

BOARD NOTICES • RAADSKENNISGEWINGS

BOARD NOTICE 790 OF 2025



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF
Indigenous Languages



PanSALB
PAN SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE BOARD

2024/25

LINGUISTIC HUMAN RIGHTS **COMPLAINTS** **REPORT**



TABLE OF CONTENTS



INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND	02
ALLEGED LINGUISTIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS HANDLED	02
LINGUISTIC HUMAN RIGHTS EMPOWERMENT ACTIVITIES	11

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

This report will cover all the alleged linguistic human rights violations and also outline how they were handled by the Pan South African Language Board. The Linguistic Human Rights Unit must advance linguistic human rights by assisting with the lodging, investigating, mediating, conciliating, and negotiating the alleged violation of any language right, language policy or language practice.

This report will also cover the Linguistic human rights empowerment campaigns conducted throughout the Republic of South Africa and the level of engagement with all identifiable stakeholders.

PanSALB has a Constitutional and legislative obligation to promote the culture of linguistic human rights in the Republic of South Africa. To achieve this objective, citizens must be aware of their linguistic human rights. One of the measures adopted by PanSALB among others is creating awareness of the language rights and empower stakeholders to understand a threat to or an alleged violation of language rights is an infringement of the said right.

2. ALLEGED LINGUISTIC HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS HANDLED

2.1 Legal Practice Council (LPC) withdraws Afrikaans as language of candidate Attorney's examination

- 2.1.1 PanSALB received an alleged linguistic human rights violation against the Legal Practice Council (LPC). The essence of the complaint was the LPC's language policy, which has adopted English as its only official language, and the fact that the examinations for candidate Attorneys, Notaries, and Conveyancers will be conducted in English only.
- 2.1.2 LPC acknowledges that South Africa is a multi-lingual society with 11 official languages and recently, South African Sign Language. LPC conceded that this policy is also informed by the fact that English is the language of record in court proceedings and avers that it is a predominant language used in business, international politics, commerce and industry. Accordingly, English is the language of record for the LPC, and all internal and external communication will be in English. Based on the importance of promoting the use and development of all the official languages and to facilitate how members of the public may lodge complaints at the LPCs Provincial Councils. In addition to English, the LPC will seek to ensure that it can receive and interpret practicable and convenient manner according to the means and abilities present in the provincial office of the LPC concerned.
- 2.1.3 PanSALB's concerns were that Section 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996, provides for 11 official languages of South Africa and recognizes the diminished use and status of indigenous languages and requires the state (including any "Organ of the State") to take practical and positive measures to elevate the status and advance the use of indigenous languages. The Constitution further requires that all official languages should enjoy parity of esteem and be treated equitably. Please note further that the South African Sign Language (SASL) has recently been declared the 12th official

language of South Africa.

- 2.1.4 In addition, the **Legal Practice Act, No 28 of 2014**, provides among other things in section 5, that the objects of the LPC which include facilitating the realization of the goal of a transformed and restructured legal profession that is accountable, efficient and independent and promoting access to the legal profession, in pursuit of a legal profession that broadly reflects the demographics of the Republic. Certainly, this Policy contradicts those objectives, particularly by failing and/or neglecting to promote multilingualism and the development and use of previously marginalised languages per the Constitution.
- 2.1.5 PanSALB is pursuing this matter further with the Respondent and believes that it may still be resolved amicably as provided for in the enabling legislative framework.

2.2 Western Cape Provincial SAPS Commissioner's English instruction only

- 2.2.1 PanSALB Western Cape provincial office received a complaint from individuals and other institutions about the alleged linguistic human rights violation by the Provincial Commissioner of the SAPS in the Western Cape. The essence of the complaint was about on the order issued by the Western Cape SAPS Commissioner Lt-Gen Thembisile Patekile to the police service in the province that all complainants' statements should be in English only.
- 2.2.2 PanSALB considers this conduct as a violation of the linguistic human rights enshrined in the Constitution of RSA, 1996, which is the supreme law of the Country. The matter was referred to the State Attorney by the SAPS Western Cape provincial office. The State Attorney's office communicated with PanSALB and advised that they have requested a legal opinion to advise them. Despite the number of reminders by PanSALB to the Office of the State Attorney, there was no further communication from the Office of the State Attorney.
- 2.2.3 PanSALB also received a similar complaint from the Northern Cape province office. However, the situation in the Northern Cape is slightly different as there was a Northern Cape High Court Order wherein the Provincial Commissioner in 2018 was compelled to withdraw such an order. The Northern Cape SAPS again in March 2025 attempted to reinstate such an order. The Northern Cape SAPS provincial office once more withdrew the order as a result of the existing High Court Order.
- 2.2.4 PanSALB will be seeking engagements with the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service.

