, the Minister or Expropriating Authority (EA) conducts an investigation on the suitability of the property and the value of the property and consults with the Municipality Manager as part of the investigation. At least, there should be an independent investigator that does a thorough land rights inquiry and an independent valuer that determines the value of the property, including the full social value of community land and the availability and suitability of alternative land so that community members can sustain their livelihoods.

7. The Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act (MPRDA) empowers the Minister to expropriate land for mining and the current EB does not require the mining companies or the state to meaningfully negotiate with the communities about communal land. Communities do not have the right to refuse to allow mining on

their land and are routinely displaced from their residential and agricultural land by mining activities, leading to harsh consequences such as the destruction of customary ways of life, disruption of socio-economic linkages within the communities, and an unjust impact on women, the main users of agricultural land that the community is deprived of.

8. If the EA and the owner disagree on compensation, the issue can be taken to the High Court. However, the owner likely has to pay their own legal costs.

9. The EA also gets to pick the date of expropriation and the day that they will take possession of the property. This does not give the disadvantaged enough security in the process. 

**A Guide to the Expropriation Bill prepared by the Legal Resources Centre**



## SAHRC team dedicates 67 minutes for Mandela Day at Tembisa Hospital

As the country contributes its 67 minutes to the late Icon Nelson Mandela, The South African Human Rights Commission took its time and visited children's ward at the Tembisa Hospital in Tembisa. This event took place on Friday, 17th July with support from colleagues from various programmes within the organisation.

Nelson Mandela International Day was launched in recognition of Nelson Mandela's birthday on 18 July, 2009 via unanimous decision of the UN General Assembly.

It was inspired by a call Nelson

Mandela made a year earlier, for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social injustices when he said that "it is in your hands now".

It is more than a celebration of Madiba's life and legacy. It is a global movement to honour his life's work and act to change the world for the better.

Mandela day is celebrated every year where each individual has the ability and the responsibility to change the world for the better

by doing charity work for the less privileged. The SAHRC team made a difference at the Tembisa hospital by decorating the walls at the Paediatric ward and cleaning and also handing over toys to the children admitted and being attended to at the hospital.

The Matron and the sisters were very pleased for the gesture and the atmosphere that was created at the Ward by the team.

Well done Team SAHRC!





## The visit in pictures





## Limpopo Forum for Institutions Supporting Constitutional Democracy (LFISD)

### Nelson Mandela Day Celebration Summary

On 20 July 2015, the LFISD once again joined the South Africans at large and observed the call to take 67 minutes of their busy schedule to serve those in need. Under the chairmanship and coordination of the SAHRC, the LFISD visited Phaudi Primary School in Moletji - ga Phagodi in the true spirit and conservation of the Legacy of Madiba.

The acts of kindness and social cohesion included amongst others donation of cleaning kit's (pine-gel; floor- polish; sweepers and mops; detergents; buckets; mutton-cloths, toilet rolls, washing powder) and indigenous games apparatus. Moreover, parents joined in to help clean the school as the LFISD members (15) with the help of the nine educators grouped (10's and 15's) the learners from grade R to 7 and taught them various indigenous games like Kgati; Molenze; skop-die-bal; tug-of-war to mention a few, soccer and netball were included.

Facilitator and event coordinator Mankese Thema – SAHRC introduced the LFISD team and took both learners; educators and parents through the understanding of the Bill of Rights. This assisted in community members identifying human rights violations and addressing them with SAHRC help-desk which ran throughout the session.

The Provincial Manager of the Commission for Gender Equality talked to the learners about their value as important members of the society. Commissioner Nicholas Matloga of Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration educated

*“ Transforming Society, Securing Rights, Restoring Dignity”*



Limpopo Provincial Office joined other FISD members to dedicate 67 minutes to doing good.





## The event was so well planned that even a nearby high school educators and Principal joined in the event

the learners and community members on the mandate of the CCMA. Members were invited to visit the helpdesk for legal advice and complaints registrations.

The importance of being addressed in the Language that you know and understand in South Africa was elaborated. The grade R class was engaged in drawing sessions for Tata Madiba where they were expressing their feelings about the day, after one of them when asked how many official languages we have in South Africa, in Sepedi “Nageng ya Afrika Borwa re na le maleme a semmušo a makae, – an-

swered le tee”. This was an honest and original answer as language in Sepedi is Leleme meaning tongue the learner was correct as a human being has one tongue.

