



P R O G R A M M E



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

18 – 20 MARCH 2024
BIRCHWOOD CONFERENCE CENTRE, BOKSBURG, GAUTENG



[HumanRightsConferencesSA](#)



the doj & cd

Department:
Justice and Constitutional Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





DAY 1: 18 MARCH 2024

08:00 – 09:00	REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK	
<p align="center">PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: Adv D Mashabane Director-General of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development</p>		
09:00 – 09:20	Singing of the National Anthem	All
	A Moment of Silence for the Fallen Heroes of our Democracy	All
09:20 – 09:30	PLENARY- CEREMONIAL PROCEEDINGS	
	<p align="center">WELCOME Hon. A P Lesufi, Premier of the Gauteng Province</p>	
09:30 – 11:15	SCREENING OF VIDEO (5 MIN)	
	OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTION OF THE PRESIDENT	
	<p align="center">Hon. R O Lamola, MP Minister of Justice and Correctional Services</p>	
	KEY NOTE ADDRESS	
	<p align="center">His Excellency, Mr M C Ramaphosa The President of the Republic of South Africa</p>	
	MESSAGES OF SUPPORT (10 MINUTES EACH SPEAKER)	
	<p align="center">Hon. N N Mapisa-Nqakula Speaker of the National Assembly, Parliament of South Africa</p>	
	<p align="center">Justice R M M Zondo Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, Judiciary of South Africa</p>	
	<p align="center">Mr Volker Türk United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights</p>	
	<p align="center">Hon. Commissioner Rémy Ngoy Lumbu Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights</p>	
11:15 – 11:30	REFRESHMENT BREAK	

PLENARY DISCUSSION	
11:30 – 13:30	<p>TOPIC 1: ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS BUILDING A CULTURE AND RESPECT FOR AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA: 30 YEARS POST-APARTHEID</p> <p>FACILITATOR: Prof Somadoda Fikeni Chairperson: Public Service Commission</p> <p>PANELISTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dr Geraldine Frazer-Moleketi Chairperson of the UN Committee of Experts of Public Administration; Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University; Chairperson of Tiger Brands <i>* Promotion of human rights of women and addressing discrimination and inequality</i> ✓ Dr Mathews Phosa Prominent Political and Business Leader <i>* Good governance and accountability as tools to protect human rights</i> ✓ Dr Zonke Majodina Former Deputy Chair of the Human Rights Commission and Former expert member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC) <i>* Elimination of racial discrimination and other intolerances</i>
13:30- 14:30	LUNCH BREAK

PLENARY DISCUSSION	
TIME 14:30- 16:00	<p>TOPIC 2: THE RIGHT TO LAND OWNERSHIP IN THE CONTEXT OF SECTION 25 OF THE CONSTITUTION: ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS IN LAND RESTITUTION AND SECURITY OF TENURE</p> <p>FACILITATOR: Prof Lesiba J Teffo School of Humanities, UNISA</p> <p>PANELISTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ms Thoko Didiza Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development ✓ Dr Gaynor Paradza Senior Researcher and Programme Lead, Public Affairs Research Institute ✓ Ms Carmen Louw Director: Women on Farms ✓ Mr Matome Chidi Black Lawyers Association
TIME 16h00 – 18:30	<p>TOPIC 3: THE ROLE OF THE JUDICIARY IN THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS: RIGHT TO ADMINISTRATIVE JUSTICE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW AS TOOLS OF ACCOUNTABILITY</p> <p>FACILITATOR: Commissioner Alison Tilley Member: Information Regulator</p> <p>PANELISTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Judge Margaret Victor Retired Judge of the Gauteng Division of the High Court ✓ Adv Romeo Nthambeleni SC Member of the South Africa Society of Advocates ✓ Ms Seehaam Samaai Director, Women's Legal Project ✓ Dr Meghan Finn Senior Lecturer, Department of Public Law, University of Johannesburg