2.3 The ABSA ATM not offering Setswana option in the Free State

- 2.3.1 The PanSALB Free State provincial office received a complaint from a concerned individual about the absence of the Setswana language in the ABSA ATMs in that province. This omission was of great concern, particularly since Setswana was 1 of the 6 official languages in terms Use of Free State Official

Languages Act of 2017 and the Free State Language Policy of 2015.

- 2.3.2 A letter of allegation was issued against ABSA outlining the basis of the complaint and the alleged linguistic human rights violation. ABSA acknowledged receipt of the allegation and responded by stating, among other things, that: "Absa is exploring solutions including upgrading our ATM network with ATMs that provide new options to ensure we meet the needs of all our customers."
- 2.3.3 Subsequently, a meeting was held between PanSALB Senior Manager: Linguistics Human Rights Unit, Free State Senior Provincial Manager, and ABSA senior management representatives who gave an undertaking that the matter would be resolved. ABSA has given an undertaking that the Setswana language will be included in their ATMs during the second quarter of 2026. PanSALB committed itself to monitoring these developments and considers this matter to have been resolved.

2.4 Verso's English only policy

- 2.4.1 The PanSALB Western Cape Provincial office received a complaint from an ex-employee of a private company alleging that the company is unfairly discriminating against the IsiXhosa speaking employees. It was alleged that the company issued a Language Policy which stated that English was the only official language for the company and all communication was to be conducted in English only. The Complainant further alleged that employees who communicated in IsiXhosa at the workplace were reprimanded. However, no action was taken against the employees who communicated in Afrikaans. This was because the company comprised mainly of Afrikaans-speaking employees. A letter of allegation was issued to the company stating that if these allegations were correct, then its actions amounted to serious linguistic human rights violations.
- 2.4.2 The company responded by denying these allegations and invited PanSALB to come and engage with the employees and also to advise them on the compliance issues with its language policy. The company further stated that there was no genuine complaint except that these allegations came from a disgruntled employee who was dismissed for misconduct at the workplace.
- 2.4.3 A physical meeting was held between the PanSALB delegation comprising of the Senior Manager: Linguistics Human Rights, the Western Cape Provincial Manager, and 2 executives representing the company. During the engagements, the company reiterated its position that there was no genuine complaint. PanSALB was further allowed to engage randomly with isiXhosa speaking employees of the company. All employees who were interviewed confirmed that they were free to use their language of choice during informal engagements in the workplace.
- 2.4.4 Based on the discussions and engagements, PanSALB concluded that the matter could not be taken further and was considered to have been resolved. The complainant was informed of the decision.

2.5 FNB Branch rejection of Sesotho sa Leboa Family Trust Constitution

- 2.5.1 The PanSALB Limpopo provincial office received an alleged linguistic human rights violations complaint from an organisation called Leshika La Mashupye Family Trust. The essence of the complaint was that its representatives went to open a bank account at the FNB Lebowakgomo Branch. The complainants advised that they were denied an opportunity to open their account because the organisation's Constitution was written in Sesotho sa Leboa (Sepedi) and were informed that FNB conducts its business only in English.
- 2.5.2 PanSALB issued an allegation letter to the FNB Regional management, and it was pointed out that if these allegations were proven correct, they will amount to serious violations of linguistic human rights as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and other enabling legislative frameworks.
- 2.5.3 The bank responded and reiterated that it does not condone any form of unfair discrimination, whether direct or indirect, based on the grounds listed in section 9 of the Constitution, against anyone, and views allegations of any unfair discrimination in a serious light. The Bank further stated that it conducted thorough investigations into the allegations and denied any wrongdoing by its branch. They further indicated that their investigations confirmed that representatives of the trust were assisted at the branch on 25 April 2024 in their request to open a bank account. As part of this standard process, the trust was requested to provide the bank with founding documents in English, and as such, the trust had to have the documents translated from Sepedi to English. The Bank further stated that it came to their attention that the branch was very busy on the day and that this led to a prolonged process in assisting the trust with opening the account. The Bank apologised for any undue delays caused as a result thereof.
- 2.5.4 The complaint was resolved amicably.