The helpdesk was conducted by both the legal team and Flora Dipe-la (data capturer) assisted those that could not read and write after having taught parents and learners a game called Bati. Mme Nkhesani Hlekani (Education officer – CGE) and Mahlatse Ngobeni (Admin Officer) engaged the learners in the Basic netball skills.

I was humbled to see the roll-out of

the event and the unity which was flowing through every member in the school yard; without questioning about who was to feed whom. The nearby high school educators and Principal joined in the event.

### Profile of Phaudi Primary School

Phaudi Primary School is one of the schools that existed in the 1950's, some of the classroom Blocks are built from soil bricks. There are nine teachers, administration clerk and the principal with 262 learners. The school has good working relations with the ward councillor Ms Manamela who was also present at the event.

## MANDELA DAY CELEBRATIONS AT ONS PLEK - WESTERN CAPE

The Western Cape office visited Ons Plek on 20th July. Ons Plek is the only residential Child and Youth Care Centre in Cape Town that specialises in developmental and

therapeutic intake services for girls who have lived, worked or begged on the streets of Cape Town. The girls' basic needs of food, clothing, shelter, education and love are pro-

vided with care that aims to be the healing for the girl and her family. The girls range in age from 13 to 18 and there are 35 in total between 2 houses situated in the City centre and Woodstock respectively. The Centre is run utilising funding from the Department of Social Development and relies heavily on fundraising efforts and donations in order to make ends meet. At the end of this year the City centre house will close its operations and move to Mowbray as the rental has become too high.



The Western Cape staff with goods that they donated to Ons Plek residential Child and Youth Care Centre in Cape Town.

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## Noth West Office

The North West Provincial Office visited Tshupe Hospice in Rustenburg where they cleaned windows and offered donations.



## Free State

The Free State Provincial office spent its 67 minutes providing daycare at Boitekong Protective Workshop, which is a centre for people with disabilities. "We spent time cleaning the centre, playing, singing with the centre's children and later provided a light snack which we had prepared for them," Tsoane Khoarai.





# In the Seat

with Nokwanda Molefe  
PAIA Compliance Officer

*I'm an enthusiastic fun loving person and enjoy spending time with family and friends*

*Tell us about Nokwanda in a nutshell?*

I was born on the 11th September in 1985. I am the youngest of two daughters. I matriculated in 2003 at Eshowe High School and obtained my LLB from the University of Witwatersrand. I have always been passionate about human rights and that is one of the reasons why I joined the commission.

I'm an enthusiastic fun loving person and enjoy spending time with family and friends. I can be shy and reserved if I'm in an unfamiliar place. I've been accused of being picky but I guess it's because I know what I want and so my tolerance for things that don't fall into my box is very little.

I'm a stronger believer in justice and equal treatment. During my high school and varsity days I was very active in student politics. My involvement in politics built my character, in that I become more confident in myself, developed a tough skin and believed in fighting for what was right.

I have a sweet tooth and have a weakness for chocolate, cake and biscuits.



I'd like to think I have a sense of humour but my friends often say I have dry jokes...lol.

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

I was born in Stanger, a small town in Kwa-Zulu Natal. I grew up in a small town called Eshowe. Eshowe is the oldest European town in Zululand. Eshowe's name is said to be inspired by the sound of wind blowing through more than 4 km<sup>2</sup> of the indigenous Dhlinda Forest, the most important and striking feature of the town. Although the name

is most likely to be derived from the Zulu word for the shrubs, showe or shongwen. Eshowe is well known for its history on Shaka Zulu and the Zulu clan. One of tourist attractions is the Nonqayi Museum the British Fort, which displays the Zulus and the war against the British. Shakaland is one of the tourist attractions.

*Describe your position at the Commission and explain what it means to you?*

I am a PAIA compliance officer. I am responsible for ensuring that public and private bodies comply with PAIA. I further provide assistance to members of the public to exercise their right to access information.

*What does it mean to you?*

I am able to hold Government accountable and entrench a culture of transparency and ensuring that people's right to information is realised.

*Day outside office?*

High tea with my friends, go to the spa at least once a month and most importantly, I spend





time with my son and family

*What motivates and inspires you?*

Knowing that my life is in God's hands.

*Favourite activities?*

Shopping and watching plays at the theatre. My favourite play is African Footprint.

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

I write poetry and my favourite

You reap what you sow...

poet is  
Chinua Achebe, *Things falls apart.*

*Your favourite quotation is?*

You reap what you sow...

*Tell us about anything that you are passionate about*

Empower women and children  
My favourite Book, music, chill out place etc

In search of our mothers gardens- Alice Walker

*Your dream and ambition*

To take over the world...