A Timeline of The Constitution



8 May 1996
The Final Draft of the South African Constitution was adopted by the Constitutional Assembly



4 December 1996
South African Constitution was certified by the Constitutional Court



10 December 1996
South African Constitution was signed into law by President Nelson Mandela



04 February 1997
South African Constitution came into effect

DAY 2: 19 MARCH 2024

08:30 – 09:00	REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: Adv D Mashabane	
PLENARY DISCUSSION	
TIME	TOPIC 4: SCENE SETTING: STATISTICAL OVERVIEW ON SOCIO ECONOMIC RIGHTS
09:00 – 09:30	Mr Risenga Maluleke Statistician-General of South Africa
09:30 – 10:30	TOPIC 5: TRANSFORMING AND BUILDING A RESILIENT ECONOMY TO ADDRESS UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY AND UNDERDEVELOPMENT AS A HUMAN RIGHT AND CONSTITUTIONAL IMPERATIVE
	FACILITATOR: Prof Hlengani Mathebula
TIME	PANELISTS
09:30 – 11:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mr David Masondo Deputy Minister of Finance ✓ Mr Mervyn Abrahams Programme Coordinator Pietermaritzburg Economic Justice & Dignity Group ✓ Ms Zingiswa Losi President: Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) ✓ Mr Zwelinzima Vavi Secretary-General: South African Federation of Trade Unions (SAFTU) ✓ Mr Kganki Matabane CEO: Black Business Council

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS (3 x PARALLEL SESSIONS)	
TIME	TOPIC 6: ACCESS TO HOUSING, WATER AND SANITATION AS SAFEGUARDS FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND ENJOYMENT OF OTHER RIGHTS
11:00 – 12:30	FACILITATOR: Ms Philile Ntuli Commissioner: South African Human Rights Commission
	PANELISTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ms Ngaka Dumalisile DDG: Social and Affordable Housing: Dept Human Settlement ✓ Ms Judith Tshabalala Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation ✓ Ms Nomzamo Zondo Executive Director: Socio-Economic Rights Institute of South Africa (SERI) ✓ Ms Disha Govender Ndifuna Ukwazi Law Centre ✓ Mr John Dini Research Manager: Water Research Commission
	TOPIC 7: ACCESS TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY AS INTERVENTION TOOLS TO FIGHT POVERTY AND IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS
	FACILITATOR: Dr P Ramathuba MEC of Health, Limpopo Province
	PANELIST
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mr Linton Mchunu Director- General: Social Development ✓ Mr Joe Phaahla Minister of Health ✓ Ms Elsabe Klinck Attorney and Author "Social Security Law" ✓ Ms Sasha Stevenson Executive Director: SECTION27