2.6 Free State Government Department of Social Development unfair discrimination to the Deaf employees

- 2.6.1 The PanSALB Free State Office has received a complaint of alleged linguistic human rights violations from a Complainant who was one of the two deaf employees employed by the Department. The essence of the complaint was that the Department has failed and/or neglected to provide interpretation or to provide a SASL interpreter to enable the Complainant to enjoy the same rights as provided for other employees. The Complainant further alleges that she was unable to participate in the official meetings, and she was obliged to leave one meeting whilst proceedings were conducted without a SASL interpreter. She further alleged there were even trainings conducted without interpretation, and as such, she was not awarded a certificate whilst other employees were provided with the certificates.
- 2.6.2 Subsequent to PanSALB's intervention, by engaging with the Department and pointing out that their conduct is contrary to the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, the Department advised that it has since identified an official who has been transferred from one district to the Bloemfontein office to assume the responsibility of SASL interpreter with effect from 01 March 2025. They further advised that the official

who was transferred to the Bloemfontein office is an accredited SASL interpreter. In addition, training was conducted for 52 officials on Basic Sign Language provided by the University of the Free State (UFS). The complaint was resolved.

2.7 Makhadzi's incorrect SASL signing insults Deaf community

- 2.7.1 PanSALB Gauteng provincial office received a complaint from the Deaf community against the celebrity singer known as Makhadzi. The essence of the complaint was about a video by the Singer insinuating her to be singing in a "sign language". The signs used by the singer were incorrect, and the Deaf community considered these actions as mocking the South African Sign Language. These images were publicly shared in the Singer's Facebook and TikTok pages.
- 2.7.2 PanSALB issued an allegation letter to the Singer and informed her that her actions amounted to an alleged linguistic human rights violation to the Deaf communities, as this video footage has caused considerable offence to the South African Deaf community.
- 2.7.3 After the intervention by PanSALB, the video was deleted from Facebook, and the Singer made a public apology to the Deaf community, and such an apology was made available in the Form of a South African Sign Language interpretation.
- 2.7.4 The complaint has been resolved.

2.8 MiWay refuses to offer insurance services in isiZulu

- 2.8.1 PanSALB received a complaint of an alleged linguistic human rights violation from the Complainant. The essence of the complaint was that the Complainant contacted the MiWay Customer Care Centre to be assisted with his query and was assisted by an agent communicating in English and responded in English even though the Complainant was speaking in IsiZulu, which is a language of his choice. The Complainant further indicated that he prefers to be assisted in isiZulu and requested that he be transferred to the IsiZulu-speaking agent. The complainant further alleged that after some lengthy waiting, he was informed that there was no IsiZulu language-speaking agent.
- 2.8.2 PanSALB has issued an allegation letter to the Respondent, which in turn responded by emphasising that the company's official language of communication, whether verbal or otherwise, is English.
- 2.8.3 PanSALB was of the view that MiWay's conduct violated the Country's constitutional and legislative frameworks pertaining preferred language by its clients. In pursuance of its mediation and conciliation Constitutional and legislative mandates, PanSALB requested the company to submit its Language Policy, if available., If not available, state how it promotes multilingualism and full access to information for its clients. To date, no official response has been received.

- 2.8.4 The matter is still ongoing, and PanSALB will pursue the matter further to have this matter resolved amicably as provided for in the PanSALB legislative framework and constitutional mandate.