Nokwanda and the PAIA team

## Did you know the following about Nokwanda?

\* Favourite dishes are Sushi and Lamb Shank, on the lighter note, fat cakes and bunny chow keeps her going.

\* During tertiary days she was the SAHRC Education Officer at Wits University, and fondly known as Comrade Sweetness.

\* Favourite car is Mini Cooper Countryman.

\* Is Sotho from KwaZulu Natal, hence she speaks more IsiZulu than SeSotho.

\* Is leaving the Commission at the end of the month.

## SNIPPETS

### South Africa: SASSA Beneficiaries Still Struggling With Illegal Deductions

22 July 2015

By Barbara Maregele

Diena Twala, a 71-year-old grandmother from Mbekweni says illegal deductions for airtime and electricity from her South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) account are still ongoing despite countless attempts to have it stopped.

"Last month, I only got a R700 so I can only buy food. I live with my younger sister who works. She helps me, but it's very hard. We are really struggling. I really don't know what I'm going to do next month," she said tearfully.

Twala joined about 50 other beneficiaries from areas near Stellenbosch, Paarl and Franschhoek at a "speak out" hosted by Black Sash at the Franschhoek Valley Community Sport Centre on Monday.

Also attending the event was Department of Social Development (DSD) acting director general Thokozani Magwaza as well as representatives from Emerald Wealth Management, the South African Human Rights Commission and consultant Johan Rousseau of COF-FIMSA.

The event formed part of the Black Sash's "Hands off our grant's" campaign, started in November 2013.

Since then, they have logged hundreds of complaints by beneficiaries across the country about illegal deductions for airtime, electricity and water from their Sassa accounts.

Black Sash has attributed the introduction of Cash Paymaster Services (CPS) in 2012 to the overwhelming number of complaints about the illegal transactions received by their partner, the Association for Community Advice Offices in South Africa.

During the meeting, Twala said she first noticed the deductions in November 2013.

"I went to complain at the SASSA office. I told them I haven't made any loans and I don't buy electricity using this card. They shouted at me and told me they couldn't help me because it had nothing to do with them. It continued with different amounts (being deducted) in 2014, but in December (last year) I got nothing, they took everything. I then went to the Paarl Advice Office where I was told about Black Sash," she said. Source: Allafrica.

### ANC Western Cape Education lays SAHRC complaint over scholar transport failures

22 July 2015

On Tuesday the ANC Western Cape Education spokesman Cameron Dugmore laid a complaint with the South African Human Rights Com-

mission (SAHRC) against provincial education MEC Debbie Schäfer.

Dugmore says the department has failed to provide pupils at a rural school outside the southern Cape town of Riversdale with transport to school.

Vermaaklikheid is about 36 kilometres from Riversdale. Its gravel road all the way to two High Schools. At the moment a number of learners, who are attending to separate schools, are unable to board the transport bus; which use the same route. Source: capetalk

### Activists to inquiry into S/Africa's 'cave' of shame

July 14, 2015

The South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) is to investigate the confinement of six Pretoria prisoners who have been held in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day for nearly a month, SAHRC activists said Tuesday. The commissioner of correctional services in Pretoria, Zebilion Monama, ordered the isolation of the inmates starting from 25 June, according to their lawyer Connie Ntsoko.

Ntsoko told the SAHRC activists that the six were placed in isolation cells in a basement in Kgosi Mampuru II Prison — dubbed "the Cave" — after being labelled troublemakers. Source: StarAfrica



Pfanelo Baby

# Nkanyiso Mdunusana

Date of birth: 8 July 2015

Gender: Boy

Weight: 3.2 kg

Father: Sandile Mdunusana

Mother: Refiloe Phatedi



## Happy Birthday

The following colleagues are celebrating their birthdays in August. Please join us in wishing them well.

Tsoane Khoarai (FS) & Patrick Maluleke (HO) – 1st Tanuja Munnoo (KZN) – 06th

Ruth Diane (HO), Dirk Swart (HO) & Makutla Mojapelo (HO) – 08th

Rachel Ward (WC) – 09th Nkosana Kwaza (HO) & Naomi Webster (HO) – 15th

Fadlrah Adams (WC) & Hamilton Garishe (HO) – 17th

Khulisumuzi Sithebe (HO) & Martin Nsibirwa (HO) – 22nd

Vivian John-Langba (WC) – 26th Lindiwe Dlamini (KZN) 29th Chantal Kissoon (GP) – 31st



## Did you know?

*Lindiwe Dlamini celebrated her birthday on 20 July 2015.*