	<p>TOPIC 8: THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR PROGRESS, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL UPLIFTMENT AND WELLBEING</p> <p>FACILITATOR: Dr Oscar van Heerden Director: Operations at the Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflections (MISTRA)</p>
	<p><u>PANELISTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dr Makgabo Reginah Mhaule Deputy Minister of Basic Education ✓ Mr Buti Manamela Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology ✓ Prof Nengwekhulu Former Director of the School of Governance, Unisa ✓ Prof Mary Metcalfe School of Public Management, Governance & Public Policy, UJ ✓ Ms Tshegofatso Phala Executive Director: Equal Education Law Centre ✓ Ms Lerato Ndlovu South African Union of Students
PLENARY – REPORT BACK FROM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS IN THE THREE (3) PARALLEL SESSIONS	
<p>TIME</p> <p>12:30 – 13:30</p>	<p>1. Mr Sello Hatang: ACCESS TO HOUSING, WATER AND SANITATION AS SAFEGUARDS FOR HUMAN DIGNITY AND ENJOYMENT OF OTHER RIGHTS</p> <p>2. Dr Tlaleng Mofokeng: ACCESS TO HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY AS INTERVENTION TOOLS TO FIGHT POVERTY AND IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS</p> <p>3. Prof Howard Chitimira: THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION AS A TOOL TO ADVANCE PROGRESS, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELLBEING</p>
<p>13:30 – 14:30</p>	LUNCH
PLENARY DISCUSSION	
<p>TIME</p> <p>14:30 – 16:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TOPIC 9: REFLECTIONS ON THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS UNDER OUR CONSTITUTION (ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES AND INTOLERANCES)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FACILITATOR: Prof Tshepo Madlingozi, Commissioner: South African Human Rights Commission</p>
	<p><u>PANELISTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities ✓ Mr John Jeffery Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development ✓ Ms Steve Letsike Chairperson, South African National Aids Council (SANAC) ✓ Cardinal Dr Modiri Patrick Shole President: South African Union Council for Independent Churches (SAUCIC) ✓ Dr Mfanozelwe Shozi Deputy Chairperson: Sonke Gender Justice
PLENARY DISCUSSION	
<p>TIME</p> <p>16:30 – 18:30</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TOPIC 10: CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS: CHAPTER 9 AND OTHER CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FACILITATOR: Judge Dennis Davis Retired Judge of the Western Cape Division of the High Court, and Judge President of the Competition Appeal Court</p>
	<p><u>PANELISTS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mr Andrew Nissen Chairperson: South African Human Rights Commission ✓ Ms Ohara Ngoma-Diseko Commissioner: Commission for Gender Equality ✓ Prof Luka Mosoma Chairperson: Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities ✓ Adv Kholeka Gcaleka Public Protector South Africa

DAY 3: 20 MARCH 2024

08:30 – 09:00	REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK
PLENARY DISCUSSION	
PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: Adv D Mashabane	
TIME	TOPIC 11: HUMAN RIGHTS AS A PILLAR OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FOREIGN POLICY
09:00 – 10:00	FACILITATOR: Ambassador Kingsley Makhubela, Director RiskRecon
	PANELISTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Mr Alvin Botes Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation ✓ Prof Chris Landsberg International Relations and SARChi Chair, University of Johannesburg ✓ Dr Maureen Tong International Human Rights Lawyer ✓ Ambassador Nozipho Mxakato-Diseko Former Ambassador of South Africa to the United Nations in Geneva - Human Rights Council
TIME	TOPIC 12: INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW, AND THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND WESTERN SAHARA
10:00 – 11:30	FACILITATOR: Dr Chris Gevers School of Law, University of KwaZulu-Natal
	PANELISTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ H E Mr Mohamed Yeslem Beisat, Ambassador of Saharawi Republic ✓ Dr Ahmad Amara New York University, Lawyer and human rights advocate ✓ Prof Ntombizozo Dyani-Mhango Head of Department of Public Law, School of Law, University of Pretoria ✓ Prof Leah Ndimurwimo Faculty of Law, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University ✓ Ms Eliana Antonio-Rosero Director of the Department of Differential Approaches at the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, Colombia ✓ Ms Catherine Constantinides Human Rights Defender, Humanitarian, Activist; Board member of the Saharawi Human Rights Commission, Board member of the Ahmed Kathrada Foundation; and Board Member of the Matthew Goniwe School of Governance and Leadership
PLENARY DISCUSSION	
TIME	TOPIC 13: THE ROLE OF THE AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS SYSTEM IN THE PROTECTION OF AND PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN DOMESTIC JURISDICTIONS
11:30 – 13:00	FACILITATOR: Ambassador Mbulelo Rakwena
	PANELISTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Prof Frans Viljoen Professor of International Human Rights Law University of Pretoria ✓ Dr Ohara Ngoma-Diseko Commissioner of African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) ✓ Adv Pansy Tlakula Chairperson of the Information Regulator and Member of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination ✓ Ms Abigail Noko Regional Representative of the Regional Office of OHCHR in Southern Africa
13:30 – 13:45	CLOSING REMARKS Mr R O Lamola Minister of Justice and Correctional Services
13:45 – 14:00	VOTE OF THANKS Mr John Jeffery Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development
14:00	LUNCH AND DEPARTURE