2.9 Orlando Police Station transcribes an isiZulu affidavit into English

- 2.9.1 PanSALB Gauteng provincial office received a complaint of an alleged linguistic human rights violation against the South African Police Service, Orlando Police Station. The essence of the complaint was that the Complainant went to the Community Centre to be assisted with the attestation of her Affidavit. That affidavit was to be submitted to the Department of Home Affairs to be able to apply for the replacement of an Identity Card. The Complainant personally compiled an affidavit in a language of her choice. The officers on duty refused to attest the Affidavit because it was written in IsiZulu and indicated that they can only attest English written affidavits. The Complainant even requested the intervention of the commanding officer on duty, but her plea was not acceded to until such time that one officer volunteered to compile or translate her affidavit into English. However, the very affidavit which was compiled in English did not correctly capture what was stated in the isiZulu affidavit.
- 2.9.2 PanSALB issued an allegation letter and indicated that the conduct by the officials of the South African Police Services violates linguistic human rights as enshrined in the Constitution and other relevant legislative frameworks, particularly the promotion of multilingualism. It is also important to note that the fact the Complainant was compelled to sign an affidavit which she did not accurately capture the original text of the language of her choice is tantamount to a travesty of justice and may, under certain circumstances, expose her to perjury in the event she later does agree with those contents.
- 2.9.3 SAPS's Gauteng response was that they accept affidavits in any official language, and then the SAPS Language Unit would be responsible for translating it.

2.10 Rhodes University Language Policy violated

- 2.10.1 PanSALB has received an alleged linguistic human right complaint from a Master's (MA) student at Rhodes University that his research proposal was not considered on grounds that it was written in isiXhosa, an official language in South Africa and in the province, and a language promoted by Rhodes University's language policy as a language for academic activities. The policy statement of Rhodes University Language Policy provides for "creation of conditions for the use of particularly isiXhosa as a language of learning and teaching." It is stated that "the policy promotes multilingualism and sensitivity in language usage in a way that creates and fosters a supportive, inclusive and non-discriminatory environment." The policy supports the development of academic languages and literacies of African languages and creates the conditions for the use of isiXhosa as a language of learning, teaching, research, and administration. Furthermore, the Policy Objectives state that the policy "promote the development and literacies of academic languages, particularly of isiXhosa, through teaching, learning and research outputs as part of redressing the previous. Lastly, the Governing Principles of the Policy are said to promote epistemological access for all students.

- 2.10.2 An allegation letter was issued against Rhodes University to consider the student's research proposal as per the university's language policy. The university insisted that the student must provide a translated version of his proposal.
- 2.10.3 PanSALB disagreed with the approach by the institution and also provided advice which suggested that the institution was required to appoint a Selection Committee comprised of the Institution's academics who have a good command and understanding of the IsiXhosa Language. Alternatively, the Institution was required to appoint academics from other institutions with similar requirements as outlined above. The institution bears the costs as it is the right of a student to request such services from the institution in terms of the institution's Language Policy. Finally, the institution was also advised to note that translation of the Research Proposal is not an option as it may dilute the diction of isiXhosa losing the academic essence and meaning in translation.
- 2.10.4 PanSALB advised Rhodes University to reconsider its practice of translating Research proposals from other languages into English, as this depicts English as a superior language to isiXhosa or another language the research proposal is submitted. This may be viewed as a contravention of the right of a language to develop and be used as an academic language. The Institution ignored and/or neglected to implement the advice by PanSALB. The matter is ongoing, and PanSALB has partnered with the South African Human Rights Commission to refer this matter to the Equality Court.
- 2.10.5 Rhodes University recently acceded to the Advice that PanSALB provided. As a result, this matter will not be referred to the Equality Court. This is a very critical milestone for future precedent in dealing with compliance regarding language policies, particularly regarding the **"Organ of State"**.

2.11 Bushbuckridge Local Municipality Mpumalanga Province

- 2.11.1 PanSALB Mpumalanga provincial office received a complaint about an alleged linguistic human rights violation by the Bushbuckridge Municipality. The essence of the complaint is the allegation by the security officials that their language rights are being violated by the municipality, whereby they are told that since they are Sesotho sa Leboa (Sepedi) speaking, they should leave and make way for Xitsonga speakers.
- 2.11.2 An allegation letter was issued to the Municipality, and it was informed that if the allegations are true, they amount to linguistic human rights violations as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.
- 2.11.3 The Municipality responded and advised that they outsourced the issue of security to the private sector, which is the Employer of the complainants. The Municipality reiterated its position that its Language Policy adopted Xitsonga, Sepedi, Siswati, and English as official languages. It went further and stated that all other official languages are recognised, and their employees speak different official languages.

