



Izwi lase OPSC

Jan/Feb/Mar 2019

Custodian of Good Governance

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Editorial

Welcome to the last edition of Izwi lase OPSC for the 2018/19 Financial Year. As we wrap up this year, we hope that colleagues have met their strategic goals that they have set for themselves in this current financial year. We also hope that we were able to conclude outstanding work before the end of the 2019/20 financial year.

2019 is a special year for South Africa as we will be commemorating the 25th Anniversary of our freedom. This year, the country will hold its sixth democratic national and provincial elections. The elections provides an opportunity for all South Africans to use their vote to help move the country forward. Let us therefore embrace this opportunity and contribute in shaping the future for generations to come. In this edition, we remind Team PSC about the May 8th General Elections.

On Thursday, 21 March 2019, South Africa commemorated the Human Rights Day under the theme “**The Year of Indigenous Languages: Promoting and Deepening a Human Rights Culture**”. The Human Rights Day has a significance in the history of this country because many people lost their lives in trying to correct the injustices brought about by the apartheid regime. This year’s commemoration also aims to remind us of the importance of a culture of human rights. Likewise, the importance of our indigenous languages which we often overlook. To this end, we reflect on the Human Rights Day commemoration in this issue of Izwi.

We also report about the Good Green Deeds Programme which was launched by the President of the Republic, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa on 8 March 2019. We salute members of Team PSC who responded to the call by Government to clean-up South Africa.

We reflect on the workshop on the Constitutional Values and Principles (CVPs) conducted by KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Office at Nkandla Hospital from 6-7 March 2019, the meeting with Organised Labour on 19 February 2019 and the hand-over ceremony of the Presidency of AAPSCOMs on 16 January 2019.

We conclude this edition of Izwi with information relating to the national and provincial Election planned for 8 May 2019.

From the Editorial Team of Izwi, we would like to wish Team PSC a fruitful and successful 2019/20 financial year.



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South Africa commemorates Human Rights Day 2019

On Thursday, 21 March 2019 South Africa commemorated the Human Rights Day under the theme ***"The Year of Indigenous Languages: Promoting and Deepening a Human Rights Culture"***. Since 1994, South Africa has used Human Rights Day to honour those who have fought for our liberation and to celebrate our rights and freedoms.

The National Human Rights Day in South Africa was born following fateful events of 21 March 1960 when an anti-pass march to the Sharpeville police station in Vereeniging came to a brutal end with the mass killing of peaceful protesters. On the same day, three more people were shot and killed by police whilst other protesters were injured during a peaceful protest in Langa Township, outside Cape Town. The Sharpeville Massacre, as the event is referred to, prompted worldwide condemnation of South Africa's apartheid regime.

The 2019 commemoration was aimed at drawing attention to the critical importance of indigenous languages and the urgent need to preserve, revitalise and promote our languages. Government used the Human Rights Month as a vehicle to foster social cohesion, nation building, national identity, socio-economic development and to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related intolerances.

As South Africans, we should be proud of our indigenous languages and ensure that our children know and under-

stand our true identity through our mother tongues. We should promote and support teaching, preservation and the revival of our indigenous languages through speaking and reading. We must be proud to tell the South African story in all our languages for these narratives to shape our identity and showcase our uniqueness as a nation.

The Constitution emphasises that all eleven official languages must "enjoy parity of esteem" and be treated equally. The Constitution further mandates equality of the use of all eleven official languages throughout the country. The use of indigenous languages must seek to promote non-racism and we must guard against those who use languages to advance racism and division among communities.

It is our individual right to use our own languages and to celebrate our different cultures through language. Let us therefore showcase our true identity and preserve our history through indigenous languages as a nation.

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PSC respond to the call to clean-up South Africa

On Friday, 8 March 2019, officials at the National Office participated in the Green Good Deeds Campaign by cleaning surrounding areas of the PSC House in Pretoria. The Good Green Deeds Campaign aims to promote and change behavior towards littering and illegal dumping of waste. The campaign is centered on the 4Rs, namely Reduce, Re-use, Recycle and Recover.

The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa guarantees everyone the right of access to an environment that is not harmful to their health and to have the natural environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations. The Waste Information baseline study conducted by the Department of Environmental Affairs in 2011 revealed that out of 108 million tons of waste generated in South Africa during that year, 97 million tons were disposed to landfill, whilst only 10% of that waste was recycled. This means that South Africa has a serious challenge of littering. We have become a "throwaway" society, and there is an urgent need for change.

It is on this basis that President Cyril Ramaphosa announced in Parliament that on 8 March 2019 the entire country will engage in a clean-up of a massive nature as part of the launch of the landmark programme to mobilise all South Africans to become environmentally conscious and act together in partnership with government to solve global and national environmental challenges. We should all promote and create green living and ensure that our townships/localities are free of litter and illegal dumps.



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KwaZulu-Natal PSC conducts CVPs Workshop at Nkandla Hospital

The KwaZulu-Natal Office of the Public Service Commission, under the leadership of Commissioner Mpilo Sithole, conducted a workshop on the Constitutional Values and Principles, Professional Ethics, Fraud and Corruption Prevention as well as the Management of Grievances in the Public Service at the Nkandla Hospital, from 6-7 March 2019.

The workshop was aimed at capacitating officials in the hospital with information and the necessary skills to advance service delivery and good governance. The attendees at the workshop included both Senior Managers and junior officials at the hospital.



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Public Service Commission meets with Organised Labour

The Public Service Commission, under the leadership of Adv Richard Sizani, met with Organised Labour on Tuesday, 19 February 2019 at the Public Service Commission House in Pretoria. The aim of the meeting was to engage Organised Labor on the advancement of the Constitutional Values and Principles (CVPs).

The Organised Labour is one of the key stakeholders that the PSC has identified to work with in the promotion of CVPs due to its influence on policy and the day to day public administration. Similarly, Organised Labour is well represented at the coal-face of service delivery and many times has a better understanding on what happens on the ground.

The meeting was attended by the PSC Commissioners and representatives from, amongst others, Police and Prisons Civil Rights Union (POPCRU), the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU), Democratic Nursing Organisation of South Africa (DENOSA), National Union of Public Service and Allied Workers (NUPSAW) and Solidarity. The engagement was a success.



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PSC hands over AAPSComs Presidency

On 16 January 2019, the South African Public Service Commission, under the stewardship of the PSC Chairperson, Adv Richard Sizani, hosted a delegation from the Civil Service Commission of Zambia, at the Public Service Commission House in Pretoria.

The Zambian delegation, led by its Chairperson, Mr Dickson Chasaya, took over the Presidency and Secretariat of the Association of Public Service Commission (AAPSComs) from the PSC SA, during the Association's 5th General Assembly held at Emperors Palace in South Africa from 13-15 March 2018.

The South African PSC held the Presidency and Secretariat of the AAPSComs since the beginning of the Association in 2009. Other active members of the Association includes Public Service Commissions from The Gambia, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Namibia and Uganda.



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Yilungelo Lakho ukuVoter (It's your right to Vote)

On 8 May 2019, South Africa will hold its sixth democratic national and provincial elections. The right to vote is a central part of any democracy. Our democracy depends on active citizens to renew it and make it stronger. The elections are therefore an opportunity for all South Africans, especially the youth to use their vote to help move our country forward.

With your vote, you can influence which policies are implemented and how decisions are made. Your vote can ensure that those in power prioritise issues facing our nation, in particular, young people including the creation of jobs and a better life for all. It is therefore every one's responsibility to ensure that we cast our vote for a better future for all.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

