

## Relevant legislation

PanSALB was established in 1995 in terms of the Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) Act 1995 as amended in 1999.

In terms of the PanSALB Act, the mandate of PanSALB is derived from the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, Sections 6(5) (a) and (b), the Public Finance Management Act 29 of 1999 and the Companies Act 61 of 1973, Section 21.

## HOW TO CONTACT US

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**PanSALB**  
PAN SOUTH AFRICAN LANGUAGE BOARD

# Information brochure

ENGLISH



*"One nation, many languages"*

## Who is PanSALB?

The Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB) is an independent organ of state, subject only to the Constitution and the legislation on which the Board was founded in 1995. All other organs of state are enjoined to cooperate with PanSALB and not to interfere with the execution of its mandate. The first Board was constituted in 1997.

## What do we do?

PanSALB champions multilingualism in South Africa by doing the following:

- We make recommendations with regard to any legislation, practice, or policy dealing with language matters at any level of government.
- We make recommendations to organs of state at all levels of government for the adoption of measures aimed at promoting multilingualism.
- We actively promote an awareness of multilingualism as a national resource.
- We actively promote the development of the previously marginalised languages.
- We initiate studies and research to promote and create conditions for the development and use of all the official languages of South Africa, the Xhosa, Zulu, Ndebele, Afrikaans, Sesuto, Sotho, Tswana, Nguni, Nama and San languages and South African Sign Language.
- We promote and ensure respect for all other languages commonly used by communities in South Africa.
- We advise on the coordination of language planning in South Africa and facilitate cooperation with language planning agencies outside South Africa.

- We establish provincial language committees and national language bodies to advise on any language matter affecting a province or a specific language.
- We establish national lexicography units to operate as Section 21 companies and we allocate funds to them to fulfil their functions.

We strive to perform our duties without fear, favour or prejudice.

## Why do we exist?

In view of our past and the wide range of languages and cultures in our diverse nation, legislation required the creation of PanSALB to protect people's linguistic rights and promote national development.

We guard against language domination by creating conditions for the development and the equal use of all official languages.

We strive to ensure that every South African can transact in the language of his or her choice, and we promote the use of mother tongue, especially in foundational education.

We foster respect for and encourage the use of other, non-indigenous languages in the country.

We encourage the best use of the country's linguistic resources to enable South Africans to be free from all forms of linguistic discrimination, domination and division.

We work to enable every South African to exercise appropriate linguistic choices for his or her own wellbeing.

## Our vision, mission, and values

We derive our vision, mission, and values from the South African Constitution, in particular Section 6(5).

### Vision

To be the pre-eminent promoter, facilitator, and enabler of multilingualism and language equality and rights in South Africa.

### Mission statement

In pursuance of PanSALB's vision, our mission is to:

- promote multilingualism;
- promote respect and recognition for all the languages, including previously marginalised languages;
- develop all South African languages including those used for religious and other purposes;
- advocate for rights relating to language and the status of language; and
- initiate, enable, and conduct research in accordance with the PanSALB mandate.

### Values

PanSALB subscribes to the following values:

- Respect
- Equality
- Quality
- Accountability
- Accessibility
- Service orientation