2.12 University of KwaZulu-Natal Deaf Students Academic support

- 2.12.1 PanSALB KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Office received a complaint from a Deaf person who was a former student against the University of KwaZulu-Natal about the alleged linguistic human rights. The complainant alleges that SASL Services, an interpreter, had a company of her own and that this clashes with the time for her lectures. The interpreter would often be absent from lectures and tests, leaving Deaf students without support and struggling to understand instructions. The complainant further alleges During her 3rd year, the complainant explained that students were compelled to take an IsiZulu module. The challenge was that interpreters would refuse to interpret because they didn't know how to fingerspell in IsiZulu. UKZN appointed a hearing lecturer to teach SASL online, who also teaches at Fulton School. Unfortunately, it was reported that the teacher only focused on her laptop and never taught as expected. UKZN prohibited Deaf students from taking a SASL module without providing valid reasons.
- 2.12.2 It was further alleged that two Deaf students passed the SASL module with average marks, while the hearing students passed with higher marks despite SASL not being their first language. UKZN has never employed Deaf staff as facilitators to support Deaf students, which has resulted in UKZN forming close relationships with SASL interpreters instead.
- 2.12.3 PanSALB pursued the matter further and the Senior Provincial Manager of the KwaZulu-Natal provincial office engaged with the University and requested their response regarding the allegations. The University indicated that the Complainant was currently not registered with the University and that she has been tainting the integrity of the University with unfounded allegations on social media. The University further advised that it had embarked on a thorough investigation into these allegations, and particularly the conduct of the Complainant towards the University. The University informed that it will return to PanSALB once the investigation is finalised. The matter is still pending.

2.13 Western Cape Rivergate Primary School Language Policy

- 2.13.1 The PanSALB Western Cape Office received a complaint of alleged linguistic human rights violations from the above-mentioned School. The essence of the complaint is summarised as follows: The complainant advised that on 07 June 2024, he went to the above-mentioned school to view the school as he had applied for a place for his child who was going to be doing grade 1 the following year. The complainant further advised that when he asked about the offered subjects and languages at school, the administration officer indicated that the school offer only English and Afrikaans. The Complainant further stated that, according to the information available to her, the school also offered IsiXhosa.
- 2.13.2 PanSALB engaged with the Western Cape Department of Education, and they responded and advised that the school offers English home language and Afrikaans first additional language. This position was confirmed by the Language Policy of the school. PanSALB highlighted the fact that the Western Cape as a province has adopted English, Afrikaans, and IsiXhosa as the official languages in the province. PanSALB will pursue the matter further with the Department of Education and to determine how the IsiXhosa language can be accommodated in the future at that school.

2.14 Free State Trompsburg Primary School Language Policy

- 2.14.1 The PanSALB Free State Provincial Office received a complaint from an employee of the Trompsburg Primary School. The essence of the complaint was that there was initially a meeting at the school which was addressed by a member of the School Governing Body. They were addressed in Afrikaans about the Accommodation Policy and the Disciplinary Code Policy. The Complainant then requested that the documents be provided in Afrikaans but in vain.
- 2.14.2 It was only after PanSALB intervention by issuing an allegation letter indicating that such an action is a violation of a linguistic human rights, that both documents were made available to the Complainant in Afrikaans.
- 2.14.3 The matter was resolved.

2.15 Free State Motheo TVET College Deaf Students Support Policy

- 2.15.1 The Free State provincial office received a complaint about the South African Sign Language (SASL) Interpreters against the Motheo TVET College. The essence of the complaint was that the interpreters were, among other things, providing inaccurate interpretation, demonstrating unprofessionalism by always arriving late at the lecture halls. In general, the interpreters were disrespectful to the Deaf learners and their conduct resulted in emotional distress to the learners. Henceforth, the learners requested intervention from PanSALB to engage with the Institution and request the recruitment of qualified and certified SASL language interpreters in an educational setup. There was also a need of the training of the Interpreters on the culture and the ethics of the SASL.
- 2.15.2 The PanSALB provincial office had a meeting with the Management of the Motheo College and outlined all the concerns raised by the complainants. In addition, it was also emphasised that the South African Sign Language is also an official language and must enjoy the protection and the benefits like all other official languages as provided for in the Constitutional and other legislative framework. Motheo TVET College acknowledged the allegations and agreed at that meeting to remedy the situation by organizing training for their SASL interpreters to enhance their skills. The process of organizing this training through an accredited institution is in progress. Furthermore, Motheo TVET College is busy putting together PoE that will enable them to evaluate their SASL interpreters' performance.
- 2.15.3 The matter is ongoing, and PanSALB will monitor the developments.

3. LINGUISTIC HUMAN RIGHTS EMPOWERMENT ACTIVITIES

3.1 North-West Province

The campaign was held on the 5th of September 2024 at the Northwest University Mafikeng Campus. The NW Provincial office collaborated with the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation, the North-West Provincial Language Committee and the North-West University to host the awareness empowerment campaign. The campaign targeted the university students and government departments as well as the Forum for Institutions Supporting Democracy. The event was attended by more than 100 people and focused mainly on the Constitutional and legislative framework on linguistic human rights, and language rights.

3.2 Eastern Cape Province

The campaign was held on the 12th of September 2024 at the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature in Bhisho. The Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature's Deputy Speaker, the MPL, Mr Vuyo Jali, opened the workshop. He emphasized the importance of languages in the business of every government. He said everything is carried and implemented in a language. Therefore, without a language, nothing can happen as people need to speak and engage one another to carry out their daily activities. The event focused mainly on understanding the linguistic human rights of our communities and handling thereof. He presented that one needs to know their rights. Ms Busisiwe Jemsana-Mantashe, Department of Sports Recreation Arts and Culture Director for Languages, gave a presentation on EC UOLA compliance by provincial government departments, entities, and enterprises. She expressed the Department's frustration with the non-compliance of departments, entities, and enterprises. The event was attended by 50 people.

3.3 Mpumalanga Province

PanSALB Mpumalanga Provincial Office hosted the Linguistic Human Rights empowerment campaign that was held on the 11th of July 2024, at Eric Jiyane Community Hall, Emhluzi, Middleburg. Cllr. S Mahlangu from Steve Tshwete Local Municipality welcomed everyone and thanked PanSALB for organizing such a campaign to empower the community so that they may know about their human and language rights. The event focused mainly on PanSALB's mandate, which must promote the use of multilingualism and parity of esteem of all official languages. He mentioned the importance of the Bill of Rights as it is seen as the cornerstone of democracy, which describes the rights of every citizen of the Republic. The Mpumalanga Provincial Language Committee chairperson thanked amakhosi for the support they gave to the campaign and explained why Mpumalanga is promoting and developing isiNdebele and Siswati while respecting other African languages. The Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation presented a word of support by outlining the mandate of the department in developing and promoting language and how they support linguistic human rights. There were 80 people present in the event.

3.4 Limpopo Province

The Limpopo Awareness Campaign was held on the 18th of October 2025 at the Mapela Traditional Council premises. The Linguistic Human Rights campaign successfully brought together traditional leaders and their communities to raise awareness about constitutional rights, particularly focusing on linguistic human rights. Most people who were in attendance were speaking Sesotho sa Leboa, Northern Ndebele, and also Xitsonga. The key issues raised included how to lodge a linguistic complaint and how other chapter 9 institutions work. The campaign benefited from presentations by the Linguistic Human Rights Manager, the Commission for Gender Equality (CGE), the Commission for Cultural, Religious, and Linguistic Rights (CRL), and the Public Protector. The attendees were entertained by cultural performances from Magope Maganagobuľwa and Ditshitshiri tľa Phafola groups. The event catered for 100 people.

3.5 Northern Cape Province

The Linguistic human rights empowerment campaign in the Northern Cape was conducted on 22nd of October 2024 at Barkley – West and another one on 23rd of October 2024 in Kimberley at the NC Provincial Legislature. NC government departments, NC Constitutional institutions, civil society organisations and political parties were invited to attend and participate. The event focussed mainly on the linguistic human rights, and other stakeholders present such as Office of the Public Protector and the Electoral Commission, were allowed to present about their mandates and their language policies and 26 people were in attendance.

3.6 KwaZulu-Natal Province

The Linguistic Human Rights empowerment campaign In KwaZulu-Natal was held on the 6th of November 2024 at Nquthu Traditional Council premises under the leadership of Inkosi Molefe. This event was held in conjunction with the meeting organised by the Inkosi and the community to deal with the local issues. PanSALB was represented by the Chairperson of the Provincial Language Committee, Inkosi Mavundla, who outlined the purpose of the event and the mandate of PanSALB. Thereafter, the PanSALB' s presentation focused mainly on linguistic human rights and the procedures of how to lodge an alleged linguistic human rights violation with the PanSALB and 47 people were in attendance.

3.7 Gauteng Province

The Gauteng Linguistic Human Rights campaign was held on the 12th of March 2025, hosted by the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (SACR). Other provincial Institutions Supporting Democracy (ISD) offered an interactive programme that spoke to Human Rights Month as a whole. The event focused mainly on awareness about Linguistic Human Rights and to explore how we, both as individuals and as a community, could contribute to the promotion, protection, and enforcement of these rights. A panel discussion on linguistic human rights in practice became the highlight of the event, which was supported by a lecture on linguistic human rights in academia, and presentations on how to report rights infringements to PanSALB, the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC), and the Com-

mission for Gender Equality (CGE). There were more than 70 people who were present.

3.8 Western Cape Province

The WC provincial office conducted an awareness campaign on Linguistic Human Rights at the Cederberg Local Municipality on 20 February 2025. The Speaker of the Cederberg Local Municipality officially opened the meeting, and he also expressed a special welcome to the PanSALB delegation on behalf of the Executive Mayor. The Speaker indicated that the engagement between PanSALB and the Cederberg Local Municipality was a key opportunity to form a collaboration between the two entities towards serving the community in the jurisdiction of the Cederberg Local Municipality in an equitable manner. The Cederberg Municipality was represented by the Councilor, Communications Officer, IDP Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Director for Corporate Services. The PanSALB presentation focused on promotion of multilingualism and the development of previously marginalised languages as well as the purpose of PanSALB's linguistic human rights awareness campaigns, to inform and educate public institutions on their responsibility to protect and promote linguistic human rights.

3.9 Free State Province

The Free State provincial office conducted an awareness campaign on Linguistic Human Rights at the Protea Hotel on 14 March 2025 in Bloemfontein. The event stakeholders' partners included the representatives from Central University of Technology, University of the Free State, learners from public schools and Independent Schools, the Department of Education, and the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture. Learners were allowed to make presentations on their understanding of the linguistic human rights as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. PanSALB presentation focused mainly on the linguistic human rights and on how to lodge an alleged linguistic human rights violation. There were more than 100 people who attended the event.

PanSALB CONTACT DETAILS

PRIVATE BAG X08 | ARCADIA | 0007

523 STANZA BOPAPE STREET | 5TH FLOOR PROVISUS BUILDING | ARCADIA | 0083TEL : +27 12 341 9638 FAX : +27 12 341 5938 URL: www.pansalb.org EMAIL: communications@pansalb.org**PROVINCIAL OFFICES****EASTERN CAPE**18 A SURREY ROAD, VINCENT, EAST LONDON, 5210
TEL: 043 721 3357 FAX: 043 721 1966**FREE STATE**NO. 17 FIRST STREET, GROUND FLOOR, ARBORETUM, BLOEMFONTEIN, 9301
TEL: 051 448 2300 FAX: 051 448 3189**GAUTENG**259 WEST AVENUE, DIE HOEWES, CENTURION, 0157
TEL: 012 361 7117 FAX: 012 361 6116**KWA-ZULU NATAL (KZN)**SUITE 402 4TH FLOOR REDEFINE TOWERS
DR PIXLEY KASEME STREET, DURBAN, 4001
TEL: 031 304 5621 FAX: 031 304 5634**LIMPOPO**29 HANS VAN RENSBURG STREET, OFFICE NO 10
KWANE CHAMBERS BUILDING, POLOKWANE, 0700
TEL: 015 291 5888/77 FAX: 015 291 5898**MPUMALANGA**20 PAUL KRUGER STREET, MBOMBELA, 1201
TEL: 013 656 0307 FAX: 013 656 0361**NORTHERN CAPE**NEDBANK BUILDING, 37 CHAPEL STREET, KIMBERLEY, 8301
TEL: 053 832 0037 FAX: 053 832 1280**NORTH WEST**825 CARNEY STLIBERTAS, MAHIKENG, 2745
TEL: 018 384 0120 FAX: 018 384 0122**WESTERN CAPE**EDWARD III BUILDING, 70 EDWARD STREET
CNR BLOEMHOF & MISPEL ROAD, TYGER VALLEY, CAPE TOWN, 8000
TEL: 021 421 8506 FAX: 021 425 2399

@PanSALB



@PanSALB



pansalb_za



PanSALB